

Safety net for workers inadequate: experts



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

About 20,000 workers currently receive direct social safety net benefits, which is inadequate to cover even a fraction of the nearly 40 lakh workers in the country's garment industry, let alone the entire workforce — highlighting major gaps in coverage and sparking calls for urgent policy reforms to safeguard employees.

Amid the ongoing structural transformation of the economy, there is a pressing need to design targeted policies that extend social protection coverage to both formal and informal workers, said Abdullah Nadvī, research director at Unnayan Shamannay (UnSy).

He made the remarks while

delivering a presentation at a discussion centring on the proposed budget for FY26, styled “National Budget for Social Protection”, held at the UnSy office in the capital yesterday.

Nadvī added that while social safety net efforts have traditionally focused on rural, agriculture-dependent households, this approach now requires reevaluation as significant socioeconomic shifts have taken place over the past decade.

According to Abdul Majid Pramanik, joint director at the Rural Development Academy, Bogura, to adapt to climate change, it is essential to allocate funds within social safety net programmes for citizens who are particularly vulnerable.

He also suggested formulating a long-term social protection strategy to address climate challenges, adding that the nearly 1

crore people living in the country's char (riverine island) areas have an urgent need for dedicated social safety net programmes.

He also said that several pilot initiatives — undertaken by both the government and non-government

There is a pressing need to design targeted policies that extend social protection coverage to both formal and informal workers, an expert says

actors — have already shown success in improving the lives and livelihoods of char dwellers, and that scaling up these efforts could ensure more comprehensive protection for these communities.

Farhana Zaman, a professor in the Department of Sociology at

Jagannath University, said she has extensive experience working on disaster management and visits the coastal belt whenever the opportunity arises.

“These communities are still food insecure. The allocation I observed for them was significantly lower than what is actually needed,” she said.

Starvation also continues to persist, she added. “Women manage to eat only two meals a day. If their children ask for extra food, they simply cannot provide it. As a result, mothers often reduce their own food intake,” she added.

To address this issue, it is essential to develop an accurate database and enhance coordination among the relevant ministries, she said.

Ishrat Sharmin, president of the Centre for Women and Children Studies, believes that special policy attention must be given to improving the quality of life

Stocks fall after two-day gains

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange dropped 16.20 points yesterday, ending a two-day gaining streak.

The DSEX lost 0.33 percent to close at 4,785.11.

The Shariah-compliant DSES index declined 0.31 percent to 1,046.90, while the DS30, which represents blue-chip stocks, dropped 0.25 percent to 1,777.09.

Turnover, a key indicator of market activity, declined 22 percent to Tk 253.54 crore.

Of the issues traded, 114 advanced, 200 declined and 77 remained unchanged, indicating negative investor activity.

National Tea Company posted the highest gain, rising 9 percent, while United Finance registered the biggest loss, dropping 8 percent.

Don't believe speculation

FROM PAGE B1

“Global commodity prices are now low. We are getting many advantages. I am not in favour of putting restrictions on importing luxury goods. Instead, I would increase taxes,” he said, adding, “People who can afford them will buy them, and those who can't, won't. If we restrict people who can afford it, they'll just go abroad and buy the product there. Then we lose out anyway.”

Although he pointed out some shortcomings, Mansur opined that people could now stop worrying about losing money due to exchange rates.

“We haven't developed a forward market here yet. If we had, it would have been good. Now, if dollars come into the Bangladeshi market, their value won't fall. People can invest without worrying about losing money due

to exchange rate changes. If we can ensure this, there will be no risk in the market.”

He said many Bangladeshis have “hundreds of crores of dollars abroad.”

“Why don't they bring the money here? Because they worry whether their money will be safe in Bangladesh. They don't have this worry when they're abroad. To fix this, we need to think seriously about our political economy.”

Mansur concluded by saying the exchange rate would be liberalised further.

“All dues have been paid. When foreign investors want to take their profit out of the country, we won't stop them. We'll only talk about tax policies, nothing beyond that.”

The event was moderated by Dewan Hanif Mahmud, editor and publisher of

Bonik Barta.

Other speakers at the event said that the “Forex Stabilization Fund” would have to be raised to at least \$2 billion to avoid market volatility.

They added that specific facilities must be offered to remitters to encourage them to send money through official channels.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said what is important now is close market monitoring to ensure that exchange rate fluctuations are not too frequent.

“Otherwise, investors might lose confidence. On the other hand, if the value of the taka drops too much, inflation could rise. Additionally, banks must publish both the maximum and minimum exchange rates on their websites,” she added.

Syed Mohammad Kamal, country head of MasterCard, said it is important to inform our expatriates that dollar prices will not increase; it will remain stable.

“Many are under the impression that since the exchange rate has been left to the market, the dollar's value might go up. But that won't happen. The current situation is actually very favourable for the economy. With Eid approaching, expatriates will begin sending remittances, which will place the economy in an even stronger position.”

Masrur Reaz, chairman of the Policy Exchange Bangladesh, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, Uzma Chowdhury, director of Pran-RFL, and Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed, chairman of Agrani Bank, also spoke at the event.

Govt plans 31% hike

FROM PAGE B1

Programmes such as Food for Work, Vulnerable Group Feeding, and Vulnerable Group Development saw reduced delivery, with a total of 5.55 lakh tonnes distributed up to May 15 — down from 7.5 lakh tonnes in the same period last year.

The government has also had to ramp up rice imports as local production fell due to recurrent floods and natural disasters.

So far this fiscal year, 11.5 lakh tonnes of food, including 7.09 lakh tonnes of rice, have been imported. Officials expect rice imports to reach 9 lakh tonnes in the next fiscal year.

By comparison, the government did not import any rice during the same period last year but brought in 7.84 lakh tonnes of wheat.

External debt doubles

FROM PAGE B1

Public sector borrowing rose 6.2 percent year-on-year by December 2024, continuing a trend that began in 2020. Private sector debt also climbed 7.3 percent over the same period.

During the 2020-2024 period, both the public and private sectors had sustained demand for external financing.

Ashikur Rahman, principal economist at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), said that external debt stood at just \$20 billion in FY2009-10.

“Bangladesh borrowed heavily when global interest rates were low, using the funds mainly for infrastructure,” he said.

“Private firms also benefited from low-cost loans. But now, with interest rates rising and concessional options disappearing, we should tread more carefully, even if debt risk remains moderate,” added Rahman.

The economist said the country is still within a safe zone, with external debt repayments amounting to 5.5 percent of combined export and remittance receipts.

“But if borrowing continues at this pace, the margin for safety will shrink,” he commented.

Selim Raihan also echoed similar views.

He said, “Much of the new debt has yet to yield visible economic returns, and Bangladesh's narrow export base, dominated by garments, limits its ability to generate the foreign exchange needed for debt servicing.”

He said that the key challenge now is to ensure that future borrowing is more strategic, with clear economic returns and improved governance.

While the country's debt-to-GDP ratio remains within comfort levels, the debt-service-to-exports ratio has climbed to 13.9 percent, underscoring growing

repayment pressures.

Bangladesh is also shifting away from concessional loans, exposing it to increased volatility in global financial markets, especially if interest rates rise further or the local currency Taka weakens.

Interest payments on foreign loans are projected to rise 65 percent by 2027, driven by higher global rates and an expanding loan portfolio.

A finance ministry report estimates these payments will hit \$2.21 billion (around Tk 26,000 crore) by then. The taka has already lost 35 percent of its value against the US dollar in the past two years.

Private firms, especially in textiles, telecoms, and pharmaceuticals, have tapped into foreign credit under relaxed borrowing rules. But with rising global uncertainty and currency risks, economists caution against overexposure.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রকল্প পরিচালক, সওজ এর কার্যালয়

সাপোর্ট টু জয়দেবপুর-দেবগ্রাম-ভুলতা-মদনপুর

সড়ক (ঢাকা-বাইপাস) পিপিপি প্রকল্প

সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর

ব্লক-বি, লেভেল-২, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা

ই-মেইলঃ dhakabypassppp@gmail.com


স্মারক নং-ও৫.০১.০০০০.২৬৪.০৭.০২৩.২০-৭৭১৩ তারিখঃ ২২ মে ২০২৫

পুনঃ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি (২য় আহ্বান)

এতদ্বারা সকল শ্রেণীর অগ্রাধী প্রতিনিধি/ব্যক্তি নিম্নে বর্ণিত তালিকা ও শর্ত অনুযায়ী জরুরী ভিত্তিতে নিলাম বিক্রয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে নিলাম কোটেশন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে, যার বিবরণ নিম্নরূপঃ

১	নিলাম কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	:	ডিবিপি/০২/২০২৪-২০২৫ (২য় আহ্বান)
২	নিলামের নাম	:	সাপোর্ট টু জয়দেবপুর-দেবগ্রাম-ভুলতা-মদনপুর সড়ক (ঢাকা-বাইপাস) পিপিপি প্রকল্পের আওতায় অধিগ্রহণকৃত ভূমির উপর অবস্থিত অবকাঠামোর নিলাম কাজ।
৩	নিলাম কোটেশন আহ্বানের স্মারক নং এবং তারিখ	:	স্মারক নং-ও৫.০১.০০০০.২৬৪.০৭.০২৩.২০-৭৭১৩ঃ তারিখঃ ২২ মে ২০২৫
৪	নিলাম কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়	:	২০ (বিশ) দিন (কার্যদেশের তারিখ হতে)
৫	নিলাম কোটেশন ডকুমেন্ট মূল্য	:	টাকা ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) মাত্র গ্রুপ তালিকা মোতাবেক অফেরতযোগ্য।
৬	নিলাম কোটেশনের বায়নার টাকা	:	উক্ত মূল্যের ২০% (শতকরা বিশ ভাগ) নিলাম কোটেশন দরপত্রের সহিত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে প্রকল্প ব্যবস্থাপক (নিঃপ্রঃ), সওজ, সাপোর্ট টু জয়দেবপুর-দেবগ্রাম-ভুলতা-মদনপুর সড়ক (ঢাকা-বাইপাস) পিপিপি প্রকল্প এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে।
৭	নিলাম কোটেশন প্রাপ্তির স্থান	:	১) প্রকল্প পরিচালক, সওজ, সাপোর্ট টু জয়দেবপুর-দেবগ্রাম-ভুলতা-মদনপুর সড়ক (ঢাকা-বাইপাস) পিপিপি প্রকল্প এর কার্যালয়, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা ২) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়, সড়ক বিভাগ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
৮	নিলাম কোটেশন গ্রহণকারীর কার্যালয়	:	১) প্রকল্প পরিচালক, সওজ, সাপোর্ট টু জয়দেবপুর-দেবগ্রাম-ভুলতা-মদনপুর সড়ক (ঢাকা-বাইপাস) পিপিপি প্রকল্প এর কার্যালয়, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা
৯	নিলাম কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৩ জুন ২০১৫ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১০	নিলাম কোটেশন গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৪ জুন ২০২৫খ্রিঃ বেলা ৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১	নিলাম কোটেশন খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	:	০৪ জুন ২০২৫ তারিখ বেলা ৩:৩০ ঘটিকা, প্রকল্প পরিচালক, সওজ, সাপোর্ট টু জয়দেবপুর-দেবগ্রাম-ভুলতা-মদনপুর সড়ক (ঢাকা-বাইপাস) পিপিপি প্রকল্প এর কার্যালয়, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা
১২	নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারীর যোগ্যতা	:	যে কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিনিধি যাদের আয়কর নিবন্ধন সনদ আছে।

বিঃদ্রঃ ১। কোটেশন এর বিস্তারিত এবং শর্তাবলী উপরোক্ত বিধি অফিস হতে (প্রতি গ্রুপ) টাকা ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) মাত্র মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য)।


প্রকল্প পরিচালক (অঃপ্রঃপ্রঃ), সওজ
সাপোর্ট টু জয়দেবপুর-দেবগ্রাম-ভুলতা-মদনপুর
সড়ক (ঢাকা-বাইপাস) পিপিপি প্রকল্প

GD-1244

BPO summit

FROM PAGE B1

target students and young professionals, introducing them to lucrative career opportunities within the BPO industry.

A job fair will also be organised to collect CVs and connect qualified individuals with potential employers.

Special emphasis is being placed on the role of freelancers this year. Dedicated seminars will discuss the challenges they face and identify opportunities for growth, with the aim of formulating supportive policies.

A policy-focused seminar will also gather IT experts, top government officials, and industry leaders to explore necessary reforms for the ITES/BPO sector.

Addressing the press conference as chief guest, Secretary to the ICT Division Shish Haider Chowdhury said, “In this era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the ITES sector is a key driver of our

economy.”

“The BPO industry is unlocking new employment avenues for our youth and enabling Bangladesh to compete globally through innovation,” he said.

“The government is committed to supporting this sector through policy, infrastructure, and skills development. Initiatives like BPO Summit Bangladesh mark critical milestones in this journey,” he added.

BACCO President Tanvir Ibrahim, who chaired the press conference, reflected on the organisation's journey.

“With over 400 member companies, BACCO has created more than 85,000 jobs and is currently generating over \$850 million in annual revenue,” he said.

“Our goal is to reach \$1 billion in revenue and 100,000 sustainable jobs by 2025. This summit will be instrumental in achieving those milestones,” he added.

Govt to allow

FROM PAGE B1

The Tk 10,000 crore that has been invested in domestic tanneries will be at risk of being left without enough rawhide if the government allows exports, he added.

Currently, 140 out of 154 tanneries are operational at the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate (STIE), where the inventory of unsold hides remains a problem.

This year, more than 85 lakh cows and goats may be slaughtered across the country, nearly 15 lakh fewer than last year. This is due to the current economic situation and also because many well-off people are not in the country due to political problems, he said.

Four state-owned banks, namely Sonali, Rupali, Janata, and Agrani, agreed to provide Tk 125 crore to tanners to purchase rawhide this Eid-ul-Azha, when more than 50

percent of the rawhides are collected each year.

However, Ahmed said the tanners wanted to borrow Tk 450 crore to finance rawhide purchases this season.

After applying salt, rawhide can be preserved for many months. This allows traders to send rawhides to tanneries gradually since the tanneries do not have the capacity to tan all rawhides at once.

The government proposed increasing prices by Tk 2 to Tk 3 for each square foot of rawhide this season at the traders' level compared to prices last year. However, Ahmed opined that prices should be the same as they were last year since the economic situation is not good.

The government set the price of cowhide at Tk 55-60 per square foot in the capital and Tk 50-55 in other areas last year.

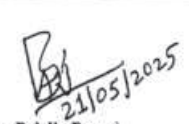
Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Nalka, Sirajganj, Bangladesh.

Invitation for Tenders

Invitation for Hiring of one (1) Microbus and one (1) SUV for the Project of Installation of Smart Prepaid Gas Meters, SCADA & GIS at PGCL Franchise Area			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/ Energy & Mineral Resources Division	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Office of Project Director, Installation of Smart Prepaid Gas Meters, SCADA & GIS at PGCL Franchise Areas Project	
4	Procuring Entity District	Sirajganj	
5	Invitation For	Hiring of one (1) Microbus and one (1) SUV/Equivalent	
6	Invitation Ref No	28.18.0000.000.087.36.0004.25	
7	Date	22.05.2025	
KEY INFORMATION			
8	Procurement Method	NCT, Open Tendering Method (OTM)	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
9	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget & PGCL Own Fund	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
10	Project Code	224390600	
11	Project Name	Installation of Smart Prepaid Gas Meters, SCADA & GIS at PGCL Franchise Area	
12	Tender Package Name	Hiring of one (1) Microbus and one (1) SUV/Equivalent for the Project of Installation of Smart Prepaid Gas Meters, SCADA & GIS at PGCL Franchise Area.	
13	Tender Publication Date	22.05.2025	
14	Tender Last Selling Date	17.06.2025 at 04:00 PM	
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	18.06.2025 at 12:00 PM	
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	18.06.2025 at 12:15 PM	
17	Name and Address of the Offices Selling Tender Documents	1. PGCL Dhaka Liaison Office, Level-13, Petrocentre, Petrobangla, 3 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh 2. Office of Project Director, Installation of Smart Prepaid Gas Meters, SCADA & GIS at PGCL Franchise Areas Project, PGCL Head Office, Nalka, Sirajganj, Bangladesh.	
18	Place of Receiving and Opening Tender Document	PGCL Dhaka Liaison Office, Level-13, Petrocentre, Petrobangla, 3 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
19	Eligibility of Tenderer	1. Minimum 03(Three) years of general experience of the tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as prime contractor/subcontractor. 2. The minimum specific experience as a prime contractor in providing vehicle rental service of at least one contract of similar nature (Microbus/SUV/Equivalent rent) over a period of 05(five) years with a value of at least of Tk 80 lakh. 3. Service provider having valid Trade license, TIN Certificate, VAT Registration Certificate, Income Tax Payment Certificate, Driving License, Up-to date documents of vehicles and experience of similar services. 4. Conditions mentioned in the tender document.	
20	Brief Description of Goods and Services	(a) 01 (One) SUV/Equivalent: Minimum 1950 cc, 5 doors, Model 2020 and onwards, including Driver wages, overtime, fuel cost, maintenance and all consumables and all other charges in connection with the services, etc. (b) 01 (One) Microbus: Minimum 1800 cc (rounded), 5 doors, Model 2019 and onwards, including Driver wages, overtime, fuel cost, maintenance and all consumables and all other charges in connection with the services, etc. The SUV/Equivalent & Microbus will be used for the project period mainly for transportation of the project officials from their living area to PGCL Head Office and Project sites at Sirajganj, Pabna, Bogura, Rajshahi district including Dhaka city and other relevant places.	
21	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Taka 1,000.00 (in cash) Non-refundable.	
	Package No	Identification of Package	Tender Security Amount (Tk)
	SD4	28.18.0000.000.087.36.0004.25	4,00,000.00 (Taka Four Lakh Only)
		Location	Completion Time in Weeks / Months
		Sirajganj, Pabna, Bogura, Rajshahi district including Dhaka city and other places of the country as required.	26 Months+ extendable subject to the possibility of extension of project.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Debdip Barua	
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director	
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Project Director, Installation of Smart Prepaid Gas Meters, SCADA & GIS at PGCL Franchise Area Project, PGCL Head Office, Nalka, Sirajganj, Bangladesh.	
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: +8802588831522; Cell: +8801730-357230; E-mail: pdpgp.pgcl@gmail.com	
26	If Tender cannot be received and opened due to any unavoidable circumstances or holiday on scheduled date and time, the same shall be received and opened, at the same venue and time on the subsequent working day.		
27	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.		

PGPR-46/2024-2025

GD-1247


(Engr. Debdip Barua)
Project Director
Installation of Smart Prepaid Gas Meters, SCADA & GIS at PGCL Franchise Area Project, PGCL