

## BYD to export Thai-made electric cars to Europe

ANN/THE NATION

Chinese automaker BYD plans to begin exporting plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) manufactured at its Rayong plant in Europe in late August.

On Saturday, the company welcomed the BYD Zhengzhou, its latest car carrier vessel, to Laem Chabang Port in Chon Buri. The ship delivered 300 BYD Sealion 7 sport utility vehicles (SUVs) from China to Thailand.

BYD said the Zhengzhou, which has since departed Laem Chabang for China, will return to Thailand at the end of August. It will deliver a new batch of EVs and then load PHEVs produced at the Rayong factory for shipment to Europe.

The company has not disclosed how many vehicles will be exported in this shipment, or whether they will be the BYD Sealion 6 DM-i or the BYD Seal 5 DM-i models.

The BYD Zhengzhou, a roll-on/roll-off (RORO) vessel, is the seventh ship in the company's logistics fleet and made its maiden voyage from China on July 26. It called at ASEAN destinations, including the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, before concluding its voyage at Laem Chabang yesterday.

## New Tk 100 banknote to be released next week

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank will release a redesigned Tk 100 note on August 12, aiming to improve security and prevent counterfeiting.

The new note will carry 10 separate security features, each designed to make counterfeiting far more difficult.

Among them is a bold "100" printed with colour-shifting ink that changes appearance when tilted.

The note also has a twisted thread running through four distinct windows, which reveals the denomination when held to light.

Under ultraviolet light, the twisted thread displays the words "100 Taka" and "Bangladesh Bank" in fine print.

In addition, three raised dots on the edge will help visually impaired people identify the note by touch.

Other elements include a see-through number "100" that aligns perfectly when viewed against light,



microprinted text, and ultra-fine fibres that glow under UV detectors.

A glossy protective layer has been added to improve the note's lifespan.

Central bank officials say these features make the Tk 100 significantly harder to forge while giving the public clear, simple ways to verify authenticity.

The new note will be 140 by 62 millimetres, matching the size of existing Tk 100 bills but with sharper printing and richer colours.

National symbols, the bank's logo and security clauses will be reproduced in high detail.

Both the old and new Tk 100 notes will remain in circulation for now. Banks, businesses and the public will be briefed on recognising the updated features.

The redesign is part of Bangladesh Bank's ongoing effort to modernise its currency, following earlier upgrades to Tk 1,000, Tk 50 and Tk 20 notes.

Officials hope the enhanced Tk 100 will strengthen public trust in cash transactions while keeping counterfeiters at bay.

The note will primarily be released from the Motijheel branch of Bangladesh Bank and later from other branches of the banking regulator, the BB said in a press release.

## US Fed official says jobs report confirms 'signs of fragility'

AFP, Washington

A recent US employment report confirmed "signs of fragility" in the labor market, a senior central bank official said Saturday, backing three interest rate cuts this year to guard against further weakening.

In prepared remarks to a summit in Colorado, Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision Michelle Bowman called for a "proactive approach" in lowering the benchmark lending rate.

Doing so "would help avoid a further unnecessary erosion in labor market conditions" and reduce the chance that the Fed's rate-setting committee will need to make a larger cut if the jobs market worsened further, she said.

Bowman also made the case that price increases from President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs this year will likely represent "a one-time effect."

She expects inflation will return to the Fed's two-percent target after the tariff effects dissipate.

"It is appropriate to look through temporarily elevated inflation readings and therefore remove some policy restraint to avoid weakening in the labor market," she added in the remarks.

Bowman was one of two Fed governors to dissent at the central bank's July policy meeting, a rare occurrence even as officials voted to hold rates steady for a fifth straight gathering.

Her latest remarks underscore growing divisions among Fed policymakers about when the independent central bank should begin slashing rates again.

The Fed has come under intense pressure from Trump recently, as the president repeatedly lambasted Fed Chair Jerome Powell for its decisions to keep rates unchanged.

Bowman, who was nominated by Trump in 2018 to the Fed's board, also took aim at government data over its declining survey response rates and other issues - saying the monthly numbers have become increasingly tough to interpret.

## Governor to hold status of minister

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They could not be members of the legislature or local government, hold public service posts, or receive salaries from public funds in any other role.

The president could remove them on the prime minister's recommendation and with parliament's approval.

**BANKING REFORMS**

At the CPD dialogue, Mansur said he had chosen direct action over setting up a banking commission.

"I was often asked why we did not set up a bank commission. Initially, I said we would, but later I decided to go straight into action instead of losing six to nine months to studies. We know our weaknesses," he said.

The governor said

three taskforces have been formed. Of those, one is to strengthen the banking sector, another is to improve BB operations, and a third is to recover assets from abroad.

The first two are under the central bank and the finance ministry, while the third involves the law ministry, attorney general, Anti-Corruption

Commission, Criminal Investigation Department and the foreign ministry.

Mansur said the Bank Companies Act 1991 is being amended to reduce the maximum directorship tenure from 24 years to 6, cut sponsor directors to at least half, and require directors to come from a qualified panel.

The Money Laundering

Act is also being revised to include asset recovery provisions.

The Deposit Insurance Act is also being updated, raising coverage from Tk 1 lakh to Tk 2 lakh and creating separate funds for banks and non-bank financial institutions, each with its own investment committee.

The Bank Resolution

Ordinance has already been enacted, enabling continuous resolution processes for any bank facing liquidity or governance problems, regardless of ownership.

"There should not be dual regulatory systems for state-owned and private banks. One regulator, one steering wheel," the governor said.

## Foreign operators

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Citing national interest, the parties argued that it was not logical to appoint a foreign firm to the fully equipped terminal.

However, the government said bringing a renowned foreign port operator would increase container handling efficiency and boost the overall outcome of the port.

In the face of the opposition, the authorities let Bangladesh Navy operate the terminal for a temporary period.

At yesterday's press briefing, the Bida chairman underscored the importance of recruiting world-class port operators to keep the Chattogram port among the top-ranking ones globally.

"The government's ambition is to achieve some milestones in progress in the major port development projects by December this year," he said.

The government is currently in talks with UAE-based DP World to operate the NCT.

Mahmud emphasised that the Chattogram port must perform at its full capacity to realise the government's long-term vision of transforming Bangladesh into a global

manufacturing hub by leveraging its skilled workforce.

"If the Chattogram port doesn't perform efficiently, other development projects such as Beza, Bepza, hi-tech park, and various industrialisation initiatives may stall," he warned.

He said the volume of containers handled at the NCT has increased by 30 percent while the turnaround time of vessels decreased by 13 percent in a month after Chittagong Dry Dock Limited took over the responsibility to operate the terminal.

Considering such monthly growth, container handling at the NCT might reach 1.7 million TEUs in the current fiscal whereas it was 1.3 million TEUs last year, he hoped.

"We have consistently said the Chattogram port must rank among the top global ports for our sake. To achieve this, we need to bring the world's best port operators here," he asserted.

"Our long-term plan is to increase Bangladesh's total port capacity by four to five times by 2030," Ashik added.

He also expressed hope that ongoing reforms focused on digital transformation at the Chattogram port would

significantly reduce delays, hassles, and irregularities.

Responding to a question, the Bida chairman candidly admitted that the experience with Saudi firm Red Sea Gateway Terminal (RSGT) in Bangladesh has not been satisfactory.

It is worth noting that under the previous Awami League-led government, the Saudi firm was appointed as the first foreign operator of a newly built Patenga Container Terminal (PCT) at the Chattogram port.

Ashik Mahmud explained that the RSGT has struggled to achieve the expected growth in container handling at the PCT due to several technical issues.

"The RSGT has encountered complications, and a major reason for these complications lies on our side," he also said, acknowledging the government's inexperience in dealing with international terminal operators.

During the visit, the Bida chairman inaugurated a Shipping and Logistics Online Desk, KEPZ Green Channel, and the Vehicle and Container Digital Data Exchange System at the port.

## Investment slump deepens

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amid economic uncertainty, stubborn inflation, currency depreciation and sluggish credit demand.

He pointed to ongoing geopolitical tensions, the country's violent political changeover, high interest rates and prolonged energy shortages as further drags on confidence.

Ahmed argued that the environment is not conducive to fresh investment.

"To restore investor trust, we urgently call for reforms in financial governance, guaranteed energy availability, political stability, and improvements in the ease of doing business. Otherwise, it would not be possible for private investment to recover," added the business leader.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman and CEO of local think tank Policy Exchange Bangladesh, said private investment has been stuck at about 23 percent of GDP, far below the level needed

for sustained growth. He listed inflation, forex pressure, weak demand, gas shortages, poor infrastructure, red tape, political instability and unclear policy direction as the main barriers.

Without urgent reforms, according to the economist, sluggish investment will damage job creation, growth and long-term development.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said uncertainty over future policies, rising energy costs, high interest rates, import restrictions, corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies are discouraging investors.

"These combined challenges are stalling investment," she said, adding that without fresh capital, industrial growth, job creation and incomes will stagnate.

"This is a critical juncture," she said.

Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network

on Economic Modeling (Sanem), said the lack of consensus on reforms has heightened risks. "Such unpredictability makes long-term planning difficult."

## BB buys

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In its monetary policy for July-December this year, the BB reiterated its focus on exchange rate management. It plans to leverage expected robust remittance inflows and improved foreign exchange reserves to shield the economy from external shocks.

"Ongoing efforts by the government to monitor the market, facilitate trade, and provide policy support are expected to alleviate price pressures further," the policy document stated.

The BB sold \$508.38 million in the FY25 mainly to meet payment obligations of government agencies, primarily for fuel, electricity, and fertiliser imports.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission IEB Building (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000 www.berc.org.bd

Ref No.: 28.01.0000.017.11.087.25/3925

Date: 7 August 2025

#### Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC)
3	Client Name	Secretary, BERC
4	Client District	Dhaka
5	Expression of Interest for Selection of	01 (one) Individual IT Consultant (National) (Time-Based) & 01 (one) Individual Junior IT Consultant (National) (Time-Based)
6	EOI Ref No	28.01.0000.017.11.087.25/3925
7	Date	11-8-2025

#### KEY INFORMATION, FUNDING INFORMATION

8	Source of Funds	BERC
9	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A

#### PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A
11	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A
12	EOI Closing Date and Time	Date: 24/08/2025 Time: 5:00PM

#### INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

13	Brief Description of Assignment	To design, develop, integrate, operate and maintain the real-time and online Enterprise Resource Plan (ERP) application including e-Licensing, e-Court/Hearing, Commission Meeting, Tariff Fixation, Unified Accounting System, Personnel Management and Other Services as required. To assist BERC in selecting Consulting Firm, provide necessary data & information to develop integrated online unique service platform, monitoring & evaluation of firms' activities and progress, assist in receiving deliverables, Operation and Maintenance of ICT infrastructure, day to day on demand support to transform proactive BERC. Please visit www.berc.org.bd for details Terms of Reference (TOR).
14	Qualification and Experience For IT Consultant (Time-Based)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B Sc. Engineering in Computer Science/ Computer Science and Engineering/ Electrical &amp; Electronics Engineering/ Information &amp; Communication Technology/ Electrical and Telecommunications Engineering or relevant subjects from any recognized university;</li> <li>Minimum general experience: 15 years.</li> <li>Minimum specific experience: 10 years of Industry experience of supporting ICT services.</li> <li>Experience in developing e-Licensing.</li> <li>Ability to understand and develop Unified Accounting System for multiple companies or stakeholders.</li> <li>Ability to clearly understand the process of operating and managing ICT services;</li> <li>Ability to achieve consensus on ICT support services across multiple stakeholders, Government Agencies;</li> <li>Ability to understand and guide integration of newly developed system with existing system by importing all data and documents.</li> </ul>
15	Qualification and Experience For Junior IT Consultant (Time-Based)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B Sc. Engineering in Computer Science/ Computer Science and Engineering/ Electrical &amp; Electronics Engineering/ Information &amp; Communication Technology/ Electrical and Telecommunications Engineering or relevant subjects from any recognized university;</li> <li>Minimum general experience: 7 years.</li> <li>Minimum specific experience: 5 years of Industry experience of supporting ICT services.</li> <li>Ability to understand and develop Unified Accounting System for multiple companies or stakeholders.</li> <li>Ability to clearly understand the process of operating and managing ICT services;</li> <li>Ability to achieve consensus on ICT support services across multiple stakeholders, Government Agencies;</li> <li>Ability to understand and guide integration of newly developed system with existing system by importing all data and documents.</li> </ul>
16	Other requirements (optional), but preference will be given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domain Expertise (IT Service Management, System Administration, Database Administration, Network Administration, DevOps, Cloud Management Virtualization, Windows Server, Linux), information security, cyber security, ITIL, Project Management etc.</li> <li>Excellent skills to handle complex analytics, formulas and data management in excel, graphs, hyperlinking etc. in PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Office etc.</li> </ul>
17	Other requirements	Applicant must submit brief CV copy of Academic certificate and Experience certificate.

#### CLIENT DETAILS

18	Name of Official Inviting EOI	Md. Nazrul Islam Sarker
19	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Secretary, BERC
20	Address of Official Inviting EOI	IEB Building (5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000
21	Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Tel: 55014007 Fax: 55013518 e-mail: secy@berc.org.bd
22	Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be sent to e-mail: ps@berc.org.bd / hmshoib318@gmail.com within stipulated time & Date. Expressions of Interest (EOI) shall contain Form 3A, 3B & 3C.	
23	The Client reserves the right to reject all EOIs	

  
Md. Nazrul Islam Sarker  
Secretary, BERC