

Taskforce unveils roadmap for semiconductor growth

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The national semiconductor taskforce has charted a roadmap to unlock the country's potential in semiconductors, focusing on three priority areas — skills development, business environment and policy support, and global linkages.

As per the roadmap, the plan includes training programmes, virtual certification portals, and high-tech labs to build a skilled workforce in chip design and testing.

Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) and the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, shared the vision at a press conference held yesterday at the Foreign Service Academy.

He said the taskforce has recommended fiscal incentives, streamlined customs processes, and dedicated zones in high-tech parks to attract investors and startups.

"Globally, Bangladesh aims to forge partnerships, pursue joint ventures, and leverage its diaspora network to tap into talent, technology, and markets," he added.

He also said that with this roadmap, Bangladesh aspires to emerge as a major player in the global semiconductor ecosystem, transforming its economy and technological future.

However, he acknowledged that Bangladesh is not yet prepared for the massive investments required to establish semiconductor fabrication plants.

He highlighted significant opportunities in design services, chip testing, and packaging.

"Design and packaging offer us the fastest route to entry," the taskforce's report notes, citing local professionals who are already working with Silicon Valley firms and the country's large cohort of science and engineering graduates.

In the medium term, the taskforce proposes expanding advanced training, fostering research collaborations, and exploring prospects in semiconductor fabrication through global partnerships.

Countries like Malaysia, which currently face shortages of skilled chip designers, represent potential partners and markets for Bangladeshi talent, the report adds.

If realised, the taskforce expects that these recommendations will transform Bangladesh from a marginal player into a serious contender in the global semiconductor value chain.

"Bangladesh's advantage lies in its young, tech-savvy workforce eager to gain advanced skills," Bida chief Chowdhury said. Stating that clear timelines have been proposed to ensure accountability, he said, "The ball is now in the court of the Chief Adviser's Office."

Chowdhury believes the sector could attract hundreds of millions — or even billions — of dollars in investment if Bangladesh can build an investor-friendly environment. "Systematic implementation and political continuity are crucial for success."

Taskforce member ABM Harun-Ur-Rashid, professor at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), echoed the optimism.

"Our graduates from engineering universities are globally competitive. If we can create good opportunities here, they won't need to go abroad to work in places like Silicon Valley," he said.

Bangladesh, however, faces significant challenges in building a domestic semiconductor industry, he noted.

"Competing with established global semiconductor hubs will require strong international partnerships and rigorous adherence to quality standards," the Buet professor said.

Another taskforce member, Syed Mahfuzul Aziz, former pro-vice-chancellor of BRAC University, said Bangladesh aims to train 4,000-5,000 engineers annually by 2030 to bridge the semiconductor talent gap.

Short-term strategies include online learning, industry-led programmes, and university partnerships to accelerate skills in chip design, verification, and testing, he noted.

"This is a high-skill, high-paying sector. Our young population is our biggest asset, but we must ensure proper training and industry exposure," said Aziz.

He also revealed that Bangladesh is pursuing collaborations with semiconductor powerhouses like Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, and the US to integrate into global supply chains.

New regulations

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Second, authorised e-money issuers, operated as a business unit of a scheduled bank or financial institution with the ability to provide full-fledged e-wallet and e-money services, including cash-in and cash-out facilities.

Third, dedicated e-money issuers, which are separate corporate entities with the ability to provide full-fledged e-wallet and e-money services, including cash-in and cash-out facilities.

"There will be separate capital requirements for each type of entity, and all e-money issuers must be incorporated in Bangladesh," reads the draft regulations.

The paid-up capital of a dedicated e-money issuer will be Tk100 crore to get a central bank licence, it adds.

The draft further states that the board of directors, senior management, and risk management have been introduced for the first time to promote good

governance and trust in the system.

The e-money issuers will make it explicit in their memorandum of association that the e-money balances kept in the trust and settlement accounts will be unencumbered.

The regulations are also set to introduce comprehensive standards regarding technology management, agent management, outsourcing arrangements, etc.

All e-money operations, including prepaid cards, travel cards, etc., in domestic or foreign currency, will come under the supervision of these regulations, it states.

The definition of e-money has been specified as "electronic money", including magnetically stored monetary value as represented by a claim on the issuer, which is issued on receipt of funds, redeemable against cash, and accepted by a natural or legal person other than the e-money issuer.

21 banks

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The former top banker said there is a stark contrast in standards as foreign banks maintain risk-based accountability systems, while many local banks suffer from lax lending practices, political pressure, and weak recovery efforts.

Last year, eight banks saw over half their loans turn bad, with political misuse and fraud playing a central role. In contrast, 21 banks kept their bad loans under 5 percent by applying strong governance practices.

Among the worst performers, BASIC Bank and Bangladesh Commerce Bank have long struggled with very high bad loan ratios. In 2024, that group grew to include First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Janata Bank, AB Bank, IFIC Bank, and National Bank.

Union Bank has yet to publish its financial report for 2024. However, central bank data show its bad loans reached Tk 25,303 crore at the end of March 2025, nearly 90 percent of its outstanding loans.

First Security Islami Bank ended 2024 with the highest bad loan ratio in the sector, at 87.5 percent.

Mohammad Abdul Mannan, chairman of the commercial lender, said the bank's loans had been misclassified, recorded as performing assets, which inflated the bank's profits and allowed it to pay dividends.

He said the new board, formed following the July uprising last year, uncovered these irregularities.

After a change in leadership, Mannan said the bank has focused on attracting retail deposits, opening 10.5 lakh new accounts and bringing in more than Tk 3,500 crore.

Besides, around Tk 2,700 crore has already been recovered, he said.

He added that some Tk 40,000 crore had been lent to people unaware they were listed as borrowers. "That criminality within the bank, driven by a businessman from Chattogram, has now been stopped," he said.

Md Mazibur Rahman, managing director of Janata Bank, said, "Many of our assets, previously shown as regular, were classified in 2024."

Janata's bad loans jumped 171 percent in 2024, reaching Tk 62,805 crore, or 62 percent of its total lending.

Still, Rahman said the situation is starting to turn around.

"Our cash recovery in the past six months has already surpassed what we managed in the whole of 2024," he said. "We are selling off assets of defaulters and stepping up collections. It will take time, but the recovery has begun."

BASIC Bank had the second-highest ratio at 67.5 percent, followed by Bangladesh Commerce Bank at 64 percent. National Bank's bad loans stood at 61 percent by the end of the year.

Oil retreats

REUTERS, Singapore

Oil prices fell on Thursday after gaining 3 percent in the previous session as investors are wary higher US tariffs may be reinstated, which could cause lower fuel demand, and as major producers are expected to announce an output hike.

Brent crude futures fell 45 cents, or 0.65 percent, to \$68.66 a barrel by 0645 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude declined 44 cents, or 0.66 percent, to \$67.01 a barrel.

Both contracts rose to their highest in one week on Wednesday as Iran suspended cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, raising concerns the lingering dispute over the Middle East producer's nuclear program may again devolve into armed conflict, and the US and Vietnam reached a preliminary trade deal.

Still, there is increasing uncertainty around US trade policy as the 90-day pause on the implementation of higher tariffs will end on July 9 without any new trade deals with several large trading partners such as the European Union and Japan.

Additionally, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and its allies such as Russia, known as Opec+, will likely agreed to raise their output by 411,000 barrels per day (bpd) at their meeting this weekend.

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and the PGCB are currently restricted from providing connectivity beyond their respective railway tracks and power grid lines," he told The Daily Star.

"These restrictions are causing serious hindrances in establishing interconnections with mobile operators' networks, thereby limiting the effective utilisation of national infrastructure," he noted.

He went on to point out that such limitations not only contradict the principles of fair competition and infrastructure sharing but also undermine the very purpose of granting licences to these entities. "If left unaddressed, they risk

PGCB, Railway allowed

discouraging investment in critical infrastructure and obstructing efforts to improve nationwide digital connectivity."

"We would welcome any move by the authorities to review and cancel these restrictive directives in the interest of fairness, innovation, and the accelerated digital development of Bangladesh," Alam added.

The NTTNs are licensed providers of the optical fibre backbone infrastructure that supports high-capacity data transmission for mobile operators, internet service providers (ISPs), and international gateways.

Currently, Bangladesh has six NTTN operators—

an even split between state-owned and private entities—who collectively manage around 148,000 kilometres of optical fibre network, according to BTRC data.

Fibre@Home was the first company to receive an NTTN licence in 2008 and now operates a network of approximately 50,000 kilometres.


Summit Communications follows closely with around 40,000 kilometres, while Bahon Limited maintains 7,817 kilometres.

Among state-owned operators, Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) oversees 40,000 kilometres, Bangladesh Railway 3,800

kilometres, and the PGCB approximately 8,500 kilometres.

In addition, the government has laid about 35,000 kilometres of optical fibre through projects such as Info Sarker Phase 3 and Connected Bangladesh. Mobile operators themselves maintain around 8,200 kilometres of fibre infrastructure.

Through the lifting of the restrictions, the BTRC's latest directive is expected to enhance competition, reduce infrastructure redundancy, and significantly improve the quality of internet services for end users across the country, according to industry people.



Chattogram City Corporation

Tigerpass, Chattogram

www.ccc.org.bd

Memo No:46.11.1600.002.31-01/103

Dated:03.07.2025

e-Tender Notice-CCC/SE-01/2024-25/03

This is an online OTM (Open Tender method) 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 of following packages from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank branches up to below mention schedule.

Sl no	Package No	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & Time of selling Documents	Last date & Time of submission Documents
1	CCC/Area2/W35/ss edm/08	Development of gate and waste disposal place in front of Bakalia stadium at 35 no Baxirhat ward	1128589,	17-Jul-2025 12:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00
2	CCC/Area2/W04/ss edm/11	Development Of Retaining wall of NMC house pond at 04 no ward	1129116	17-Jul-2025 12:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00
3	CCC/Area2/W19/sscdm/08	Development of hazarat Abdul Kader zilani mosque graveyard at 19 no ward	1129118	17-Jul-2025 12:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00
04	CCC/Area2/W04/ss edm/10	Development of Baghabari Road At 04 no ward	1129117,	17-Jul-2025 12:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00
05	CCC/Area2/W4/sse dm/06	Faridarpara road development work using ballah and road repairment work at 04 no Chadgaon Ward	1129568,	13-Jul-2025 11:00	13-Jul-2025 11:30
06	CCC/Area2/W19/ss edm/10	Development of Mia khan nagar , Latu peshkar road and char chaktai school by lane at 19 no ward	1129569	17-Jul-2025 12:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00
07	CCC/Area2/W05/ss edm/11	Development Of Afzal majhi road side drain at 05 no mohra Ward	1130164	17-Jul-2025 12:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00
08	CCC/Area2/W04/ss edm/12	Development of Freedom Fighter samsul Alam road at 04 no Ward	1130165	17-Jul-2025 12:00	17-Jul-2025 13:00

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd/>)

CCC/PRD-02/25-26(8)*X4)

Md. Farhadul Alam

Superintending Engineer

Chattogram City Corporation

Tigerpass, Chattogram

GD-1527

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Reporting Officer

Bangladesh BTRI/NC4: Enabling Activities" Global Reporting Project

Department of Environment (DoE)

E/16 Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

No: 22.02.0000.065.14.034.25-144

Date: 02/07/2025

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of Consulting Firm (National)

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. Agency	Department of Environment (DoE)
3. Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, "Formulation and Advancement of Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) of Bangladesh" Project.
4. Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm (National) (lump-sum)
7. Title of Service	Formulation of Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)
8. EoI Ref No and Date	22.02.0000.065.14.034.25-144; Date: 02/07/2025
Key Information	
9. Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
Funding Information	
10. Source of Funds	BCCT (GoB)
11. Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A
Particular Information	
12. Project Code	N/A
13. Project Name	"Formulation and Advancement of Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) of Bangladesh"
14. EoI Closing Date and Time	Date: 16/07/2025 Time: before 03:00 pm
Information for Applicants	
15. Brief Description of Assignment:	The Paris Agreement recognizes that the long-term goals specified in its Articles 2 and Articles 4.1 will be achieved through time and, therefore, builds on a ratcheting up of aggregate and individual ambition over time. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The Department of Environment under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has taken the project for the formulation of Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) of Bangladesh as per the requirement of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The main purpose of this assignment is to formulate the Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) of Bangladesh as per the requirements of the Paris Agreement incorporating just transition strategies.
16. Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required:	As per ToR
17. Other Details (if applicable):	The Terms of References (ToR) for the services including the scope of works, responsibilities, deliverables, educational qualifications, and experiences are available on the DoE official website (www.doe.gov.bd). Applicants are advised to provide all the necessary information and proven documents with a cover letter. One original and two copies of the EoI must be submitted in a sealed envelope and be clearly marked the title of service for the EoI.
18. Association with Foreign Firm: N/A	
Procuring Entity Details	
19. Name of Official Inviting EoI	Mirza Shawkat Ali
20. Designation of Official Inviting EoI	Project Director, "Formulation and Advancement of Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) of Bangladesh", DoE
21. Address of Official Inviting EoI	Office of the Project Director, "Formulation and Advancement of Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) of Bangladesh" Project, Department of Environment, 9 th Floor, Room: 1002, E/16 Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
22. Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	Phone: 222218368, Email: dirce@doe.gov.bd
23. Place of Submission of EoI	Office of the Project Director, "Formulation and Advancement of Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) of Bangladesh" Project, Department of Environment, 9 th Floor, Room: 1002, E/16 Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
24. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EoIs	
25. For further information and clarification, the intending applicant contact the address of the Official Inviting EoI	

GD-1526

(Mirza Shawkat Ali)

Project Director