

# Star BUSINESS



Bangladesh's exports to US may rise amid Trump's tariffs: WTO

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh is among several Least Developed Countries (LDCs) poised to benefit from shifting trade patterns in the United States, according to a new report by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

In its April edition of Global Trade Outlook and Statistics, published earlier this week, the WTO said exports from countries like Bangladesh, Cambodia and Lesotho could rise as they supply products in sectors where the US currently relies heavily on imports from China -- including clothing, textiles and electronic equipment.

The WTO's analysis, based on trade simulations, suggests that these nations could stand to gain as demand shifts towards their goods.

However, ongoing trade policy uncertainty, particularly in relation to the United States, may still drag on growth. The simulations project a small decline in the real gross domestic product of LDCs despite the potential uptick in exports.

On April 2, US President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on goods from dozens of countries entering the American market. The move clouded the global trade outlook.

On April 9, the Trump administration announced a 90-day pause on the new tariff except for China.

Under the new rates, Bangladesh's products will face a new 37 percent duty in the US alongside the previous 16 percent.

The WTO said that global trade prospects have worsened significantly amid rising tariffs and policy volatility.

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## It's time to go for more flexible exchange rate: IMF

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The time is right for Bangladesh to move towards a more flexible exchange rate regime, said Chris Papageorgiou, mission chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to Bangladesh.

At a press conference at the Bangladesh Bank headquarters yesterday, Papageorgiou said that the gap between the official and unofficial exchange rates had narrowed significantly, creating an opportune moment for the shift.

Describing the current regime, he said, "This is not full flexibility -- it's a crawling peg, which provides some guidance within a band but still allows for a future transition to complete flexibility."

The press briefing followed the IMF delegation's visit to Dhaka from April 6 to 17 as part of the combined third and fourth reviews under its ongoing \$4.7 billion package.

It includes the Extended Credit Facility (ECF), Extended Fund Facility (EFF), and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

Papageorgiou said, "From the IMF's perspective, and looking at the reform and its history, we have been discussing this crawling peg for at least one or two years."

"This is, in fact, the right time to move towards this flexibility," he replied, when asked whether it was the right time to move towards greater flexibility.

"We also see that the difference between the illegal exchange rate [unofficial rate] and the official exchange rate is very small, and we praise the authorities for this," he added.

The IMF and the government, specifically the Bangladesh Bank, were aligned on the need for greater flexibility, he said, adding, "There is no doubt that we all want to move in the same direction. We see more flexibility in the exchange rate regime in Bangladesh."

For more than three years, the country's foreign exchange market has been facing volatility.

However, recent months have seen signs



### IMF says...

Forex reserves stabilised but accumulation of reserves is yet to happen

It supports the current tight monetary stance to tackle inflation

It emphasised the need for a healthy, competitive, and well-regulated banking sector

Bangladesh is making progress in coordinating domestic and global efforts to recover stolen assets

It is working closely with authorities on revenue targets and addressing the financing gap

### EXCHANGE RATE OF DOLLAR AGAINST TKA



of stability, due mainly to increased inflows of US dollars, which have reduced the gap between the official and parallel market rates.

Despite this improvement, the exchange rate system remains partially controlled.

In February, the Bangladesh Bank governor said that a full transition to a market-based system was not yet feasible, citing concerns about market manipulation.

"If we make it fully market-based, they will take advantage of it," the central bank governor said at the time.

At yesterday's press conference, Papageorgiou said, "We see that reserves are now stabilised, and again, we give a lot of credit to the authorities for that, because, if you remember, for a number of years, reserves had been on a steady decline and worrisome trend -- now they are stable."

However, he cautioned that reserve accumulation had yet to begin in earnest. "We expect that, with more flexibility, this accumulation will happen in the near term."

On monetary policy, the IMF said that it was up to the central bank.

"We leave that decision completely to the governor. We fully endorse the current stance, which is tightening, as we want to ensure that inflation comes down in a timely manner," said the mission chief.

"So far, inflation has been very persistent -- stubborn, we would say -- compared to other regions. We applaud the governor for maintaining this stance."

He added that the 10 percent policy rate would likely remain unchanged until inflation showed clear signs of easing. "Looking ahead, as we expect inflation to ease, possibly by next year, the governor will consider what to do with the policy rate."

On the banking sector, Ivo Krznar, deputy mission chief to Bangladesh, said that there is no doubt that a healthy and competitive banking sector, which is regulated and supervised in line with international standards, is a prerequisite for a healthy growth rate.

Commenting on recent regulations concerning asset classification and provisioning, Krznar said, "The new regulation is a cornerstone of reform that aligns with international best practices, and the IMF commends the authorities for implementing this rule."

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## ADP spending in July-March lowest in 15 years

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the first nine months of the current fiscal year of 2024-25 has reached its lowest point in at least 15 years, with about Tk 82,894 crore being spent during the period.

This means just 36.65 percent of the total revised outlay for FY25 has been used during the July-March period, according to data from the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), published yesterday.

Even during the same nine months in FY21, when almost all economic activities were put on hold amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the ADP implementation rate was higher at 42 percent.

The ADP execution rate declined this fiscal year as development activities were hampered by political unrest soon after it began on July 1, according to planning ministry officials.

### About 36 percent of the total revised outlay for FY25 has been used during the July-March period

They also pointed to how the interim government has taken austerity measures, such as slowing or postponing certain projects initiated by the previous administration, in the face of budgetary shortfalls.

Furthermore, a number of contractors for various projects fled the country before completing their work following the recent political changeover, thereby adversely impacting ADP implementation.

In response to this underwhelming performance in ADP implementation, relevant authorities downsized the total outlay for FY25 by about Tk 53,000 crore to Tk 226,125 crore to realign expectations with current realities.

During this period, the utilisation of both state funds and foreign loans has declined.

Of them, the spending of foreign funds fell to about Tk 32,411 crore, which makes up just 40 percent of this year's ADP allocation.

In the July-March period of FY24, around Tk 44,066 crore, or 52.77 percent, of the overall ADP budget for that year came from foreign funds.

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## NBR to collect travel tax directly from outbound passengers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is set to introduce a new system for collecting travel tax directly from outbound passengers, replacing the current practice where airlines include the tax in ticket prices and later deposit it into the state coffers.

NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan announced the move during a pre-budget discussion with relevant stakeholders held at the NBR headquarters in Dhaka's Agargaon yesterday.

Currently, airlines collect the travel tax on behalf of the government, but the funds often do not make it to the state treasury properly.

"We are working on a mechanism that will allow passengers to conveniently pay the tax themselves and obtain an official challan (receipt)," Khan said.

"The process will be made simple enough that passengers can even pay the tax directly at the airport," he added.

At the budget discussion, the NBR chairman also criticised sweetmeat traders, accusing them of widespread VAT evasion by not issuing receipts and failing to use electronic fiscal devices (EFDs).

"None of the sweet shop owners give VAT receipts. They don't use EFDs either," the NBR chief said.

"I've bought sweets from many places over the years and paid VAT every time, but that money never reached the government treasury. I've never once received a proper VAT receipt from any sweet shop," he added.

Khan made these comments in response to a proposal by the Bangladesh Sweets Manufacturers Association to reduce VAT on sweetmeats from the existing 10 percent to 3 percent.

The association's secretary general, Noni Gopal Ghosh, argued that when VAT was 7.5 percent, revenue collection from the sector was actually higher.

Dismissing the claim, the NBR chairman said, "You're suggesting that revenue increases when the VAT rate is lower. That's an absurd idea. This kind of magical thinking doesn't reflect reality."

To address the issue, the NBR is planning to introduce a VAT-inclusive pricing model for sweetmeats, similar to the one used in superstores.

The NBR will include VAT in the price of sweets so that customers do not even notice, according to Khan.

"We're preparing a directive that

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## Shop rent Tk 3 lakh, but govt gets just Tk 22,000

Probe finds massive allocation irregularities at National Sports Council markets

SUKANTA HALDER and ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

A probe has found massive irregularities in the rental of shops at nine markets of the National Sports Council (NSC), including a case where the government receives as little as Tk 22,000 in monthly rent while as much as Tk 3 lakh is being collected from the tenant.

Formed following the political changeover in August last year, the investigation committee is now working to assess the total financial loss to the exchequer. Meanwhile, anti-corruption campaigners have described the findings as just "a tip of the iceberg".

The irregularities found by the committee include shady allotments, shop leases changing hands up to four times, misuse of utilities, unauthorised occupation and discrepancies in financial records.

The committee submitted its findings to the Ministry of Youth and Sports in November last year. The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the 13-page report, prepared by a three-member panel.

According to the report, NSC officials and staff cannot shrug off responsibility. It said a powerful syndicate comprising NSC officials, stadium administrators and shop owners has been operating illegal activities related to shop allocation and rent collection.

Meanwhile, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to intervene and bring the culprits to justice.

All nine markets are located in the capital and together house 1,075 shops.

SHOPS CHANGE HANDS, RENTS SPIRAL

The report highlights that many original lessees pay minimal monthly rents to the NSC but rent out the shops at highly inflated rates.

The repeated transfer of leases -- sometimes to second, third, or even fourth

parties -- has pushed up rents by 10 to 15 times the original amount.

For example, Shamshur Rahman Gong, the original lessee of an 812-square-foot shop at Bangabandhu National Stadium, pays Tk 21,934 per month but has sublet it for Tk 3,00,000 -- a 13-fold increase, from which the NSC earns nothing.

Similarly, Md Jamal Hossain pays just Tk 4,357 for a 156-square-foot shop at Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium, while the current occupant pays Tk 40,000 per month.

Such practices are prevalent across all nine NSC-run markets, including the Super Market adjacent to Bangabandhu National Stadium, Volleyball Stadium, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, the outer market beside it, the Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Sipahi Mohammad Mustafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, and the swimming pool market near Bangabandhu Stadium.

The Daily Star attempted to contact Shamshur Rahman Gong and Md Jamal Hossain, but they could not be reached.

ALLOCATION COMMITTEE EXPIRED A DECADE AGO

According to the report, the NSC's shop allocation committee, formed in 2013, expired in 2016 and has not been reconstituted since.

Consequently, all allocations made after 2015 did not follow proper procedure.

Although NSC policy mandates rent revisions every three years, the committee failed to implement any significant hikes, enabling lessees to profit

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Shops at the National Stadium in Dhaka's Gulistan area, formerly Bangabandhu National Stadium, sell sports gear, fitness equipment and electronics. A recent probe found that many original lessees of these shops pay minimal rent to the National Sports Council but sublet the properties at highly inflated rates.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



# Dhaka Bank holds managers’ conference

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Dhaka Bank PLC recently organised the “Managers Conference-2025” under the slogan “One Team, One Vision – Achieving Growth Through Synergy” in Cox’s Bazar.

Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

During his address, Sarker emphasised the importance of unity among all members of Dhaka Bank, encouraging collaboration and mutual understanding with the conviction that, together, even seemingly unattainable goals can be realised.

Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, managing director and CEO of the bank, presided over the event.

The conference reviewed the overall performance and business growth achieved in the previous year and set future business objectives. It also outlined strategic initiatives to attain this year’s targets.

Additionally, the management assessed the overall performance of the first quarter of 2025.

The event featured interactive sessions and strategic discussions centred on the bank’s future growth, with a strong focus on enhancing collaboration to sustain Dhaka Bank’s reputation as one of the most compassionate financial institutions in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of Dhaka Bank PLC, and Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, managing director and CEO, pose for group photographs with participants of the “Managers Conference-2025” in Cox’s Bazar recently.



PHOTO: COMMERCE MINISTRY

Sheikh Mohammad Abdur Rahman, joint secretary and deputy project director of the Export Competitiveness for Jobs (EC4J) project, attends a press conference at Rupayan Millennium Square on Pragati Sarani in the capital yesterday.

## Meet Bangladesh Exposition to spotlight export potential on April 24-25

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The Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with the World Bank, will organise the “Meet Bangladesh Exposition (MBX)”, an exhibition aimed at showcasing Bangladesh’s promising export sectors, including medical and personal protective equipment, leather and leather goods, footwear, plastics, and light engineering.

The initiative seeks to position Bangladesh as a preferred sourcing destination for global markets.

Organised under the Export

Competitiveness for Jobs (EC4J) project, the two-day event will be held at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka on April 24–25, according to a press release. Sk Bashir Uddin, adviser to the commerce, textiles and jute, and civil aviation and tourism, is expected to inaugurate the event.

Sheikh Mohammad Abdur Rahman, joint secretary and deputy project director of the EC4J Project, shared details of the exposition at a press conference held at Rupayan Millennium Square on Pragati Sarani in the capital yesterday.

## Prime Bank celebrates 30 years of ‘progress, innovation and inclusive growth’

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC yesterday commemorated 30 years of service, celebrating a journey defined by trust, innovation, and shared progress.

The bank reaffirmed its commitment to delivering enhanced service to its customers while contributing to a more inclusive and resilient economy in the years ahead, according to a press release.

Over the decades, Prime Bank has evolved into a forward-thinking financial institution with a focus on sustainability, accessibility, and customer-centric innovation.

From advancing digital banking solutions to pioneering green financing and inclusive services, the bank continues to transform the way it supports individuals, enterprises, and the broader economy.

Reflecting on the milestone, Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of the bank, stated: “At Prime Bank, our journey has always been about progress with purpose.”

“We’re celebrating our achievements, and we are also ready to embrace the future with renewed energy—to serve better, grow stronger, and create lasting impact,”

he added. Founded in 1995, Prime Bank moves forward with renewed confidence towards a brighter tomorrow.

It currently serves 1.1 million customers across all market segments in Bangladesh, offering a comprehensive range of financial services including consumer, corporate, SME, and Islamic banking.

The bank maintains a strong nationwide presence with more than 147 branches, 158 ATMs, and 152 agent banking outlets, ensuring access to financial services in both urban and rural areas.

Prime Bank is also recognised for its attractive savings schemes, credit card offerings, and innovative digital banking solutions.



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Senior officials and executives of Prime Bank PLC marked 30 years of service yesterday, celebrating a legacy of trust, innovation, and inclusive progress.

## GPH Ispat, PWD organise seminar on sustainable use of construction materials

STAR BUSINESS DESK

GPH Ispat Limited, a leading rebar manufacturer in Bangladesh, and the Public Works Department (PWD) jointly organised a seminar titled “Knowledge Sharing Seminar” at the latter’s office in Dhaka recently.

Mohammad Shamim Akhtar, chief engineer of the PWD, attended the seminar as the chief guest, said a press release. Akhtar stated, “GPH Ispat has demonstrated its sense of responsibility by investing in research in the construction sector. Their joint initiatives with universities have set an example. It is essential to continue such research activities.”

“More companies like GPH should step forward to enhance efficiency in the use of construction materials in future building projects,” he added.

The seminar highlighted the results of collaborative research involving the application of high-strength rebar B600D-R and optimum concrete in RCC building design. The discussion focused on how high-strength rebar B600D-R contributes to cost-effective and efficient RCC construction. Additionally, the seminar emphasised the eco-friendly nature and sustainability potential of “Rebar Grade B600D-R”.

Two research papers were presented during the seminar.

Md Kamruzzaman, sub-divisional

engineer of the PWD, demonstrated how the use of high-strength rebars can be highly effective in RCC building design.

“High-strength rebars reduce rebar congestion and significantly lower construction costs,” he said, adding that the use of such rebars contributes to reduced carbon emissions and greenhouse gases, supporting sustainable development.

The second paper was presented by Md Zahid Hasnain, who explained the strength compatibility of the desired concrete with high-strength rebars, and discussed various aspects of using these rebars in construction.



Mohammad Shamim Akhtar, chief engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD), attends a seminar on the sustainable use of construction materials, organised by GPH Ispat and the PWD, at the latter’s office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: GPH ISPAT

## Registration begins for education aid through Nagad

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The disbursement process for scholarships and stipends under the Prime Minister’s Education Assistance Trust resumed on April 15, aiming to support underprivileged and meritorious students from grade six up to bachelor’s (pass) and equivalent levels.

Following registration, relevant government authorities will conduct a multi-phase verification process.

Students selected for financial support will receive their funds through Nagad, the mobile financial service operated by the Bangladesh Postal Department, according to a press release.



Using the designated software, students in grades six and nine may complete their registration by 30 April, while students at the bachelor’s level have until 15 May to register via the official portal: <https://estipend.pmeat.gov.bd/#/>.

To qualify, each student must link an active Nagad account during the registration process. Upon successful verification, the approved scholarship or stipend amount will be deposited directly into their Nagad wallet.

Currently, the disbursed amounts stand at Tk 5,000 for secondary-level students, Tk 8,000 for higher secondary, and Tk 10,000 for those at bachelor’s or equivalent levels.

A tripartite agreement was signed in 2024 between the Bangladesh Post Office, the Prime Minister’s Education Assistance Trust, and Nagad, under which Nagad was appointed the sole mobile financial service provider for this initiative.

Nagad was selected for its extensive nationwide reach, low transaction costs, and seamless, user-friendly service.

Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project  
Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)  
Information and Communication Technology Division  
Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology  
Youth Tower (Level 5), 822/2, Rokeya Sarani, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh  
[www.bcc.gov.bd](http://www.bcc.gov.bd)


Memo No.: 56.01.0000.046.07.071.2024-1234

Date: 17 April 2025

### Request for Proposal Information Systems (Design, Supply and Installation) (Without Prequalification)

**Purchaser:** Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)  
**Project** Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project  
**Contract title:** Supply, Installation and Commissioning for Expansion of Existing Private Cloud Platform (DC & DR) in National Data Center at BCC  
**Country:** Bangladesh  
**Credit No.:** 6675-BD  
**RFP No:** EDGE-GIC  
**Issued on:** 17 April 2025

- The People’s Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply, Installation and Commissioning for Expansion of Existing Private Cloud Platform (DC & DR) in National Data Center at BCC. For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank’s Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit.
- The Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) now invites sealed Proposals from eligible Proposers for Expansion of Existing Private Cloud Platform (DC & DR) in National Data Center at BCC.
- The procurement process will be conducted through international competitive procurement using Request for Proposals (RFP) as specified in the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016, Revised February 2025 (“Procurement Regulations”), and is open to all eligible Proposers as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Bids will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation process set out in the bidding documents. The following weightings shall apply for Rated Criteria (including technical and non-price factors): 40% and for Bid cost: 60%.
- Interested eligible Proposers may obtain further information from Project Director, Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project at the email address below and inspect the request for proposals document during office hours 09.00 to 16.00 hours at the address given below. For the convenience of the Proposers an unofficial electronic copy of the RFP document can also be viewed at the website [www.bcc.gov.bd](http://www.bcc.gov.bd) (for inspection purposes only) but not for use in the preparation and submission of proposals.
- The request for proposals document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Proposers upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Bangladesh Taka (BDT 5,000.00) or Forty-Five United States Dollars (US\$ 45.00) for the cost of the RFP document. Proposers may collect the RFP document in English from the office address below during office working hours (from 9.00 AM to 4.00 PM BST). Proposer who would like the RFP document to be delivered to them through courier service should request this in their application and pay an additional fee of BDT 2,000 for local delivery within Bangladesh (i.e., total 7,000.00 Bangladesh Taka), or additional US\$ 100.00 (i.e., total 145.00 US Dollars) for overseas delivery outside Bangladesh. The method of payment will be Bank Draft or Pay Order in favor of “Project Director, Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project”. In case of courier service delivery requested by the Proposer, the Purchaser will dispatch the RFP document to the Proposer through courier service within three business days of receipt of the written application and the above-specified payment. The Purchaser shall not be responsible for any delays or problems in delivering the RFP document by the courier service provider.
- Proposals must be delivered to the address below on or before **03 June 2025** at 12:00 hours Bangladesh Time (BST = GMT + 6:00). Electronic procurement will not be permitted. Late Proposals will be rejected. The outer Proposal envelopes marked “ORIGINAL PROPOSAL”, and the inner envelopes marked “TECHNICAL PART” will be publicly opened in the presence of the Proposers’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below on **03 June 2025** at 12:30 hours Bangladesh Time (BST = GMT + 6:00). All envelopes marked “FINANCIAL PART” shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public Proposals opening.
- All Proposals must be accompanied by a **Proposal Security** of United States Dollar (US\$) 100,000.00 (US\$ One Hundred Thousand only) or an equivalent amount in any freely convertible currency or Bangladesh Taka (BDT) 11,800,000.00 (BDT Eleven Million Eight Hundred Thousand Only).
- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful Proposer’s beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the request for proposal document.
- The document (es) referred to above is:  
**Attn: Project Director**  
Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project  
Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), ICT Division,  
Youth Tower (Level 5), 822/2, Rokeya Sarani, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh.  
Telephone: +88 02 41001721, Fax: +88-02-55006791  
E-mail: [piu.edge@bcc.gov.bd](mailto:piu.edge@bcc.gov.bd)

  
(Dr. Md. Taibur Rahman)  
Project Director  
Enhancing Digital Government and Economy (EDGE) Project

GD-912



## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The products, numbering around 130, include those used to treat cardiovascular disease, antibiotics, antidepressants, antiulcerants,

**Exporting drugs to a highly controlled market like Algeria requires overcoming several challenges, says Chief Technical Officer Ishtiaq Ahmad**

Nazmun Naher, chairman of One Pharma, was present.

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Midland Bank posted the highest gain of 8 percent, whereas Union Capital declined the most, falling 9 percent.

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The event was supported by key

UNDP Resident Representative Stefan Liller and Secretary of the ICT Division Shish Haider Chowdhury also spoke.

## FROM PAGE B1

US imports from China are expected to tumble across key sectors, such as textiles, garments

# Gold prices retreat

REUTERS

"The retreat is largely driven by short-term profit-taking following the sharp rally over the past week. A temporary stabilization in US bond yields and a modest recovery in the US dollar have also added to the pressure," said Alexander Zumpfe, a precious metals trader at Heraeus Metals Germany.

**FROM PAGE B1**

“Our key focus in this year’s budget is to facilitate trade, plug loopholes, and reduce inequality,” he said.

**FROM PAGE B1**

This highlights severe challenges in executing projects that are essential for public health.

**FROM PAGE B1**

Shafiqul Islam, owner of Mobile

FROM PAGE B1

"At this point, we would just say that the authorities are making progress in the right direction in coordinating domestic and global efforts to freeze, confiscate, and recover stolen assets," said Krznar.

"Our immediate focus is to remove the expensive tax exemptions," he said. "Our immediate focus on the VAT and income tax side is that extensive exemptions should be eliminated."

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স্মারক নং-০৫.৩০.৭২০০.০০৬.২০.০০৪৯.১৭.১৮৯

তারিখ: ০৩ বৈশাখ, ১৪০২  
১৬ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫

নেত্রকোণা কালেক্টরেট ও সার্কিট হাউসের ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরের (১নং গ্রুপ) অফিস স্টেশনারি, আসবাবপত্র (মেরামত) ও আনুষঙ্গিক দ্রব্য সামগ্রি এবং (২নং গ্রুপ) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রি, ফটোকপিয়ার মেশিন, ফ্যাক্স মেশিন, প্রজেক্টর মেশিন, ইন্টারনেট লাইন (য়ন্ত্রাংশসহ সার্ভিসিং), বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জাম, ইলেকট্রনিকস সামগ্রি সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরমুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

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| ১. মন্ত্রণালয়                                 | জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়  |
| ২. দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান                 | জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা।   |
| ৩. দরপত্র সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার নাম                | জেলা প্রশাসক, নেত্রকোণা।   |
| ৪. দরপত্র সংগ্রহকারী জেলা                      | নেত্রকোণা।   |
| ৫. ক্রয় পদ্ধতি                                | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।  |
| ৬. বাজেট ও ক্রয় অর্থের উৎস                    | ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের রাজস্ব বাজেট  |
| ৭. ডকুমেন্ট মূল্য                              | ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং ১-০৭৪২-০০০১-২০৬৬ ও জমা দিতে হবে (অফেরত/ক যোগ্য) এবং দরপত্রের সাথে চালানের ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। ( উপরে বর্ণিত ১ ও ২ নং গ্রুপের জন্য পূর্ণাঙ্গ পূর্ণকভাবে চালান জমা প্রদান করতে হবে এবং সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে)। |
| ৮. বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানা যাবে                    | নেজারত শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা (কক্ষ নং-২২৭)।  |
| ৯. দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট ও সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান    | নেজারত শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা (কক্ষ নং-২২৭)।  |
| ১০. দরপত্র সিডিউল/বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রাপ্তির স্থান    | নেজারত শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা (কক্ষ নং-২২৭)।  |
| ১১. দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ এবং সময়        | ৩০ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালিন সময় পর্যন্ত। ট্রেজারী চালানের মূল কপি, সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেন্ড লাইসেন্স ও কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী দরপত্র ক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার সমিতির সদস্যের সনদপত্র দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় দাখিল করতে হবে।                    |
| ১২. দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান     | ০৪ মে ২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজ।   |
| ১৩. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়                  | ০৪ মে ২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।   |
| ১৪. দরপত্র খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা           | অতিরিক্ত জেলা প্রশাসক (সার্কিট, নেত্রকোণা অফিস কক্ষ)।  |
| ১৫. মালামাল সংগ্রহ অথবা কাজের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা | দরপত্র সংগ্রহকারী সত্তা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাস্তব করার বিধিগত ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। দরপত্র সংগ্রহের তথ্য জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেজারত শাখা (কক্ষ নং-২২৭), জেলা প্রশাসকের ওয়েবসাইট, নোটিশ বোর্ড হতে জানা যাবে।  |

সমন্বিত কার্য দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাস্তবের সর্বসম ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

  
 (বোনী বিধাণ)  
 জেলা প্রশাসক  
 নেত্রকোণা

ফোন: -০২৯৯৬৬৫১৬৩৪  
 E-mail dcnetrokona@mopa.gov.bd

**Dhaka South City Corporation**  
**Office of the Chief Store & Purchase Officer**  
**Store & Purchase Department, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.**

Memo: 46.207.007.17.02.2025-287

Date: 15-Apr-2025

## **e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of under mention work:

| Sl No. | Method of tender & Tender ID, Ref No                                 | Procurement Item Descriptions.  | Publishing Date & Time   | Last Selling Date & Time | Closing & Opening Date & Time |
|--------|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.     | OTM (NCT)<br>Tender ID. 1095403<br>Ref.46.207.007.17.01.20<br>25-112 | Supply of aprons and hand gloves for mosquito workers of DSCC in the financial year 2024-2025.  | 16-Apr- 2025<br>17.00.00 | 04-May- 2025<br>17.00.00 | 05-May- 2025<br>14.00.00      |
| 2.     | OTM (NCT)<br>Tender ID. 1098246<br>Ref.46.207.007.17.01.20<br>25-115 | Supply of Anti-infective Disinfectant (Hospital Concentrate) for use in waste management works of Dhaka South City Corporation on the occasion of upcoming Holy Eid-ul-Azha in 2024-2025. | 16-Apr- 2025<br>17.00.00 | 04-May- 2025<br>17.00.00 | 05-May- 2025<br>14.00.00      |
| 3.     | OTM (NCT)<br>Tender ID. 1098325<br>Ref.46.207.007.17.01.20<br>24-88  | Supply of bleaching powder for use in waste management work of DSCC in 2024-2025.   | 16-Apr- 2025<br>17.00.00 | 04-May- 2025<br>17.00.00 | 05-May- 2025<br>14.00.00      |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal.

  
15.4.25  
Md. Joydul Abedin  
(Deputy Secretary)

Chief Store & Purchase Officer  
Store & Purchase Department,  
Dhaka South City Corporation  
E-mail: [csposdsc20@gmail.com](mailto:csposdsc20@gmail.com)

(6 X 4)

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/২৭৪/২০২৪-২০২৫



Global uncertainty will ‘certainly’ hit growth  
WB president says

AFP, Washington

The uncertainty kicked up by Donald Trump’s stop-start tariff rollout will undoubtedly hit growth, the president of the World Bank said Wednesday, ahead of next week’s semi-annual meeting of global financial leaders in Washington.

“Uncertainty and volatility are undoubtedly contributing to a more cautious economic and business environment,” Ajay Banga told reporters, alluding to the market turbulence unleashed by the new US administration’s tariff policy.

This uncertainty would “certainly” cause slower growth than previously anticipated, he added during the virtual event.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) Spring Meetings kick off on Monday, with the Bank keen to promote its agenda to drive job creation in developing and emerging market economies.

“Uncertainty and volatility are undoubtedly contributing to a more cautious economic and business environment,” Ajay Banga said

But the gathering of finance ministers and central bankers will take place against a challenging international backdrop, with US President Donald Trump’s tariff policy threatening to derail economic growth in many parts of the world.

Since taking office in January, the US president has imposed 25 percent levies on several sectors including, autos, steel and aluminum, as his administration seeks to redress what it says is an unfair trading relationship with the rest of the world.

The White House also imposed a new “baseline” tariff of 10 percent on most countries, and announced higher import taxes on dozens of trading partners, only to then temporarily roll many of them back.

China – America’s third-largest trading partner – has been hit with a barrage of new tariffs totalling 145 percent overall. Beijing, in turn, has announced retaliatory tariffs of 125 percent on US goods.

The United States is the top shareholder at the World Bank Group, and has historically been a key driver of policy at the Washington-based institution, which has been led by a US citizen for most of its history.



Mobile phone operators in Bangladesh argue that using the SIM lock option would help ensure payments for the phone while also allowing them to offer a wider range of devices.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Debate heats up over locking SIM slots for smartphone sales on EMI

MAHMUDUL HASAN

The major telecommunication companies in Bangladesh and their smaller peers are in a debate over whether they should be allowed to lock all SIM slots when selling smartphones on instalment plans.

SIM slot locking, also known as network lock, is a feature in smartphones that restricts the device’s ability to use SIM cards from other carriers.

Mobile operators currently offer smartphones on instalment plans only to select corporate clients.

These do not include the SIM slot locking feature, although the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in 2023 allowed it, albeit for just one slot, to facilitate instalment-based handset sales.

Overall, the mechanism failed to gain significant traction in the market.

In November last year, major operators Grameenphone and Robi formally requested the regulator to allow locking all SIM slots to ensure the instalment payments.

Keeping one SIM slot unlocked makes it impossible to effectively restrict customers from using other SIMs during the period set for instalments. This has made financial partners reluctant to provide funding for such schemes, said the duo.

The operators also demanded flexibility in fixing instalment amounts and periods based on customers’ financial conditions or credit scores and preferences for repayment periods.

They also highlighted that a current regulatory condition stipulating that instalment packages can only offer locally manufactured smartphones prevents them from making internationally recognised models available.

Allowing the locking of all SIM slots will help expand affordable smartphone options while ensuring repayment security for

instalment plans, according to documents the duo provided to the BTRC.

“Single SIM locking isn’t working,” Shahed Alam, Robi’s chief corporate and regulatory officer, told The Daily Star.

“The current system leaves a scope for customers to default on payments while continuing to use other SIM slots, making the instalment model unsustainable for operators,” he said.

This is also discouraging financial partners from taking part in this initiative, he said, adding, “We need locking for all SIM slots to make instalment plans viable.”

However, in December last year, Banglalink submitted a counterproposal, urging to maintain the current single-SIM locking system.

Mobile operators currently offer smartphones on instalment plans only to select corporate clients

The same is advocated by Teletalk, as both apprehend that it would otherwise give the larger operators unfair market power and reduce competition.

The SIM locking feature essentially traps customers within the confines of a single network, limiting freedom of choice, said Taimur Rahman, chief corporate and regulatory affairs officer at Banglalink.

“If big operators, who already have higher profits and financial power, are allowed to lock all SIM slots, it could destroy the competitive balance in our market,” he said.

He added that dominant operators might even offer handsets for free or with heavy subsidies, making it harder for smaller players to compete.

Rahman also said reduced competition could result in higher prices for mobile services and fewer choices for consumers in the long run.

“One network should remain open so people have the freedom to choose. Otherwise, it leads to monopoly,” he said.

“Dual SIM users would lose flexibility, especially in remote areas with poor coverage. Even international travellers would face difficulties using local SIMs due to roaming restrictions,” he said.

Nurul Mabud Chowdhury, managing director at Teletalk, said, “We don’t support any policy that restricts customers from using the operator of their choice.”

If all SIMs are locked to a single network, it takes away customers’ freedom, he added.

However, there could be one approach which allows devices to be unlocked once dues are cleared, ensuring a balanced approach that benefits both customers and financial institutions, said Tanveer Mohammad, chief corporate affairs officer at Grameenphone.

“We aim to make smartphones more accessible by helping customers overcome financial barriers through flexible financing options and contract bundles,” he said.

“By collaborating with financial partners, we plan to introduce attractive instalment plans with lenient terms,” he said.

“To ensure sustainability and protect against potential misuse or defaults, financed devices should remain locked until the loan is fully repaid,” he added.

Amid this debate, the BTRC’s Systems and Services Division has submitted a proposal to the commission’s highest policymaking body recommending approving the all SIM slot locking feature to boost smartphone penetration.

They argued that this move aims to increase smartphone sales, and thereby enable access to digital services like telemedicine, digital marketing, and agricultural information more easily.

The proposal includes several key conditions – mobile operators would be

READ MORE ON B3

Highway to justice on a rickshaw

MAHTAB UDDIN AHMED

Someone I know once joked, “In Bangladesh, legal process is like a traffic signal – it exists, but nobody follows it.” I know of a family that has been caught in a legal battle regarding land for decades. It is the kind of dispute that survives elections, grey hairs, and a few judges. They have won every round up to the top court, but the case? It is still pending outside the court. The legal system here is not just blind – it is apparently waiting in traffic, hoping to dodge the maxim justice delayed is justice denied.

Now, let’s look at our current Chief Advisor (CA) – a figure many, including myself, genuinely admire for standing tall against the old political order and striving to bring sanity back into the system. He, too, once faced his share of politically motivated cases and painful harassment. But now that he is back in charge, his supporters and his legal matters are – thankfully – moving faster than VIP motorcades. As they should, perhaps. Justice should not be a hostage of politics, but it was.

Let’s take the example of a fictitious character, Hamid – a regular citizen who made the bold decision to seek justice against a powerful institution. Several years in, and the district court has not even stretched its legs. Why? Because the said institution is not interested in settling, delay is their strategy. Hamid was stunned to see ten lawyers show up – some linked to the current regime, backed by big-name law firms at home and abroad. Half the defendants have already left the institution,



and the rest are packing their bags. By the time a verdict arrives, they will be sipping cappuccinos somewhere out of reach. As Hamid’s lawyer quipped, “In Bangladesh, there are 101 ways to delay a case”. And that is the legal strategy in an institution that preaches “zero tolerance”.

And Hamid’s story is hardly an outlier. Ask any whistleblower, reformer, or even an unlucky soul who dared to challenge a well-connected entity or institution – they all share the same plotline: delayed justice, exhausted savings, and the accused vacationing abroad. A teacher suspended for exposing corruption still awaits reinstatement while the accused enjoys promotion. A small entrepreneur spent years in legal limbo after a big conglomerate “borrowed” his idea. Even journalists fighting defamation cases filed by the mighty have learned the true meaning of patience. In Bangladesh, if you go up against the powerful, prepare to grow old waiting for justice.

Favoritism in justice and policymaking is not unique to Bangladesh – it is universal. In India, VIPs get express service – just ask Lalu Prasad or check Jio’s policy playbook. In the US, wealth can soften crimes (remember the “affluenza” teen?). Russia jails critics like Navalny while oligarchs flourish. Malaysia dragged its feet with Najib’s 1MDB scandal. Egypt shuts down NGOs – unless they are government approved. Power tilts the scale everywhere. Justice, it seems, now comes with a loyalty card. When institutions bend, the line between “rule of law” and “rule by law” gets blurrier. Bangladesh is only scaling the old game of injustice with its own cultural twist.

In the end, maybe justice in Bangladesh isn’t broken – it’s just taking the scenic route. On a rickshaw with three flat tires. And a driver who stops for tea every ten minutes. While we continue cheering for reforms and putting our faith in those steering the nation, all we ask is that the rest of us be allowed to board the same highway to justice, preferably before our grandchildren inherit the court dates. Because right now, the only thing moving faster than justice is the rumour of its arrival. Let’s not make equal opportunity become just another slogan – like “Digital Bangladesh” printed on a form you have to submit in triplicate.

The author is the president of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh and founder of BuildCon Consultancies Ltd

China’s US bond holdings are going nowhere fast

REUTERS, Hong Kong

With China and the United States engaged in a full-on trade war, anxious investors are asking which side can press its financial advantage given Beijing’s vast holdings of US Treasuries. In truth the situation is more of a fraught equilibrium both sides have an interest in maintaining.

Commentators in Chinese state media have for years argued their government should use the debt to pressure Washington, whereas this week US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said those holdings – estimated at \$1.1 trillion by Brad Setser of the Council on Foreign Relations – provide no leverage whatsoever.

Investors who watched a searing sell-off last week drive the benchmark 10-year yield as high as 4.59 percent aren’t so sure. Clients are peppering money managers with questions about a long-feared doomsday scenario: China weaponises its holdings, dumping some or all of them to push up American interest rates, either to gain leverage in trade negotiations or punish US President Donald Trump for slapping triple-digit levies on Chinese goods.

These concerns have been heightened by a shift in recent years by Beijing to diversify foreign exchange reserves. Yet it needs a large pool of dollar debt on hand to sell if the yuan’s exchange rate starts tumbling. Granted, the People’s Bank of China has

been wary of directly selling Treasuries to this end since 2015, when it burned through most of its reserves fighting runaway depreciation. But its alternative measures to manage its currency would pack little punch without the ultimate backing of the

Treasuries holdings.

Even a limited paring down of these, delivered as a warning shot, would pose a serious danger. It would be difficult to arrange confidentially, and word of any sale would stoke fears of a total divestment and

trigger a panic in global markets that would torch the value of China’s remaining dollar-denominated holdings. That would drive up the yuan’s relative value, delivering another blow to Chinese exporters.

Then there is the question of what China



People walk across a bridge with a board showing the bond index at the financial district in Shanghai on April 7. China is the second-largest holder of American government debt, with direct holdings of \$784 billion at the end of February.

PHOTO: AFP