

# Govt plans unified promotion policy for state bank staff

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The interim government is poised to introduce a unified promotion policy for permanent officers and staff at six state-owned commercial banks, according to a draft prepared by the Financial Institutions Division (FID).

Once approved and implemented, the policy will apply to employees of Sonali, Rupali, Janata, Agrani, BASIC, and Bangladesh Development Bank PLC (BDBL).

The proposed system will assess candidates for roles, including senior officer, principal officer (PO), senior principal officer (SPO), assistant general manager, and deputy general manager.

Promotion evaluations will be scored out of 100, with 8 marks allocated for the viva voce.

Candidates must secure at least 4 marks in the viva and a minimum of 75 out of the

remaining 92 to qualify.

A merit list will be compiled based on the total score.

Staff posted abroad may attend the interview either in person or virtually.

The draft policy sets out key criteria for promotion, focusing on job performance, academic qualifications, merit, efficiency, training, integrity, and seniority.

It states that seniority alone will not be sufficient for promotion.

Any officer whose Annual Confidential Report (ACR) shows unsatisfactory performance in any of the past three years will be disqualified.

Those facing ongoing criminal or departmental proceedings, or currently serving disciplinary penalties, will also be ineligible.

Employees penalised for minor offences will remain ineligible for one year following the end of their penalty period, while those with major

penalties will have to wait two years, the draft states.

If the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) presses charges, or an officer is arrested for disciplinary violations, their promotion will be put on hold until the matter is resolved.

Should the officer be cleared without penalties, they may still be considered for promotion, depending on vacancy availability.

In departure from current practices, the new policy introduces a points-based system for academic achievements.

A master's degree will carry 15 marks, with 4 marks awarded for a first class degree, 3 for second-class, and 2 for third-class qualifications.

Similar distinctions will apply to bachelor's, higher secondary, and secondary levels.

Experience as a branch manager, previously worth just one mark, will now be valued at two, according to the draft policy.

## Stocks rise for second day

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Indices of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) rose for the second consecutive session yesterday.

DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, gained 8.41 points, or 0.16 percent, to close at 4,964.

The DSES index, which tracks Shariah-compliant stocks, declined 0.13 percent to 1,098.94, while the DS30, representing blue chip stocks, increased 0.54 percent to settle at 1,844.

Turnover, an important indicator of market activity, increased significantly by 46 percent to Tk 584.02 crore. Beach Hatchery Limited emerged as the most traded share, with a turnover of Tk 30.1 crore.

Of the 395 issues traded, 173 advanced, 169 declined, and 58 remained unchanged.

Padma Islami Life Insurance emerged as the day's top gainer, surging 10 percent, while shares of Khulna Power Company fell by 9 percent to become the day's biggest loser.

Most large cap companies posted positive performances, BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage said in its daily market update.

Non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) recorded the highest gain of 1.55 percent, followed by the food and allied sector (1.55 percent), telecommunications sector (0.96 percent), banking sector (0.50 percent), and pharmaceuticals sector (0.16 percent).

## Small storage facilities

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Syed Mabbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB), echoed the views of both Islam and Nasir.

Rahman also said his bank has already invested in the improvement of transportation and storage facilities for food grains.

M Saifur Rahman, director (Corporate & Legal Affairs) of Quality Feeds Ltd, said apart from ensuring the right quantities of animal feeds, the quality of the raw materials also needs to be ensured for better nutrition.

He also said the imposition of a 5 percent advance income tax on the import of raw materials has caused the prices of poultry and cattle to go up.

Akhtar Hossain, member secretary of the National Citizen Party (NCP), shared a scenario of his hometown in Rangpur.

He said farmers in his district were forced to sell potatoes at half the production cost for lack of cold storages and due to the presence of a "syndicate".

He also suggested that the government build more cold storages and buy more paddy from farmers so that they get better prices.

Kazi Zahedul Hasan, managing director of Kazi Farms Ltd, said prices of goods in the poultry sector should not be fixed by the government, as such initiatives discourage traders from ensuring supplies.

Mostafa Kamal, chairman and managing director of the Meghna Group of Industries (MGI), suggested that the government improve the capacity of the Chattogram port and the navigability of rivers through dredging for cargo ships.

Forecasting of food supplies and storage is important, he said, adding that sometimes the prices of commodities increase because they are traded three to four times before reaching end consumers.

Commerce Adviser Sk. Bashir Uddin said misleading data on food sometimes confuses the government and impacts the prices of commodities.

For instance, last year the price of potatoes in local markets went up to nearly Tk 90 per kilogramme due to the spread of misleading data on production and storage, he said.

He also suggested that entrepreneurs increase investments in the domestic food and commodities sectors, as annual sales were growing gradually from the current amount of Tk 150 billion.

The adviser also said that small storage facilities were important at the farm level, and it was expected that the upcoming elected government would construct those for farmers.

Importers and traders of agri-products, growers and commodities traders attended the seminar, which was moderated by Dewan Mahmud, founding editor and CEO of Bonik Barta.

"This is good," added Hossain, also vice-chairman of the EPB.

Exports of primary commodities, namely frozen fish and agricultural products, declined in April, but other major sectors such as leather and leather goods as well as jute and jute goods recorded growth, EPB data showed.

Dilip Kajuri, chief financial officer at Apex Footwear Ltd, said the export volume of leather footwear increased, but exporters are unhappy as they are not making profits.

"Although the shipment figures look better than last year, exporters are being forced to sell at production

## Falling food prices

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"I don't think this slight drop reflects any substantial improvement. When prices start rising again within a week, we must ask how sustainable this decline really is. The structural problems behind our inflation remain unaddressed," he said.

Raihan pointed to Ramadan as an example of how inflation eased when market supply was adequate. "That showed clearly that supply-side issues are just as important, if not more so, than demand-side factors in our case."

"Monetary policy mainly targets demand, but what we saw in March and April is that increasing supply can bring prices down effectively," he commented.

In its October–December quarterly report, the central bank described inflation as a key concern, driven mostly by rising food prices. "Headline inflation (point-to-point) rose gradually from 9.92 percent in September 2024 to 11.38 percent in November 2024 before easing slightly to 10.89 percent in December," said Bangladesh Bank.

It attributed the increase to the disruption in Aman rice production

caused by floods between August and October 2024, as well as higher production costs and supply chain problems that disproportionately affected low- and middle-income households. On Saturday, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said the central bank might consider cutting the policy rate to 7 percent by next March if inflation falls to 5 percent.

But Raihan challenged this view. "Next March is a long way off. I don't think there's room to cut the policy rate yet," he said.

"Even if the rate is reduced, I doubt it would significantly boost investment. The real obstacles are structural, and the prevailing economic and political uncertainty makes investors hesitant to take risks."

"From a monetary policy standpoint, it may be wiser to stick with the current rate for now," he added.

The economist also pointed out serious flaws in the domestic market, including extortion and price manipulation.

"During Ramadan, we saw that when these issues were tackled, when more importers were allowed in, prices remained stable. That intervention worked."

## European bank to lend €350m

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and has invested around C635 million in six ongoing projects involving health, water supply, transport, and communications.

Although its primary focus is on the EU member states, the EIB plays a significant role in EU development cooperation extended to over 160 countries, particularly in climate action, infrastructure, innovation, and SME development.

During the meeting, the finance adviser highlighted the urgent need for increased investment in human capital and infrastructure to help Bangladesh in its graduation from least developed country status and avoid the middle-income trap.

He urged the EU and its institutions to scale up concessional financing – meaning those offered on more favourable terms than those available on the open market – in key sectors.

Ahmed also met with officials from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), a long-time partner in Bangladesh's development.

JBIC's investments include the Detailed Area Plan (DAP-II), the Ghorasal Polash urea fertiliser project, and the Meghnaghata power plant.

The Bangladesh delegation also held meetings with senior officials from the ADB, the OPEC Fund, and the Agriculture Innovation Mechanism for Scale.

## April exports lowest

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Bangladesh is the third-largest garment exporter to the US for its \$90 billion apparel market. The country shipped \$7.34 billion worth of garment products to the US in 2024, marking 35.95 percent year-on-year growth.

BGMEA Administrator Md Anwar Hossain said there was trade uncertainty in April. "This could be a contributing factor," he said, adding that the gas crisis in the past two weeks was another factor.

"Hopefully, the gas problem will be resolved soon. Shipments will pick up in May," he said.

Despite April's sluggish growth, overall shipments grew 9.83 percent year-on-year to \$40.20 billion during the July–April period of this fiscal year thanks to higher apparel exports.

The RMG sector maintained its leading position, contributing \$32.64 billion and registering a 10 percent year-on-year increase, the EPB said.

"This is good," added Hossain, also vice-chairman of the EPB.

Exports of primary commodities, namely frozen fish and agricultural products, declined in April, but other major sectors such as leather and leather goods as well as jute and jute goods recorded growth, EPB data showed.

Dilip Kajuri, chief financial officer at Apex Footwear Ltd, said the export volume of leather footwear increased, but exporters are unhappy as they are not making profits.

"Although the shipment figures look better than last year, exporters are being forced to sell at production

costs. Buyers have not increased prices although production costs have gone up over the past two years due to the appreciation of the US dollar," he said.

Kajuri added that the European market remains sluggish, preventing buyers from offering profitable rates.

"Still, we need to keep the business running. If we don't export, revenue won't come in and the business won't survive." He also said that Japanese buyers had stopped placing orders in the last quarter. "Japanese brands usually wait until their existing stock is sold out before making new purchase orders," he said.

However, he said exporters are keeping their factories running in hopes of a better future.

Ashikur Rahman, principal economist at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said the balance of payments outlook has improved owing to decent growth in exports and remittances.

The trade deficit and current account deficit continue to narrow, while the financial account further supported external sector stability with a surplus of \$1.42 billion. The overall external balance shortfall also narrowed to \$1.11 billion, down by 75 percent from a \$4.44 billion deficit in the previous year.

As of April 24, gross forex reserves recovered to \$21.4 billion, sufficient to cover more than four months of imports. "Most importantly, export and remittance performance have indeed been the lifeline for the Bangladeshi economy while it undergoes a fragile recovery," Rahman said.

### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

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### উন্নত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

তারিখ- ৪ মে ২০২৫ ট্রি।

"The Public Procurement Regulations-2008" সম্পোর্ধী এবং পারিসিক প্রক্রিয়ামুক্ত আইন-২০০৬ এর অধিকতর সম্পোর্ধী আইন-২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বর্ষের বেশতে পুলিশ হেডকোর্টার্স সম্পর্কে নির্বাচিত করা হচ্ছে।

১ মুদ্রাপত্র/বিভাগ  
২ এজেন্সি  
৩ সংস্থাকারী সত্ত্ব  
৪ স্থানক নং. ও তারিখ  
৫ স্বত্ত্ব পর্যাপ্তি  
৬ অর্থের উপর  
৭ সম্পর্ক সংস্থার সর্বশেষ তারিখ  
৮ সম্পর্ক জমা প্রাপ্তির ও সময়  
৯ সরপত্র প্রেরণ তারিখ ও সময়  
১০ সরপত্র শর্করাকারী প্রতিক্রিয়ার নাম ও ঠিকানা  
১১ সরপত্র একার্ডের প্রতিক্রিয়ার নাম ও ঠিকানা  
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