

# Over half of farmland deemed economically unsustainable: survey

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

More than half of Bangladesh's agricultural land fails to generate optimal economic returns, raising serious concerns about the long-term viability of the country's farming practices, according to a recent survey.

The study found that 55.63 percent of agricultural land is classified as economically unsustainable based on farm output value per hectare — a key metric for assessing land productivity. By contrast, 44.37 percent of land meets the criteria for economically productive and sustainable use.

Conducted under the Sustainable Agriculture Statistics project by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the survey gathered field-level data from January 20 to March 5, 2025, encompassing both agricultural households and institutional farms.

Alarming, the report notes that just 1.20 percent of agricultural land has attained the 'desirable' level of sustainability, while 43.17 percent falls within the 'acceptable' category —



PHOTO: STAR

evaluated across 11 key sustainability indicators.

The findings were unveiled at a dissemination event organised by the BBS in the capital yesterday.

One of the most pressing issues identified is soil degradation. The survey reveals that 72.75 percent of agricultural land is managed by households where at least half of the land is degraded, posing a major threat to long-term productivity.

Conversely, water availability appears to be a relative strength, with a national sustainability rate of 81.66 percent. Most agricultural households reportedly have

categorised access to water — a vital input for crop success, particularly in the face of increasing climate variability.

However, fertiliser and pesticide management continue to pose significant challenges. Only 56.95 percent of agricultural land is managed by households practising at least two of eight recommended fertiliser strategies, highlighting gaps in awareness, affordability, or access to training.

Pesticide practices fare marginally worse, with a sustainability rate of just 51.37 percent, measured by safety compliance, and mitigation measures.

The adoption of agro-biodiversity-supportive practices — such as crop rotation, intercropping, and conservation agriculture — currently stands at a sustainability rate of 71.05 percent, indicating moderate uptake.

Meanwhile, the agricultural wage rate — defined as the proportion of land where unskilled labourers earn more than the national average — registers a sustainability rate of 60.12 percent. While this points to progress, labour economists have urged stronger wage parity and enforcement mechanisms.

Encouragingly, secure land tenure rights remain a strong point, with a national sustainability rate of 89.35 percent, reflecting robust legal and institutional support for farmers' land use rights.

The survey's most promising finding came from the Food Insecurity Experience Scale, which recorded a sustainability rate of 98.82 percent — the highest among all indicators. This suggests significant advancement in reducing hunger and improving food access at the household level.

# Stocks end five-day gaining streak

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Indices on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) dropped yesterday, breaking the five-day winning streak.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse, lost 1.38 points, or 0.02 percent, to close at 4,838.39. The Shariah-compliant DSES index declined slightly by 0.06 percent to 1,060.75, while the DS30, which represents blue-chip stocks, dropped 0.03 percent to 1,816.51.

Turnover, a key indicator of market activity, was Tk 464.53 crore, down from Tk 494.34 crore in the previous session.

A total of 143,264 trades were executed during the session, with block transactions amounting to Tk 20.06 crore across 36 scrips.

Market breadth was negative, with 130 issues advancing, 205 declining, and 65 remaining unchanged.

Among A-category shares, 72 advanced, 118 declined, and 29 were unchanged. In the B category, 33 scrips gained and 42 declined, while the N category saw one issue advancing.

Performance across other segments was mixed. In mutual funds, 5 issues advanced and 19 declined. In corporate bonds, three issues advanced and one declined. Two government issues advanced and two declined.

Meghna Pet Industries posted the highest gain of the day, surging 9 percent, while Uttara Finance and Investments was the worst performer, shedding 8 percent.

# New fiscal year starts

FROM PAGE B1  
one-fourth of total outstanding loans, revealing the fragility of the banking sector.

Despite a slight easing, inflation has remained above 9 percent for more than two years, eroding real incomes and affecting low- and middle-income households.

"Most concerning, perhaps, is that youth unemployment remains very high. While more and more graduates join the labour market, employment generation has failed to keep pace," said Md Deen Islam, associate professor of economics at the University of Dhaka.

The NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) rate stood at more than 22 percent, according to the Labour Force Survey 2022.

"Underemployment and informality further cloud the employment picture, undermining the potential demographic dividend that Bangladesh is poised to enjoy," said Islam, also research director of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), a private non-profit research organisation.

He said the outgoing

FY25 has been marked by a converging set of problems which have strained both the government's budget administration and the wider economy.

The Annual Development Programme (ADP) saw poor implementation, with actual expenditures falling well short of the target — a recurring issue that hampers long-term infrastructure and social investment goals.

"The country is entering a new fiscal cycle burdened with the unresolved economic issues of the last fiscal year," he said.

Ashikur Rahman, principal economist at the Policy Research Institute (PRI) of Bangladesh, said the outgoing fiscal year underscored the structural fragilities embedded within Bangladesh's macroeconomic framework. "The erosion of fiscal space, manifested through stagnant revenue mobilisation, rising debt servicing costs, and elevated subsidy burdens, has constrained the state's developmental capacity."

Rahman said, "This fiscal tightening has occurred alongside mounting stress in the financial sector, where rising non-performing

loans and weak governance have impaired credit intermediation and shaken depositor confidence."

Looking ahead to the upcoming fiscal year, he said, three interrelated priorities stand out.

Fiscal consolidation must be anchored in equity-enhancing tax reform and expenditure rationalisation that safeguard critical social investments, he said.

Second, restoring financial sector integrity requires decisive regulatory enforcement, strong political commitment to mergers of weak banks, enhanced supervisory autonomy, and credible governance reforms within state-owned and private banking institutions, he added.

The economist said the Bangladesh Bank has taken some decisive actions to discipline the financial sector, and the reform momentum must be continued.

"Third, and perhaps most importantly, the creation of a more predictable, transparent, and rules-based policy environment is essential to revive private investment and restore macroeconomic confidence."

While the open tender process is a positive step toward transparency, several operational and structural issues remain, it said.

The process remains partially paper-based, requiring submission of documents physically, which increases the risk of administrative delays and errors, especially for foreign investors without a local office to support the process, it read.

Prolonged and multi-layered approval processes were also blamed, for which approvals took years whereas in India it took just three to four months, as per the study.

The paper recommended a central support system to guide the foreign investors in the full industry setup process.

The PDB's tender process disqualifies proposals over minor technicalities or formatting errors, even if

# CPD calls for

FROM PAGE B1  
to a keynote paper presented by Moazzem and CPD Programme Associate Abrar Ahammed Buayan at Hotel Lakeshore, Dhaka.

The keynote paper, titled "Addressing Institutional Challenges in the Investment Cycle of Renewable Energy: Case of Chinese Overseas Investment" identified some investment challenges in Bangladesh.

Those include complex procedures to form companies, partial digitalised government processes, multiple licensing requirements each with separate procedures and the necessity to submit the same documents multiple times at different offices.

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otherwise viable, it said.

There is no system to notify bidders of incomplete submissions. Additionally, there is no active bidder helpline or FAQ section on official websites, the study added.

Han Kun, president of the Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh, said land was the most critical matter in power sector in Bangladesh.

When the investor already purchased land and managed the government's different wings' approvals, they took financial risks, he said.

The projects have been suspended at a time when they were about to receive final funding and go through tariff negotiations, he added.

Jalal Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, said the government was working to overcome all challenges for achieving the target to generate 20 percent of power demand from renewable sources by 2030.

"The recommendation from the study will help us to overcome the challenges," he said.

Weiquan Wang, deputy secretary general of Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association, said China has established a comprehensive framework that includes sustainable energy development goals supported by its national policy.

"Facilitating incentives, fixed tariff structures, total volume purchases, and special fund policies paved the way for investment in China's renewable energy sector," he said.

# Customs operations resume

FROM PAGE B1  
and Sonahat Land Port in Kurigram yesterday morning, offering relief to hundreds of traders and businesses on both sides of the border who had suffered heavy financial losses during the disruption.

Niaz Nahid, general secretary of the C&F Agents Association there, said, "Trade resumed yesterday morning after a two-day closure. But the financial blow has already been dealt to both traders and the treasury."

Mehedi Hasan, assistant director of Burimari Land Port, said, "On average, around 300 trucks are cleared daily here, mostly carrying imported goods from India and Bhutan. After two days of shutdown, we are now facing a large pile-up of cargo trucks, which may take time to clear."

Shamim Hossain said field officials had been instructed to speed up operations to ease the congestion and clear the accumulated cargo.

Trade also resumed through Burimari Land Port in Lalmonirhat

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once again entering with imported goods and leaving with export cargo."

A similar scene was found at Sonahat Land Port. Akmal Hossain, president of the C&F Agents Association there, said, "Trade resumed yesterday morning after a two-day closure. But the financial blow has already been dealt to both traders and the treasury."

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**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়  
র‍্যাপিড গ্র‍্যাকশন ব্য‍াটালিয়ন-৭  
পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।

তারিখ: ১৬ আষাঢ় ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ  
৩০ জুন ২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

স্মারক নং-৭৪৫৭/এমটি/র‍্যাব-৭/৫৮

**"উন্নত যানবাহন নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি"**

র‍্যাব ফোর্সেস সদর দপ্তর স্মারক নং-৩৩০/৪১/অকেজো/যানবাহন/অপারেশনস/৫২ তারিখ ১৭ জুন ২০২৫ মূলে আগামী ১৬ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ র‍্যাজ বৃধবার র‍্যাপিড গ্র‍্যাকশন ব্য‍াটালিয়ন-৭ (র‍্যাব-৭), পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম হতে মোটরসাইকেল হোভা সিজি-১২৫ সর্বমোট ০৪ টি যানবাহন নিলামের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হবে। নিলামের শর্তসমূহ নিম্নরূপ:

১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
২. নিলামকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়, র‍্যাপিড গ্র‍্যাকশন ব্য‍াটালিয়ন-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
৩. সংগ্রাহক সত্তা	অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাপিড গ্র‍্যাকশন ব্য‍াটালিয়ন-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম।
৪. দপ্তর বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্মারক নং ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং ৭৪৫৭/এমটি/র‍্যাব-৭/৫৮ তারিখ ৩০ জুন ২০২৫ ইং।
৫. বিষয়	মোটরসাইকেল হোভা সিজি-১২৫ সর্বমোট ০৪ টি যানবাহনের দরপত্র নিলাম।
৬. জামানত/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট	অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাপিড গ্র‍্যাকশন ব্য‍াটালিয়ন-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম বরাবর ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ফেরত যোগ্য) জমা প্রদান সাপেক্ষে নিলামে অংশ গ্রহণ করা যাবে।
৭. দরপত্র তফসিলের (সিডিউল) মূল্য এবং দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সময়সীমা	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফারের যোগ্য) র‍্যাব-৭, পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম এমটি অফিস হতে আগামী ০১ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ১৫ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় সকাল ০৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে।
৮. জামানত/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট জমা/গ্রহণ এবং দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	আগামী ১৬ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ব্য‍াটালিয়ন সদরে গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং ঐ দিনই ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় নিলাম দরপত্র বাতিল খোলা হবে।
৯. নিলাম যোগ্য মালামাল প্রদর্শন	নিলাম যোগ্য মালামাল প্রদর্শন পূর্বক ব্যাংক ড্রাফট করা যাবে।
১০. নিলাম মূল্য	বিআরটিএ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত মূল্যের অধিক মূল্য ব্যতীত মালামাল নিলাম যোগ্য হবে না।
১১. অন্যান্য শর্ত	I. দি পারবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধি ২০০৮ ও সংশোধনী ২০১০ মোতাবেক নিলাম কার্য পরিচালিত হবে।
১২.	II. সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতার নিকট নিলামকৃত দ্রব্যাদি হস্তান্তর করা হবে। সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক ক্রেতা ১৫% ভ্যাট এবং ১০% অয়কর পরিশোধ করত নিলাম যোগ্য মালামাল সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।
১৩.	III. নিলামের দিন হতে সর্বোচ্চ ০৫ (পাঁচ) দিনের মধ্যে নিলামকৃত মালামাল সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
১৪.	IV. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিলামের সকল কার্যক্রম বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ হাফিজুর রহমান, পিএসসি  
লেফ্ট কর্নেল  
অধিনায়ক  
তারিখ: ০২/০৩/২০২৫

# Govt has

FROM PAGE B1  
delivered the same message to the revenue officials. "I urge all our revenue officials to leave behind whatever has happened and carry on their responsibilities for the sake of national interest," he said.

The adviser said if there are facts, the ACC will look into them. It's not just about the NBR officials—they are handling various cases, he said.

"Every day, people come to me saying their accounts have been frozen," he said.

Referring to the recent suspension of customs activities due to protests by the NBR officials, Ahmed said some businesspeople told him that they had faced major losses due to the work abatement.

"Shutting down such services is not acceptable. Ports are not private property. These are government institutions. And you are paid by the government. You can't simply shut this down," he said.

Even if they have an issue with the government, they should not halt national services in this manner, he added. Besides, the adviser urged the NBR officials to carry out their duties sincerely, without showing any "favour or fear."

"If they work without fear or favouritism, there should be no problem," he said.

NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan

delivered the same message to the revenue officials.

"I urge all our revenue officials to leave behind whatever has happened and carry on their responsibilities for the sake of national interest," he said.

"Let us work together to take our tasks forward," he told journalists at the NBR headquarters in Agargaon yesterday.

He also informed that the NBR's regular operations resumed yesterday after six consecutive days of strike since June 23.

"Today, all our offices and agencies across the country are fully operational from the morning, including Chattogram, Dhaka, Mongla, Benapole customs houses, all ICDs, bonded warehouses, VAT offices, and tax offices," he said.

"The withdrawal of the shutdown has brought a sense of relief to everyone, especially among the business community and policymakers," he said.

On another note, the NBR chairman said the revenue agency collected Tk 3.60 lakh crore in fiscal year 2024-25 as of 10:00am yesterday.

"We are confident that collections will exceed last year's. There may be a slight shortfall from our initial expectations due to recent disruptions, but we still expect a certain percentage of growth," he said.

**Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Resilience Urban and Teritorial Development Project**  
**Benapole Pourashava, District : Jashore, Bangladesh**

Memo No. Ben/Poura/Proku/001/2025-278 Date : 30.06.2025

**(e-Tender Notice) (OTM) No-08/2024-25**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Work	On-line(e-GP System) tender publication date & time	On-line(e-GP System) tender closing date & time
1128413	RUTDP/BEN/2024-25/W-01	(1) Re-habilitation of Poura Bhaban road by BC with streetlight and Drain with footpath (Ch.0+000 to 2+400m) under Benapole Pourashava, Sarsha, Jashore. (2) Re-habilitation of Doulatpur road by BC with streetlight and Drain with footpath (Ch.0+00 to 1270m) with Doulatpur Choto Achra link road of ch 0.00-1226.00m under Benapole Pourashava, Sarsha, Jashore.	02-Jul-2025 9:30:00	04-Aug-2025 13:00:00

There are an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no off line/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-tendering documents from the national e-GP Portal have to be deposited on line through any registered banks branches up to 04-08-2025 at 12.00 AM.

Further information and guideline in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**MD. Mosharraf Hossain**  
Executive Engineer  
Benapole Pourashava

GD-1484

**Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur**  
[www.brur.ac.bd](http://www.brur.ac.bd)  
**Office of the Project Director**  
Development of Academic Buildings & Establishment of Residential Building at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur  
Planning, Development & Works, Administrative Building (2nd Floor)  
Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur  
Website: [brur.ac.bd](http://brur.ac.bd)  
E-mail: [director.pd@brur.ac.bd](mailto:director.pd@brur.ac.bd)

Ref. No. BRUR/Project-3292/Advertisement & Publication/2024/08/353 Date: 30-06-2025

**e-Tender No. 02**

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following scheme listed below.

Sl No.	Name of tender	Tender ID	Procurement type & method	REOI publication date and time	EOI closing date and time
01	BRUR/eGP/22440000/Services/S1 Consultancy for Comprehensive Architectural, Structural, and Electromechanical (Electrical, Solar, Mechanical & Plumbing), Design Services with Top Supervision for a 6-storied Multi-Purpose Residential Building at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR)	1100969	NCT QCBS	01-Jul-2025 09:00	15-Jul-2025 09:00

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. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and form e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Osman Goni Talukder**  
Project Director (Addl Charge)  
Development of Academic Buildings & Establishment of Residential Building at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur

GD-1493