

Number of online tax returns tripled in FY25: NBR

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The number of income tax returns filed online tripled in the fiscal year 2024-25 compared to the previous year, according to data from the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

A total of 17.12 lakh taxpayers submitted their returns online in FY25, up from 5.27 lakh in the previous fiscal year, marking a 225 percent increase, the NBR said in a press release yesterday.

In total, 21.65 lakh taxpayers registered for e-return submission, reflecting the growing adoption of digital tax services.

"This is a huge response from the taxpayers," the NBR said.

The revenue authority said it has gradually simplified the e-filing process based on taxpayer feedback, making it more accessible and user-friendly.

ISPs offer to lower internet price

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Internet service providers (ISPs) will offer fixed broadband internet with 10 Mbps speed at Tk 500 per month, down from the previous Tk 700, with effect from July 1.

In a statement yesterday, the Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) said currently, no licensed internet service provider—whether local, district-level, divisional, or nationwide—offers 5 Mbps packages.

Most ISPs provide an average of 10 Mbps bandwidth to users, and based on this, the association has decided to

introduce packages starting from Tk 500.

This development comes as the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has decided to reduce internet prices by up to 20 percent starting this month to make the internet more affordable for users across the country.

Under the revised pricing structure, a 5 Mbps package will cost Tk 400 per month, down from the previously fixed Tk 500 in 2021, when the BTRC began setting minimum internet tariffs.

Similarly, prices for 10 Mbps packages were reduced to Tk 700 per month, down from Tk

Eastern Refinery's second unit to be built with govt funding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government has finally decided to construct Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) Unit-2 with state funding, moving away from its earlier plan of seeking foreign investment.

Besides, the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has taken up plans to establish two more refineries in Matarbari and Payra.

The announcement came during a press conference held at the ERL premises in Chattogram yesterday afternoon.

BPC Chairman Md Amin Ul Ahsan disclosed the information at the event. The press conference was arranged to celebrate a new record by ERL, which refined 1.535 million tonnes of crude oil in the recently concluded 2024-25 fiscal year.

ERL Managing Director Md Sharif Hasnat presented the written statement at the event.

Also present were ERL Board Chairman and Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs Nasimul Ghani, BPC Director (Operations and Commercial) AKM Azadur Rahman, and BPC Secretary Shahina Sultana.

Depositors leave troubled banks

FROM PAGE B1

dropping from Tk 42,610 crore to Tk 36,998 crore. Bangladesh Commerce Bank reported a 10 percent decline, with deposits falling to Tk 4,264 crore.

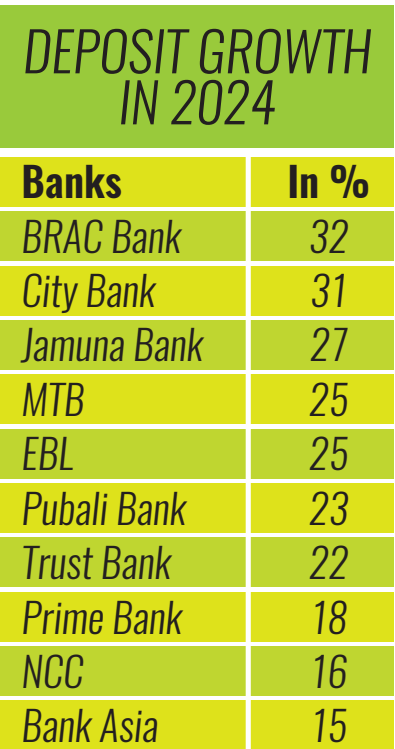
Shafiuzzaman, managing director of Social Islami Bank, attributed the sharp outflows to panic among both corporate and retail clients, especially after the bank's links to controversial conglomerate S Alam Group came to the spotlight after the July uprising.

"There was a massive wave of withdrawals after August 5," he told The Daily Star. "But the good news is that the decline has been contained. Deposits fell by about Tk 6,000 crore by December last year but have since stabilised at around Tk 29,000 crore as of June 2025."

He added that the bank now has a new board and management team.

"Savers should regain confidence. No bank can survive if all its customers show up to withdraw funds. We are focused on timely repayments to rebuild trust. Our asset classification is not severe, and most loans are recoverable. I believe we can return to a sound position within the next one to two years," said the MD.

Even Standard Chartered Bangladesh, the country's most profitable foreign bank, saw a 9.97 percent decline in deposits, falling to Tk 38,136 crore in 2024. In response



to a query from The Daily Star, the bank said the decline was due to "a few exceptional, non-recurring factors."

"Despite a challenging foreign currency liquidity environment, we supported our clients by facilitating

repatriation of \$600 million for the airline industry alone," the bank said in an emailed statement. "These and other one-off client remittances temporarily impacted deposit balances. However, after adjusting for these effects, we estimate underlying deposit growth of around 4 percent."

In 2024, AB Bank saw its deposits fall by 9.87 percent year-on-year to Tk 32,253 crore, while deposits at BASIC Bank dropped by 8 percent.

First Security Islami Bank, EXIM Bank, and Janata Bank also saw declines and struggled to post profits, weighed down by high levels of non-performing loans (NPLs).

By contrast, banks with bright balance sheets attracted new deposits. BRAC Bank led the pack, with deposits rising 32 percent to Tk 77,705 crore. City Bank followed with 31 percent growth, reaching Tk 51,436 crore. Jamuna Bank posted a 27 percent rise, closing the year with Tk 31,040 crore in deposits.

Among banks with deposits of more than Tk 20,000 crore, Mutual Trust Bank, Eastern Bank, Pubali Bank, and Trust Bank also made it to the list of top performers, each having growth above 20 percent. Prime Bank, NCC Bank, and Bank Asia saw increases above 15 percent.

Several newer banks also reported strong performances. Midland Bank, Bengal Commercial Bank, Meghna

Bank, Citizens Bank, and Shimanto Bank all saw deposit growth of more than 20 percent last year.

ZM Babar Khan, acting managing director and CEO of AB Bank, said that the bank in 2023 registered deposit growth of Tk 3,800 crore. However, it experienced outflows in 2024 due to "widespread rumours" about being placed in the so-called red zone and speculation about a potential merger.

"As a result, total deposits declined by Tk 3,185 crore," he said. "Later, the Bangladesh Bank clarified its position over the red zone, and that helped restore depositor confidence."

"As one of the country's oldest private banks, we have a strong customer base and value their support. We have received a very positive response, booking fresh deposits of Tk 6,500 crore up to June this year," Khan added. Industry experts said the outflows from troubled banks and inflows to well-performing ones show a broader shift in depositor behaviour.

Regarding banks reporting higher growth last year, Prof Shah Md Ahsan Habib of the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management said, "That was not normal organic growth. It is largely the result of clients moving away from weak banks."

"After the political changeover, the true health of many banks was exposed. Clients moved their money to stronger banks, regardless of interest rates."

Rice prices rise

FROM PAGE B1

Meanwhile, according to a recent US Department of Agriculture report published last April, the agency projected that Bangladesh, the world's third-largest rice producer, could harvest 2.05 crore tonnes of milled rice during this Boro season.

The production figures match last year's output.

According to data from the Directorate General of Food, 12.75 lakh tonnes of rice were imported in the public and private sectors during fiscal year 2024-25, whereas no rice was imported during the same period of the previous fiscal year.

WHAT TRADERS ARE SAYING

MA Raihan, a wholesale and retail rice trader at Karwan Bazar, one of the largest kitchen markets in Dhaka, said rice prices have been gradually rising in the market since the end of the Eid-ul-Azha holidays in June.

He said in the wholesale market, the prices of 25-kg sacks of fine, medium, and coarse rice have gone up by Tk 150 to Tk 400 over the past month.

He also mentioned that currently, a sack of fine rice is selling for Tk 2,100 to Tk 2,450, medium rice for Tk 1,950 to Tk 2,100, and coarse rice for Tk 1,350 to Tk 1,500.

He said the Boro harvesting season was coming to an end, so there was no reason for prices to go up at this time.

He said many big traders have

stockpiled paddy after a good harvest and are not releasing enough to the market based on demand.

Babul Hossain, another rice trader from Mirpur in the capital, said in the past, prices used to drop during the harvest season due to the associated increase in supply, he said.

However, over the last two to three years, the situation has changed. Instead of falling, prices have been rising, he said, adding that rice prices have gone up due to the increasing price of paddy.

Chitta Majumder, managing director of the Majumder Group of Industries, a leading rice miller and importer, claims that after a good Boro harvest this year, many small, medium, and large traders have stockpiled paddy.

As a result, supply in the market is lower than demand, which is why rice prices are currently rising, he said.

He said a month ago, the wholesale price of one maund (1 maund is equivalent to 40 kg) of fine rice was Tk 1,660, which has now increased to Tk 1,760, and the price of coarse rice has risen from Tk 1,050 to Tk 1,220, while the price of medium-quality rice has gone up from Tk 1,450 to Tk 1,550.

Abul Monsur Khan, another rice trader from Bogura, echoed Majumder.

Nazir Hossain Prodhan, a rice trader from Gaibandha, said farmers no longer have any paddy in stock.

Five more NBR officials

FROM PAGE B1

However, some officials also alleged that the tax administration has asked the field offices of tax to send an attendance sheet of all officers from the commissioner to the night watchman.

The Daily Star also has seen such an attendance sheet.

A senior official at the field office of tax, requesting anonymity, said attendance information of officials and staff were asked for three working days—Thursday (June 26), Saturday (June 28) and Sunday (June 29).

The latest step by the NBR comes

just days after it warned of punitive measures for absence from office without permission.

The NBR, in a press release, said all must get permission from their office chiefs and sign in the office register book before leaving.

Contacted, GM Abul Kalam Kaikobad, member of tax admin and human resources management at the NBR, said, "This is a very regular activity, nothing else. As a government official, maintaining an attendance sheet is a basic duty."

However, he declined to comment about its connection with the recent protest.

CPA to operate

FROM PAGE B1

The initiative was initially taken up by the previous Awami League government. The interim government has already been in talks with United Arab Emirates-based port operator DP World over a potential agreement to run the terminal. However, it has faced opposition from major political parties in progressing with the talks.

Replying to a query after an advisory council meeting, Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain, adviser to the shipping ministry, told reporters that the CPA would decide who would operate the terminal.

A meeting will take place today in this regard in Bangladesh Secretariat, he said. Earlier on June 18, the ministry agreed in principle to hand over the operations of the terminal to the CPA.

GOVT TO IMPORT 17 CARGOES OF LNG

Meanwhile, the advisory committee on government purchase yesterday approved the import of 17 cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) under direct purchase method from Oman's OQ Trading Limited for 2025 and 2026.

Under the approval, the government will import five cargoes of LNG in 2025 and 12 cargoes in 2026 to meet the demand for gas in the country.

The meeting also approved a draft LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) which states that the price of per unit (million British thermal unit or MMBtu) of LNG would be determined as per the standard of Japan Korea Marker (JKM) with an additional \$0.15.

Remittance up by \$6.4b in FY25

FROM PAGE B1

This has lifted the country's gross foreign exchange reserves to \$26.32 billion, the highest since October 2022.

Forex reserves were propped up by the release of \$1.34 billion as the third and fourth instalments of the International Monetary Fund's loan programme and budget support from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and other development partners, said a BB

official.

"We are observing that Bangladeshi expatriates who previously did not send their money through banking channels are now using formal routes," said a senior official of the central bank.

The BB official said hundi, an illegal cross-border transaction system, declined likely due to the political changeover, leading to more remittance inflows being directed through official channels.

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
www.bpdb.gov.bd

e-Tenders Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/ works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
01	ID-1129617	GR-57 FY 24-25	27.11.0000. 304.25.345.25	Procurement of Stator Air Cooler (Shell & Tube Type) U-1 & U-2 of Karnafuli Hydro Power Station, BPDB, Kaptai, Rangamati	17-07-2025 13:00	17-07-2025 14:00	17-07-2025 14:00

This is 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 bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01717713020).

Thanking you.

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-০২(৩)/০১/০৭/২৫

GD-1508

Yours faithfully

Md. Nannu Miah
ID No. 1-01304
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka
Email: dir_purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Manikganj Road Division, Manikganj.
Phone: 02-996610377
e-mail: eeman@rhd.gov.bd / eemanikganj@gmail.com

Memo No. 35.01.5600.444.07.010.25-2097
Dated : 30.06.2025

CORRIGENDUM NO - 01

Sub : Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of The Modern Electronic / Computerized Online Real Time Multi-Station Weigh Monitoring System (SSWIM) Including Web Based Live Video & Data Monitoring System along with Collection of Penalties From Overload Vehicles At Weigh Scale Station at 41st Km of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Paturia (N-5) National Highway (Bathuli) for 03 (Three) Years under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2024-2025. Package No. 01/Manual/PSN/Mkg.Rd/2024-2025.

Ref : Invitation Notice Memo No. 35.01.5600.444.07.010.25-1795 Date 25-05-2025.

The following amendment (as shown in colum-4) is hereby made to the Tender notice for the above mentioned tender. The participants are requested to submit their Tender with due consideration to this amendment. This corrigendum is a part of the Tender notice. All other terms and conditions of Tender notice shall remain unchanged. The participants must submit this corrigendum-01 along with their Tender document duly sealed and signed.

Sl. No. of IFT	Reference	To be replaced	Replace With																														
1	2	3	4																														
17.	Tender last selling date and time	07-07-2025 5.00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time)	20-07-2025 5.00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time)																														
18.	Tender Closing date and time	08-07-2025 12.00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time)	21-07-2025 12.00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time)																														
19.	Tender opening date and time	08-07-2025 03.30 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time)	21-07-2025 03.30 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time)																														
-	Section 7. Performance Specification / Terms of Reference (TOR)	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th colspan="5">List of Professional Key Personnel</th></tr><tr><th>Sl No</th><th>Position Assigned</th><th>Number</th><th>Month</th><th>Man-month</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>3</td><td>Toll/ Weigh scale Monitoring Officer</td><td>1</td><td>36</td><td>36</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Qualification, Experience and Tasks of Professional Staff: Position: *KS-3: Toll/ Weigh scale Monitoring Officer Input (Man-Month): 1 Person Total Man-Month = 36 Position: SS3 Weigh Scale Operator</p>	List of Professional Key Personnel					Sl No	Position Assigned	Number	Month	Man-month	3	Toll/ Weigh scale Monitoring Officer	1	36	36	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th colspan="5">List of Professional Key Personnel</th></tr><tr><th>Sl No</th><th>Position Assigned</th><th>Number</th><th>Month</th><th>Man-month</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>3</td><td>Toll/ Weigh scale Monitoring Officer</td><td>3</td><td>36</td><td>108</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Qualification, Experience and Tasks of Professional Staff: Position: *KS-3: Toll/ Weigh scale Monitoring Officer Input (Man-Month): 3 Person Total Man-Month = 108 Position: SS3 Weigh Scale Supervisor</p>	List of Professional Key Personnel					Sl No	Position Assigned	Number	Month	Man-month	3	Toll/ Weigh scale Monitoring Officer	3	36	108
List of Professional Key Personnel																																	
Sl No	Position Assigned	Number	Month	Man-month																													
3	Toll/ Weigh scale Monitoring Officer	1	36	36																													
List of Professional Key Personnel																																	
Sl No	Position Assigned	Number	Month	Man-month																													
3	Toll/ Weigh scale Monitoring Officer	3	36	108																													

GD-1507

(Md. Shahkiaz Alam)
ID No-602229
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Manikganj.