



Thousands of people make a living through the stone crushing trade near the Burimari land port in Lalmonirhat and Sonahat land port in Kurigram. With little alternative employment opportunities in the localities, they toil for around eight hours for a daily wage of Tk 400 to Tk 500, despite the risk of silicosis, a lung disease resulting from the deposit of crystalline silica dust in the respiratory tract. There are more than 1,000 stone mobile stone crushing machines running near the two land ports, with each engaging around 15 to 25 workers. The photo was taken near the Burimari land port recently.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Govt should stop treating

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who prospered in the 16 years of the Awami League government is viewed with suspicion. That is not only unjust, it is damaging."

Rahman also pointed to governance issues, policy missteps, and a lack of direction, mentioning how the past year has affected the private sector and what needs to change urgently.

He said, "Yes, there have been some attempts at economic stabilisation. Reserves have slightly improved, exchange rate volatility has calmed, and inflation was temporarily managed during Ramadan. But these are cosmetic. The real issues lie deeper. Banking remains fragile, investor confidence has not returned, and the private sector feels alienated."

Rahman compared the current government to the 2007-08 caretaker government, which was formed to take care of state affairs for an interim period until the next regular government.

He said the key difference he finds is "collaboration". "The last caretaker regime had its flaws, but they actively engaged with

the private sector. They formed the Better Business Forum, met monthly with stakeholders, and ensured implementation tracking. This time? There is a complete disconnect."

The entrepreneur was critical of unilateral policymaking, which he said had become the norm.

"Whether it is the new insurance laws, capital market reforms, or digitalisation rules, these were drafted without consulting the industry. The results? Regulatory overlaps, legal ambiguities, and serious friction between the state and businesses," he commented.

Rahman also talked about the state of the banking sector.

"While known defaulters remain untouched, genuine entrepreneurs are forced to repay loans at 14 to 15 percent interest. Why are those who stayed, who continue to pay taxes, being penalised for others' wrongdoing?"

He noted that profits of listed companies had dropped sharply, with many reporting losses.

"How can you expect

revenue growth when the business climate is so uncertain, policies keep changing, and lending conditions are stifling?" he asked.

He said foreign investors, too, were reluctant to enter the market.

"We are reporting inter-company loans as FDI. That is misleading. The reality is FDI is not coming in because they are seeing what we are seeing: inconsistency, opacity, and uncertainty."

Rahman said one of the government's gravest failures was the erosion of institutional justice.

"Selective law enforcement, politically motivated arrests, even threats to businesspeople who speak out, this climate is not conducive to entrepreneurship. If investors do not trust the system, they would not invest; it is very simple."

He criticised the government's tendency to host investment summits abroad while ignoring business leaders at home.

"We organise flashy investment summits for foreign investors, yet we cannot invite our own

business leaders properly."

Rahman believes the government could have gained broader support if it had been clearer about its objectives from the beginning.

"Had Muhammad Yunus clearly stated from the outset that he required two years to stabilise the country before holding elections, he likely would have secured broader public support. Instead, the absence of clarity and inconsistent messaging gradually eroded public trust," he commented.

"This government did not come to power through an electoral mandate, but through public expectation. With the promise to remain neutral, restore order, and ensure a smooth transition," Rahman said.

But with political pressure rising, he said that the time for meaningful reform was running out.

"If this government truly wants to regain public and business confidence, it must listen, include, and commit to an inclusive democratic process. That is the only way forward," he added.

Ctg port overburdened

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stakeholders to remove empties by August 7 or face quadrupled storage charges.

Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association (BSAA) in a letter to the CPA on Wednesday said the responsibility of removal of empty containers from the port yards are under full

jurisdiction of CPA. The association urged the CPA to drop the higher rent plan and instead facilitate more empty container loading slots on outbound ships.

"Since the ICDs are also over occupied by empty containers they are unable to take in new ones," said BSAA leader Muntasir

Rubayat. Mentioning that almost 40 percent of empties are now at the overflow yard of NCT, and many are lying there for 20 to 30 days, Rubayat said, "Transfer of empties from overflow yard to the port yards for loading onto ships is not frequently done by the berth operators."

He said BSAA has repeatedly raised concerns regarding the prolonged dwelling of empties at the overflow yard.

As per current port regulations, store rent for empty containers is charged at \$6 per TEU for the first 7 days, \$12 per TEU from the 8th to the 20th day, and \$24 per TEU per day thereafter.

Why is the oil market tight?

REUTERS, London

Opec+ oil producers have used high summer demand to launch their first output increases in three years, but those targets have proved difficult to hit, leaving the market surprisingly tight.

On paper, the world's largest group of oil-producing countries should be pumping an extra 2.5 million barrels of oil a day in September versus March, but the data shows that is not likely to happen.

The reason is twofold, with some countries finding it hard to pump more, while others are being instructed by Opec+ to hold back, as punishment for producing above their quotas in the past.

"Iraq and to a lesser extent Russia are compensating for past overproduction and Kazakhstan was already producing at maximum capacity back in March," said Jorge Leon, a former OPEC official who now works as head of geopolitical analysis at Rystad Energy.

"So the higher quota does not imply higher production." Piling on production month after month might have been expected to lower oil prices, yet Brent crude futures have risen to around \$68 a barrel from a 2025 low of \$58 in April.

It is also notable that prompt prices are now higher than those for six months out, a market dynamic known as backwardation. The prompt premium is justified because rising refinery processing rates and summer demand from power plants in the Middle East are absorbing the Opec+ hikes, said Energy Aspects analyst Richard Price.

"The market is still tight on the prompt." The first-month Brent oil futures contract early this month was trading at a premium of \$2.74 to that for delivery in six months, whereas in early May it was at a small discount and a 2025 low.

In addition to higher Middle East demand to power summer air conditioning, China has been adding to its inventories.

China's crude oil stocks rose by 82 million barrels or almost 900,000 bpd in the second quarter, according to the International Energy Agency.

"Chinese oil demand has been better than many expected at the start of the year," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo. "Chinese stockpiling activity has also played a role in keeping crude prices supported."

The Opec+ increases have also come at a time of low stocks in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) developed nations, a legacy of earlier Opec+ cuts, a trend that tends to support prices.

Municipalities hold key to investment outside Dhaka: Bida chief

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's towns and cities are stepping into the spotlight as new places to invest, thanks to the launch of the Municipal Competitiveness Index (MCI) 2024, a tool that shows where local economies have room to grow outside Dhaka and Chattogram.

Unveiled at a workshop, organised by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) in partnership with Swisscontact's PRABRIDDIHI project, the MCI is positioned as a strategic instrument to transform subnational investment landscapes.

It assesses and ranks the competitiveness of seven pilot municipalities based on business-friendliness, regulatory efficiency, and infrastructure readiness.

"This index helps spotlight the potential of municipalities as viable investment destinations," said Chowdhury Ashiq Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of Bida and the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority.

"If we can strengthen local capacities and improve inter-agency coordination at the grassroots level, these areas will become significantly more attractive to investors."

Developed under the Bangladesh Investment Climate Improvement programme and implemented by Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB), the MCI draws from extensive field consultations and offers tailored reform roadmaps for each municipality.

The workshop, titled "The Role of the Municipal Competitiveness Index in Strengthening the Investment Climate," gathered senior policymakers, private sector actors, and development partners.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman of PEB, emphasised the index's broader scope.

"Earlier indices such as the World Bank's Doing Business report focused on just two cities. The MCI now gives us a deeper, data-driven understanding of the business environment at the municipal level."

Panel discussions highlighted pressing reform needs such as streamlining business entry, improving infrastructure, rationalising taxes, and enhancing local dispute resolution and access to finance, according to a statement.

Euro hits fresh highs on peace talks in Ukraine

REUTERS

The euro hit a fresh 1-1/2-week high against a weakening dollar on Thursday as investors monitored Ukraine peace talks and shifted their focus to the Bank of England's policy meeting later in the session.

The US dollar remained under pressure amid growing concerns over partisanship creeping into key US institutions.

Initial US jobless claims, due later in the session, will be closely watched following last week's disappointing nonfarm payrolls report, which triggered a dovish repricing of the Federal Reserve easing path and a slide in the greenback.

The euro rose 0.14 percent to \$1.1677, its highest level since July 28, with a possible peace deal in Ukraine seen as a positive driver for the single currency.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said he planned contacts with Germany, France and Italy on Thursday to discuss progress toward peace.

"Sectors to benefit (from a peace deal) should be European consumers, growth-sensitive and construction-related sectors," said Mohit Kumar.

সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর
প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস
তারিখ: ২২-০৭-২০২৫

জরুরী মেরামত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। এতদ্বারা প্রকৃত ইলেকট্রিক মেডিক্যাল যন্ত্রপাতি মেরামতকারী ব্যবসায়ী/প্রকৃতকারী/সরবরাহকারীগণকে (যারা প্রতিরক্ষা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত) জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্নলিখিত ইউনিটের নামের পার্শে বর্ণিত ইলেকট্রিক মেডিক্যাল যন্ত্রটি অকেজো হওয়ায় মেরামত করা প্রয়োজনঃ

Ser	PVMS No.	Name Eqpt	Faults/Requirement
১.	161008/B	INTEGRATED POWER CONSOLE (IPC) ELECTRIC DRILL SYTEM WITH MICROBEDER, MODEL: IPC, SER: NTC-68206, MADE IN USA & BRAZIL	a. IPC Power Console is Not Working b. Internal Functional Problem (Error Code 1, 2 & 5)

২। উল্লিখিত মেশিনটি পরিদর্শনপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় যুচরা যন্ত্রাংশের প্রকৃতকারক দেশ এবং মেরামতের নির্দিষ্ট যুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ উল্লেখকরতঃ ইঞ্জিনিয়ার সার্ভে রিপোর্টসহ দরপত্র আশ্রয়ী দরদাতা কর্তৃক সীলমোহরকৃত খামে **আগামী ০৫ আগস্ট ২০২৫** তারিখের মধ্যে এই মহাপরিদপ্তর এর মেডিক্যাল স্টোর শাখায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাসে জমা দিতে হবে এবং একই তারিখ বেলা ১৩০০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।

৩। উল্লেখ্য যে, বিশ্বায়োপ্তিগত মেশিনের মেরামতকৃত অথবা মেরামতের জন্য প্রদানকৃত যুচরা যন্ত্রাংশের কমপক্ষে ০১ (এক) বছরের ওয়ারেন্টি (Warranty) প্রদান করতে হবে।

৪। কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখেন।

আইএসপিআর/বিবিধ/২৫৪

মোঃ আশিকুর হাসান
মেজর
মহাপরিচালকের পক্ষে

ফিট-১৯৪৪

Inflation inches up

FROM PAGE B1
"Our import processes are so complex that goods reach the market too late and by then, prices have already spiked," he said.

"When a supply crisis hits, some businesses exploit the situation. And in an uncertain business environment, this kind of behaviour becomes even more widespread," he said.

Prof Raihan said another crisis was looming. "We're now entering the rainy season...and flooding is a possibility. This season usually brings additional inflation pressure," he said.

"We've also consistently pointed out the imperfections in the market. So, just raising interest rates alone cannot be considered the only, or even the most effective method of reducing inflation. That's something we've been repeatedly saying," he said.

However, Ashikur Rahman, principal economist at the Policy

Research Institute (PRI) of Bangladesh, believes inflation would not rise by that much of an extent.

"The general inflation in July saw a modest rise, but this movement does not indicate a major reversal in the broader disinflationary trend," he said.

"Inflationary pressures are still expected to ease gradually over the next four to five months, thanks to stabilising global commodity prices and relatively subdued domestic demand," he added.

Commenting on the Bangladesh Bank's policy stance, which was to limit inflation within 6.5 percent for FY26, he said, "It's prudent that Bangladesh Bank has chosen to maintain the policy rate at 10 percent."

"This signals a cautious but consistent approach—anchoring inflation expectations while supporting broader macroeconomic stability," he said.

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board

স্মারক নং-২৭.১১.৫৬৭৮.৫০৮.০০৩.২৫-৬৮

e-GP পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, অত্র দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের দরপত্র গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের e-GP এর মাধ্যমে আহ্বান করা হইয়াছে, যাহা e-GP Portal-এ পাওয়া যাবে। e-GP Portal-এ নিবন্ধিত যে কোন আশ্রয়ী ব্যক্তি/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য উক্ত ওয়েবসাইট www.eprocure.gov.bd ভিজিট করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

Tender ID	Name of work	Date of publication	Last selling date and time	Opening date and time
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This is the online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৪৪(২)/০৭/০৮/২৫

জুনাইদ রুশদি
আইডি নং-১-০২০৯৯
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
পিসি পোল নির্মাণ প্রকল্প
বিউবো, আরাচা, মানিকগঞ্জ

ফিট-১৭৪৫