



Due to rising summer temperatures and frequent power outages, people are increasingly relying on electric or rechargeable fans to cope with the heat. Customers from different upazilas and districts are coming to shops in Khulna city to purchase fans. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Where are you still required to submit proof of tax return filing?

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The interim government has eased the requirement of submitting Proof of Submission of Return (PSR) to access 12 services, as part of efforts to streamline service delivery and remove unnecessary hurdles.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed proposed the provision on June 2 while presenting the national budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year. For the specified 12 services, only a taxpayer identification number (TIN) will be required to access facilities such as obtaining a new trade licence or getting a credit card.

However, to access nearly 40 other services, submission of PSR will remain mandatory. Currently, the PSR serves as a certificate that a person or entity has submitted their income tax return for the relevant fiscal year.

In a decisive move to expand the tax net and strengthen revenue collection, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has tightened the enforcement of income tax compliance across a wide spectrum of services.

Where is PSR still mandatory?

1. Applying for bank or financial institution loans over Tk 20 lakh.
2. Becoming a director or sponsor shareholder of a company.
3. Obtaining or renewing an import registration certificate or export registration certificate.
4. Renewing a trade licence in a city

corporation or municipality area.

5. Renewing a licence or enlistment as a general insurance surveyor.

6. Registering property transfer or sale (land, building, apartment) within a city corporation, municipality, or cantonment area.

7. Renewing membership in a professional body such as for doctors, dentists, lawyers, chartered accountants, cost and management accountants, architects, surveyors, or similar professions.

8. Obtaining or renewing a licence as a Nikah Registrar, Hindu Marriage Registrar, or Registrar under the Special Marriage Act.

9. Obtaining or continuing membership in any trade or professional body.

10. Obtaining or renewing licences such as drug, fire safety, environmental clearance, BSTI, bonded warehouse, customs agent, freight forwarding, or buying house registration.

11. Obtaining or continuing commercial and industrial gas connections in any area.

12. Obtaining a residential gas connection in a city corporation area.

13. Obtaining or continuing a survey certificate for any water vessel, including launches, steamers, fishing trawlers, cargo vessels, coasters, or dumb barges used for hire.

14. Obtaining or renewing permission to manufacture bricks from the Deputy Commissioner's office or the Directorate of Environment.

15. Admitting a child or dependent to

an English medium or English version school in a city corporation, district headquarters, or municipality.

16. Obtaining or continuing an electricity connection in a city corporation or cantonment board area.

17. Obtaining or continuing a company agency or distributorship.

18. Obtaining or renewing a licence for arms.

19. Opening a letter of credit (LC) for import purposes.

20. Opening or maintaining bank accounts with a credit balance exceeding Tk 10 lakh.

21. Purchasing savings certificates worth more than Tk 10 lakh.

22. Opening and maintaining term deposits exceeding Tk 10 lakh.

23. Participating in elections in upazilas, municipality, zilla parishes, city corporations, or the Jatiya Sangsad.

24. Participating in shared economic activities by providing motor vehicles, spaces, accommodations, or other assets.

25. Receiving salaries and allowances in managerial, administrative, or supervisory roles in production activities.

26. Receiving salaries and allowances as public servants in 10th grade or above.

27. Receiving payments from a company for advisory, consultancy, catering, event management, manpower supply, or security services.

28. Registering or renewing an agency certificate of an insurance company.

29. Receiving overseas grants through

NGOs registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau or Micro Credit Organisations licensed by the Micro Credit Regulatory Authority.

30. Renewing e-commerce business licences from the relevant authority.

31. Applying for membership in a club registered under the Companies Act 1994 or the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

32. Submitting tender documents for the supply of goods, execution of contracts, or provision of services.

33. Receiving any product or service from a company or firm.

34. Submitting a bill of entry for import or export.

35. Submitting a building plan for approval from Rajuk, CDA, KDA, RDA, or other relevant authorities in city corporation or municipality areas.

36. Renting or leasing houses in city corporation areas.

37. Supplying products or providing services under specific provisions (Section 140).

38. Obtaining or renewing licences for hotels, restaurants, motels, community centres, convention halls, hospitals, clinics, or diagnostic centres.

39. Renting or using services from a community centre or convention hall in a city corporation for social events, corporate programmes, workshops, seminars, or training.

40. Registering, transferring ownership, or renewing the fitness of a motor vehicle other than a three-wheeler.

Rare earths: China's trump card in trade war with US

AFP, Beijing

China is counting on one crucial advantage as it seeks to grind out a deal to ease its high-stakes trade war with the United States -- dominance in rare earths.

Used in electric vehicles, hard drives, wind turbines and missiles, rare earth elements are essential to the modern economy and national defence.

"The Middle East has oil. China has rare earths," Deng Xiaoping, the late Chinese leader whose pro market reforms set the country on its path to becoming an economic powerhouse, said in 1992.

Since then, Beijing's heavy investment in state-owned mining firms and lax environmental regulations compared to other industry players have turned China into the world's top supplier.

The country now accounts for 92 percent of global refined output, according to the International Energy Agency.

But the flow of rare earths from China to manufacturers around the world has slowed after Beijing in early April began requiring domestic exporters to apply for a licence -- widely seen as a response to US tariffs.

Under the new requirements -- which industry groups have said are complex and slow-moving -- seven key elements and related magnets require Beijing's approval to be shipped to foreign buyers.

Ensuring access to the vital elements has become a top priority for US officials in talks with Chinese counterparts, with the two sides meeting this week in London.

"The rare earth issue has clearly... overpowered the other parts of the trade negotiations because of stoppages at plants in the United States," said Paul Triolo, a technology expert at the Asia

Subsidy load swells

FROM PAGE B1

The previous government's failure to make timely payments left power companies with mounting arrears, which are now being cleared.

Officials said that although a large portion has been paid, some may carry over into FY26.

Finance ministry officials said the interim government has refrained from renewing old power plant contracts, which could ease future burdens.

They also expect the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and the Matarbari coal-fired plant to become fully operational by this year, enabling a Tk 3,000 crore reduction in the upcoming power subsidy allocation.

Meanwhile, subsidies for LNG imports are set to rise from Tk 6,000 crore in the current fiscal year to Tk 9,000 crore in FY26.

According to Petrobangla, the gap between LNG purchase and sale is Tk 17,676 per unit, with Tk 6,500 crore currently covered by subsidies.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said in his budget speech that the interim government is focusing on a stable supply of power at an affordable price.

So, it is reviewing tariff structures of power purchase agreements and re-negotiating them. Furthermore, an agreement was signed with Nepal to import 40 megawatts (MW) of hydropower at an affordable price to meet the electricity demand.

The recent export control measures are not the first time China has leveraged its dominance of rare earths supply chains.

the 2,400MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is progressing rapidly.

"We hope that it will be possible to supply electricity from the plant to the national grid by December of this year," he added.

The agricultural sector is going to get the second-highest subsidy allocation at Tk 27,000 crore, higher than the revised figure of Tk 25,000 crore for FY25.

The government is focusing on fertilisers and mechanisation to strengthen food security, according to the MPS.

As the agriculture sector is linked with food security, the government should think about it differently, Rahman said.

Subsidy on food also needs to be seen in a different way as it helps low-income and poor people directly, he said.

To support poor and low-income households, the government plans to increase the food subsidy by 31 percent to Tk 9,500 crore in the upcoming fiscal year. The number of beneficiaries of food friendly schemes, including Open Market Sales (OMS) and the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) programmes, will rise to 55 lakh families from 50 lakh.

Additionally, each family will receive 30 kilogramme (kg) of rice per month at Tk 15 per kg for six months, an extension from the current five-month duration.

Export and remittance incentives are likely to remain unchanged at Tk 7,825 crore and Tk 6,200 crore, respectively. In total, the government plans to

allocate Tk 42,225 crore for incentives and Tk 12,000 crore in cash loans to certain institutions under subsidy expenditures.

Rahman said cash incentives on remittance cannot be continued year after year either. Especially, when the exchange rate is now almost market-driven, he added.

However, in anticipation of Bangladesh's graduation from least developed country (LDC) status in 2026, the government plans to gradually reduce export incentives, aligning with international commitments and economic transition goals.

The strategic shift underscores a move towards a more self-reliant and diversified economy, the government said in the MPS.

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WEEKLY STOCKS Indices rebound but turnover drops

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stocks rebounded on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in the week leading up to Eid-ul-Azha, which consisted of four trading sessions from June 1 to June 4.

The benchmark DSEX index rose 71.17 points, or 1.53 percent, to close the week at 4,709.09.

Among other indices, the DS30, which represents 30 leading companies, advanced 32.74 points to 1,762.37.

The DSES index, comprising Shariah-compliant stocks, gained 17.54 points to finish at 1,028.90, according to DSE data.

Turnover dropped to Tk 964.05 crore from the previous week's Tk 1,581 crore, due to the market having four trading days as the 10-day Eid-ul-Azha holidays began on June 5.

The average daily turnover declined to Tk 241 crore from Tk 263 crore the week before.

Investor participation remained concentrated in a few sectors. The banking sector led with 21 percent of average daily traded value, followed by food and allied at 16 percent, and pharmaceuticals and chemicals at 10 percent.

Market breadth was positive as 229 issues advanced, 104 declined, and 61 remained unchanged.

Aftab Automobiles posted the highest gain of 14.90 percent, while People's Leasing and Financial Services registered the highest fall of 10 percent.

Lagarde slams 'coercive trade policies' in Beijing visit

AFP, Beijing

European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde warned Wednesday that "coercive trade policies" risked harming supply chains and the global economy, and called for a de-escalation of a tariff standoff that has wiped billions off markets.

Lagarde, one of the world's most influential central bankers, is visiting Beijing this week for talks with local counterparts on the Chinese economy and expanding cooperation.

Her visit came as high-level China-US talks in London ended with an agreement to lower tensions after US President Donald Trump launched his tariff blitz in April.

In a speech at the People's Bank of China -- the country's central bank -- she urged all parties to find solutions "even in the face of geopolitical differences".

Lagarde urged countries to protect the "multilateral framework" of international trade, which she said "so greatly benefited our economies".

"Coercive trade policies are far more likely to provoke retaliation and lead to outcomes that are mutually damaging," she added.

"All countries should examine how their structural and fiscal policies can be adjusted to reduce their own role in fuelling trade tensions," she said, calling for an end to "mutually damaging escalation of tensions".

She warned that protectionism risked "eroding the foundations of global prosperity".

Yunus lauds IMF

FROM PAGE B1

"In my time, I said no," Yunus recalled. "[But the IMF said], 'Nothing is going ahead unless you do that -- we're not releasing our funds."

Rahman said cash

incentives on remittance cannot be continued year after year either. Especially, when the exchange rate is now almost market-driven, he added.

The chief adviser said Bangladesh agreed with the IMF on the condition that the policy could be reversed if it caused difficulties, in order to protect the economy.

"IMF said, 'Okay, go ahead.' We opened it. Nothing happened. Same exchange rate -- just a little bit of movement. It's normal. It's okay."

"So, we are celebrating that. Finally, we are seeing strength in the economy, and so on. So, the IMF's role is very positive. It's not a

boost to the government -- that we are not abandoned.

"You mentioned the IMF. Yes, the IMF is also helpful. The World Bank is helpful. All the international institutions -- not everyone uses those adjectives."

FAO predicts

FROM PAGE B1

production areas in the north and south.

Planting of the 2025 Aman paddy crop, which accounts for about 35 percent of the annual output, is underway