



# First commodity exchange may launch this year

## WHAT IS A COMMODITY EXCHANGE?

A commodity exchange is a marketplace where raw materials such as oil, gold, wheat, and coffee are traded. Instead of exchanging physical goods, investors and businesses buy and sell contracts for future delivery at predetermined prices.

## MAIN PRODUCTS OF THE EXCHANGE

Gold, cotton, crude palm oil, silver

## FORMATION OF EXCHANGE

It will be a public limited company and a subsidiary of the CSE

Paid-up capital set at Tk 400cr; board to have 13 members

Existing CSE TREC holders eligible to act as commodity brokers

Each broker must have minimum paid-up capital of Tk 10cr

Ctg port introduces digital payment

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Chattogram port on Saturday launched a digital payment system, enabling port users to pay bills online anytime and from anywhere, marking a major step towards digital transformation.

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), in partnership with Eastern Bank PLC (EBL), developed the system, which is expected to significantly reduce time, cost and hassles for port users.

Shipping Adviser Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain inaugurated the system at a ceremony at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View.

He said the initiative demonstrates how a public-private partnership can work effectively.

invite brokers to join the exchange.

The new exchange will operate as a public limited company, functioning as a subsidiary of the CSE.

It will have a paid-up capital of Tk 400 crore and a 13-member board of directors, including a chairman.

According to regulations, existing TREC (trading right entitlement certificate) holders of the CSE are eligible to become brokers for the commodity exchange.

The CSE has already called on them to apply for licences. Once applications are received, the port city bourse will forward them to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) for final approval, Rahman said.

Each broker will need a minimum paid-up capital of Tk 10 crore. Like TREC holders, they will also need to comply with risk-

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Hussain hoped that the digital system would ease the difficulties faced by users when making payments for services manually.

Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Shahadat Hossain said the launch is not merely about technology or convenience but reflects a bold step towards the vision of a "Smart Chattogram".

CPA Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman said global ports are rapidly embracing technology.

"Chittagong port must adapt to remain relevant, competent and competitive in the maritime sector," he said.

Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of EBL, said the port has taken a bold step into the digital future by introducing a fully automated revenue collection and payment system powered by EBL.

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based capital adequacy rules, maintaining enough capital to absorb potential losses in line with regulatory guidelines.

The CSE is making preparations to run acceptance tests with end-users to check if the system is ready for rollout. Once completed, it will move on to trial runs of commodity trading.

The CSE chairman said technical preparations, such as installing new software and hardware that are separate from those used for equity trading, are now going on.

At the same time, the CSE is drafting sample contracts, which set out the terms for delivery or receipt of specific quantities of commodities in future months.

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# Rooftop solar plan needs pilot run: CPD

## CPD'S SUGGESTIONS

- Revise net metering guidelines
- Introduce feed-in tariff
- Make rooftop solar panels mandatory for industries
- Establish one-stop digital service platform
- Support local manufacturing
- Develop centralised database

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday urged the government to select around 450-500 rooftops of government buildings, schools and hospitals

for piloting a "National Rooftop Solar Programme" (NRSP) before expanding it.

Such piloting should be based on radiation impacts, availability of finances in different

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# Probe high rice prices, says Planning Commission

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Spiralling prices of rice, central to the daily diet of millions of Bangladeshis, are emerging as the principal driver of food inflation, defying broader disinflationary trends and prompting calls from policymakers for a deep dive into the cause.

According to the Planning Commission's General Economics Division (GED), the impact of rice on food inflation rose to 50 percent in June from 40 percent in May. In its July Economic Update and Outlook, released yesterday, the GED noted that medium-grade rice alone accounted for a quarter of the total food inflation that month.

"Inflation in rice varieties has been steadily increasing over the last twelve months, with no sign of falling," the report observed.

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## PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

**Bank Asia**

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Bank Asia PLC. in its 560<sup>th</sup> meeting held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, 27 July 2025 in the Bank's Board Room at Bank Asia Tower (Level-10), 32 & 34, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, has approved the unaudited financial statements of the Bank for the second quarter ended on 30 June 2025 and disclosed the following financial indicators of the Bank:

Particulars	January to 30 June 2025		January to 30 June 2024	
	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)
Net Asset Value ( NAV ) (Crore)	3,388.48	3,385.13	3,095.52	3,090.55
Net Asset Value ( NAV ) per Share*	26.42	26.39	24.14	24.10
Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS)**	40.14	40.79	26.25	26.32
Particulars	January to 30 June 2025		April to 30 June 2025	
	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)
Earnings per Share (EPS)	2.28	2.29	2.21	2.26
	0.98	0.99	1.65	1.68

\* The issuance of bonus shares led to an increase in the statutory reserve, and an increase in the revaluation reserve against government securities contributed to a higher Net Asset Value per Share (NAV) compared to the previous year.

\*\*Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS) increased due to higher cash inflows resulting from an increase in deposits and a decrease in loans and advances.

The details of un-audited financial statements of the Bank for the second quarter ended on 30 June 2025 will also be available on the website of the Bank at [www.bankasia-bd.com](http://www.bankasia-bd.com)

Dated: Dhaka  
July 27, 2025

**Bank Asia PLC.**

Corporate Office: Bank Asia Tower  
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