

Bepza secures \$480m investment so far this fiscal year

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) has secured investments totalling \$480 million from 32 local and foreign companies across all export processing zones in the country as of May 13 this fiscal year.

The information was shared at a lease agreement signing ceremony between Bepza and Qingdao Dongfang Packaging Technology Limited, a Chinese company, to establish a packaging and accessories manufacturing factory in Ishwardi EPZ.

The signing ceremony took place at the Bepza Complex in Dhaka, in the presence of Bepza Executive Chairman Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman and Song Shiliang, chairman of Qingdao Dongfang Packaging Technology Limited, Bepza said in a statement yesterday.

Qingdao Dongfang Packaging Technology will invest \$4.5 million to produce 5.25 million dozen poly bags, hang tags, and paper tags annually, creating employment opportunities for 240 Bangladeshi nationals, it mentioned.

The Bepza executive chairman expressed gratitude to Qingdao Dongfang for choosing Ishwardi EPZ as its investment destination.

He emphasised Bepza's commitment to providing a secure and supportive environment for investors, encouraging the company and other Chinese investors to explore further investment opportunities across diverse sectors.

Stocks fall after two-day gains

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Indices of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) fell yesterday, ending a two-day gaining streak.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, dropped 46.97 points, or 0.95 percent, to settle at 4,874.58.

The DSES index, which represents Shariah-compliant stocks, lost 1.12 percent to close at 1,063.79. The DS30, comprising blue-chip stocks, declined 0.92 percent to 1,798.74.

On Monday, the market had closed higher following directives from Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus

on Sunday regarding the development of the capital market.

One of the measures included offloading government stakes in state-run and multinational companies to increase the supply of quality shares.

Turnover—a key indicator of market activity—fell 6 percent to Tk 343.93 crore yesterday compared to the previous session.

Of the 395 issues traded, 54 advanced, 309 declined, and 32 remained unchanged.

First Bangladesh Fixed Income Fund was the day's top gainer, surging 8 percent, while MIDAS Financing dropped 16 percent to become the worst performer.

Gold regains some ground

REUTERS

Gold prices rose on Tuesday as the dollar crept lower and initial optimism over a trade truce between the United States and China ebbed, while investors looked forward to US inflation data due later in the day.

Spot gold was up 0.6 percent at \$3,254.39 an ounce, as of 0639 GMT. US gold futures were up 1 percent at \$3,258.70.

The dollar index slipped 0.2 percent after a sharp rise in the previous session. A weaker greenback makes gold less expensive for those holding other currencies.

"The uncertainty around the trade tariffs still remain in the marketplace... the stock market is taking a breather after massive rally and we are seeing a bit of decline of the dollar," said Carlo Alberto De Casa, external analyst at Swissquote.

City Bank posts Tk 92cr profit in first quarter

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

City Bank PLC generated a profit of Tk 91.94 crore in the first quarter of 2025, driven by a rise in investment income.

The bank's consolidated earnings per share stood at Tk 0.68 in the January-March quarter, unchanged from the same period a year earlier, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website.

The bank said its investment income helped offset a decline in net interest income and covered a rise in operational expenses.

Its consolidated net operating cash flow per share was Tk 10.59 in the three months.

It was Tk 10.61 a year ago. The lender attributed the drop in operating cash flow to a rise in outflows for loan disbursement and other assets, compared to inflows from deposits and borrowings during the quarter.

As of March 31, 2025, the bank's net asset value (NAV) had increased from that at the end of 2024, supported by the quarterly net profit and a rise in unrealised gains on government securities.

According to DSE data, 30.34 percent of the bank's shares were held by sponsors and directors, 20.36 percent by institutions, 5.77 percent by foreign investors, and 43.53 percent by the general public.

Construction

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During Sheikh Hasina's visit to China, Beza signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China's Ministry of Commerce. The Bangladesh government later allocated Tk 420 crore for the first phase, partly funded by Chinese loans.

As per the deal, China Harbour Engineering Company Limited was appointed as the developer, but progress stalled due to unresolved lease and development agreements, prompting Beza to terminate the partnership in April 2022.

In July 2022, China Road and Bridge Corporation was picked as the new developer, and Beza signed a cooperation agreement to restart the project.

Located about 270 kilometres south of Dhaka, the zone could attract \$1.5 billion in investment and create more than 200,000 jobs, according to Beza. A "special purpose company" will be formed to manage and oversee operations in the economic zone.

To improve connectivity, the Roads and Highways Department is preparing to float a tender for a connecting road linking the zone with the Korean Export Processing Zone via the Karnaphuli tunnel.

A detailed project proposal has been submitted to the Chief Adviser's Office for preliminary review and is expected to be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) later this month.

Bida Executive Chairman Ashik Chowdhury said some Chinese investors are planning to start with a factory in Phase 1 of the economic zone.

"We're working on finalising the developer agreement. Once signed, construction will commence," he said, adding that the process may take up to two years.

He added that some investors could begin industrial construction early in the development phase. Regular dialogue with investors will continue to ensure smooth progress.

Meanwhile, another China-backed project, Chandpur Economic Zone-1, is also making headway under a government-to-government framework.

Govt's bank

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"We will not implement the budget by borrowing from banks or printing money. This budget will be implementable," Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed told journalists yesterday after a meeting of the advisory committee on public procurement.

He also said the upcoming budget would not have a large deficit, adding that the government would refrain from borrowing to finance mega projects.

Aided by bank borrowing, budget sizes have ballooned in recent years despite low revenue collection.

Total outstanding domestic borrowing stood at Tk 942,507 crore as of January 2025, up from Tk 722,591 crore in June 2021.

The government is set to borrow Tk 125,000 crore from domestic sources, including both banks and non-bank institutions in FY26. Of this, Tk 21,000 crore is expected to come from non-bank sources, such as savings instruments and treasury bond sales to corporates and individuals.

Even in the current fiscal year, the borrowing target was revised to Tk 117,000 crore from Tk 160,900 crore in the original budget due

to low ADP implementation and the adoption of a tight fiscal policy.

Of this, bank borrowing was revised down to Tk 99,000 crore from the original Tk 137,500 crore.

However, bank borrowing stood at Tk 15,531 crore in the first seven months of the current fiscal year, falling far behind the revised target due to low ADP implementation.

Contrary to recent years, the government has not borrowed from the central bank during this period. Instead, it repaid Tk 59,486 crore.

"This is called quantitative tightening, which supports the implementation of a contractionary monetary policy and helps reduce inflation," Hussain said.

However, the government's borrowing from commercial banks reached Tk 75,018 crore as of January this year.

The government also repaid more than it borrowed from savings instruments during the same period. Sales of savings instruments stood at Tk 36,463 crore, while repayments against the principal amounted to Tk 43,476 crore. Hussain said this was due to a decline in people's savings, driven by high inflation.

Why taxpayers deserve

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"This has created a trust deficit among taxpayers," he said.

He said the CAG alone cannot ensure accountability in the use of public money if overall governance remains weak, and unless the elected representatives in parliament hold the executive branch to account to ensure proper use of taxpayers' money.

Central planning is another reason.

Chowdhury pointed out that budgetary decisions are often made centrally, with little consideration for grassroots needs.

"In many cases, we see culverts built where there is no need for them," he said. The centralised decision-making process results in funds being misallocated and public money wasted.

The disbursement of public funds is further undermined by intermediaries, Chowdhury said. "Funds are siphoned off by middlemen, with the intended beneficiaries receiving little to no benefit."

Chowdhury, also a former finance secretary, recommended greater use of technology to modernise

services and prevent such leakages.

"The upcoming budget offers a chance for the government to reallocate resources. Stop spending on physical infrastructure and focus on social sectors and social protection to benefit more people," he said.

"We have enough roads and buildings. So we do not need new ones. All we need is quality teachers to ensure quality education and more public healthcare facilities," said Chowdhury.

Ashraf Ahmed, former president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), said taxes are the price for civilisation.

"No taxes mean no roads, schools, emergency services, or legal frameworks—all of which exist because we fund them collectively," he said.

"Imagine a world without fire brigades or roads, where your house burns with none to put out the blaze. That is the reality we risk if taxes vanish."

However, he acknowledged that government services often fall short, frequently because insufficient tax revenues limit investment

in capacity building.

"The state -- and the taxes that fund it -- are the very systems shielding us from disorder. As citizens, we must demand efficiency, transparency, and accountability. We do not want to pay intermediaries for what we have already funded collectively," he said.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said that harassment and corruption discourage many taxpayers from paying their dues.

Citing a TIB study, he said, "Some 77 percent of people believe they have to pay extra to receive services."

The complexity of tax compliance and corruption further dissuade potential taxpayers.

"Tax authorities appear like a type of hell for those wanting to comply legally, but for tax evaders, it is a sort of heaven," he said.

According to Iftekharuzzaman, taxes are evaded in collusion with taxmen. And to attain revenue goals, he said indirect tax is collected from all, regardless of income group.

Imported items

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and green chilies widened towards the end of the quarter, although the prices of potatoes, onions, and green chilies stabilised after notable declines in the previous quarter.

Momentum and base effects also played a role in recent inflation movements.

Headline inflation was largely influenced by favourable base effects at the beginning of the quarter, but a rise in momentum effects — particularly in March — pushed inflation higher. Core inflation, in particular, saw significant increases due to consistent upward momentum.

Food inflation

experienced negative momentum in January and February but rose in March. Energy inflation fell slightly, aided by a favourable base. The report projects that base effects will remain positive across all four inflation categories — headline, food, core, and energy — over the next year, though some exceptions may occur.

BB to adopt

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Economic experts have said that the central bank should meet the IMF conditions to release the remaining instalments of its \$4.7 billion loan programme.

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, economist and chairman of local think tank Research and Policy Integration for Development, recently said that IMF loans are necessary now because failure to secure IMF funds might raise questions about the government's policy credibility.

Unemployment in UK hits highest level since 2021

AFP, London

Britain's unemployment rate has reached the highest level since August 2021, official data showed Tuesday, with businesses facing a UK tax hike and US tariffs.

The rate climbed to 4.5 percent in the first quarter, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

That compared with 4.4 percent for the three months to the end of February, the ONS added.

Tuesday's data covers the period before April's introduction of a hike to a business tax laid out in the Labour government's maiden budget in October.

It also precedes a baseline 10 percent tariff imposed on the UK and other countries by US President Donald Trump last month.

Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited
"Connecting Worlds for Enriching Lives"
116 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000
www.bscl.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

| 1 | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|---|-------|--|----------------------------|
| 2 | Agency | Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Procuring Entity Name | Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited represented by Md. Golam Sarwar, General Manager (Admin & Procurement) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Procuring Entity Code | Not used at present | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Procuring Entity District | Dhaka | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Invitation for | Procurement of Link Budget Software with Training | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Invitation Ref No | 14.39.0000.000.012.07.0004.2.2.64(T) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Date | 13/05/2025 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| KEY INFORMATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Procurement Method | Open Tendering Method (OTM) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Budget and Source of Funds | Company's Own Fund | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Development Partners (if applicable) | Not Applicable | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Project / Program Code (if applicable) | Not Applicable | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Project Name (if applicable) | Not Applicable | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Tender Package No. | BSCL/2024-25/PG-18 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | Tender Package Name | Procurement of Link Budget Software with Training | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods as Supplier shall be 03 (three) years. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 03 (Three) contract successfully completed within the last 03 (Three) years, with a value of at least Tk. 3,00,000/- (In words: Three Lakhs Taka only) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | Brief Description of Goods | Link Budget Software with Client Computer | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Brief Description of Related Services | Necessary Training of the Link Budget Software | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Price of Tender Document (Tk) | 500/- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <tr><th>Lot</th><th>Identification of Package</th><th>Location</th><th>Tender Security Amount (Tk)</th><th>Completion Time in Weeks / Months</th></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>Lot-1 Procurement of Link Budget Software with Training</td><td>Dhaka</td><td>Tk 15,000/- (Fifteen Thousand Taka Only)</td><td>As Per the Tender Document</td></tr> </table> | | | | Lot | Identification of Package | Location | Tender Security Amount (Tk) | Completion Time in Weeks / Months | 25 | Lot-1 Procurement of Link Budget Software with Training | Dhaka | Tk 15,000/- (Fifteen Thousand Taka Only) | As Per the Tender Document |
| Lot | Identification of Package | Location | Tender Security Amount (Tk) | Completion Time in Weeks / Months | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Lot-1 Procurement of Link Budget Software with Training | Dhaka | Tk 15,000/- (Fifteen Thousand Taka Only) | As Per the Tender Document | | | | | | | | | |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | Name of Official Inviting Tender | Md. Golam Sarwar | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | Designation of Official Inviting Tender | General Manager (Admin & Procurement) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | Address of Official Inviting Tender | Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited SEL, Rose-N-Dale, Level-07, 116 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Contact details of Official Inviting Tender | 0241030091-93, procurement@bscl.com.bd | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings | | | | | | | | | | | | |

(Signed)
Md. Golam Sarwar
General Manager (Admin & Procurement)
Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited.

GD-1152

বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন
টিসিবি ভবন (৪র্থ তলা) ১, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫
ওয়েবসাইট: www.berc.org.bd

নং-২৮.০১.০০০০.০১২.২৩.০০২.২৫.২৪০২ তারিখ: ৩০ বৈশাখ ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
১৩ মে ২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন (বিইআরসি) কর্তৃক জেট এ-১ (এভিএসএন ফুয়েল) এর ভোক্তাপর্যায় মূল্যহার পুনর্নির্ধারণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন আইন, ২০০৩ এর ধারা ২২(খ) ও ৩৪ এ প্রদত্ত দায়িত্ব ও ক্ষমতাবলে বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন (বিপিসি) এবং পদ্মা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (পিওসিএল) এর প্রস্তাবের বিষয়ে আগ্রহী পক্ষগণকে গণশুনানি প্রদানপূর্বক সকল তথ্যাদি পর্যালোচনা ও বিশ্লেষণান্তে অভ্যন্তরীণ এবং আন্তর্জাতিক ফ্লাইটের জন্য ভোক্তাপর্যায় জেট এ-১ এর যথাক্রমে শুষ্ক ও মসকসহ এবং শুষ্ক ও মসকসমুক্ত মূল্যহার নিম্নলিখিতভাবে পুনর্নির্ধারণ করা হলো:

| ক্রমিক নং | গ্রাহকশ্রেণি | মূল্যহার |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ১ | (১) অভ্যন্তরীণ ফ্লাইটে বাংলাদেশী ক্রেতাঃ | |
| | (ক) হযরত শাহ আমানত আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম | |
| | (খ) হযরত শাহজালাল আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দর, ঢাকা | ৯৩.৫৭ |
| | (গ) যশোর বিমানবন্দর, যশোর | টাকা/লিটার |
| | (ঘ) ওসমানী আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দর, সিলেট | |
| ২ | (১) আন্তর্জাতিক ফ্লাইটে দেশি/বিদেশি ক্রেতাঃ | |
| | (ক) হযরত শাহ আমানত আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম | |
| | (খ) হযরত শাহজালাল আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দর, ঢাকা | ০.৬০৬৬ |
| | (গ) ওসমানী আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দর, সিলেট | মার্কিন ডলার/লিটার |
| | (ঘ) কক্সবাজার বিমানবন্দর, কক্সবাজার | |
| (ঙ) ভবিষ্যতে চালুতব্য বিমানবন্দর | | |

২। এ আদেশ ১৩ মে ২০২৫ তারিখ রাত ১২:০০ টা হতে কার্যকর হবে এবং পরবর্তী আদেশ না দেয়া পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকবে।

কমিশনের আদেশক্রমে,
৩০.০৫.২০২৫
মোঃ আবুল কালাম আজাদ
সচিব (অতি: দায়িত্ব), বিইআরসি।
ফোন: ০২-৫৫০১৪০০৭

GD-1149