

Farm loan target growth 5-year low

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday hiked the target for rural farm loan disbursement by 2.63 percent for the current fiscal year of 2025-26, the lowest increase in at least five years.

The central bank said it gave banks the goal to disburse Tk 39,000 crore for this fiscal year, up over 4 percent from last fiscal year's actual disbursement of Tk 37,326 crore.

Announcing the target, BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur, at a press conference in the BB headquarters to announce a new agricultural and rural credit policy and programme, said farmers must be supported to keep commodity prices stable.

The process for them to obtain loans needs to be made easier, as farmers have little to no access to credit, he added.

"This must be improved. In our

country, there are doubts as to whether all the agricultural loans disbursed through banks actually reach genuine farmers," he said.

"We are monitoring this issue," he said, adding that oversight must be strengthened to ensure that agricultural loans do not end up in the hands of middlemen. Mansur said banks should be ambitious when setting the target for agricultural loans.

"Instead of setting a small target and achieving 100 percent of it, it is better to aim higher to increase the flow of credit to this sector," he said.

"We would suggest encouraging small agricultural entrepreneurs to engage in contract farming," he said, adding that in this way, all entrepreneurs would benefit, and the entire nation would make gains.

"Otherwise, small entrepreneurs will not be able to compete with large farmers

or industrial entrepreneurs."

As per the rural credit policy, state-owned commercial and specialised banks are slated to disburse Tk 13,880 crore, while private and foreign banks are responsible for the remaining Tk 25,120 crore of the target.

The new policy prioritises financing for climate-resilient agriculture, mechanisation, and diversification of crops, alongside extending greater credit access to small and marginal farmers, women entrepreneurs, and climate-affected communities.

Under the guidelines, all scheduled banks are required to formulate their own annual agricultural credit programmes in line with the BB's directives and submit them within a specified deadline.

Banks failing to achieve their targets will have to deposit the shortfall amount into BB's Agriculture and Rural Credit

Department, without interest, for other banks to be provided refinancing facilities.

The policy also places emphasis on climate smart agriculture and the adoption of agricultural machinery, irrigation equipment, and renewable energy for farms. Women's empowerment and financial inclusion have also gained priority.

In addition, the BB has instructed banks to simplify loan disbursement procedures, ensure timely lending before planting seasons, and strengthen monitoring to prevent misuse of funds.

Officials said the policy aims to sustain momentum in agricultural output while safeguarding rural incomes amid rising input costs and climate change challenges.

In a move to enhance monitoring and policy formulation, a "Web-Based Agri-Credit MIS Software" was also launched during the event.

US consumer prices likely increased marginally

REUTERS, Washington

US consumer prices likely increased moderately in July, though rising costs for goods like household furniture and apparel because of import tariffs probably resulted in a measure of underlying inflation posting its largest gain in six months.

The CPI report from the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on Tuesday will be published amid mounting concerns over the quality of inflation and employment reports following budget and staffing cuts that have led to the suspension of data collection for portions of the CPI basket in some areas across the country.

Those worries were amplified by President Donald Trump firing Erika McEntarfer, the head of the BLS, early this month after data showed stall-speed job growth in July, reinforced by sharp downward revisions to May and June's nonfarm payrolls counts.

Export target set at \$63.5b

FROM PAGE B1

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said that while Bangladesh currently enjoys favourable tariff treatment in the US, the country's largest single nation export destination, the persistence of such advantages depends on unresolved trade policy decisions.

"If additional tariffs on certain imports remain in place, our competitive edge in the US could hold," he said.

"But if American consumers reduce spending due to higher prices, our export growth may slow despite market advantages."

Moazzem also cautioned that overreliance on a few key markets could hinder diversification, especially as trade disputes with India threaten access for non-traditional exports.

He also noted that potential shifts in global supply chains could intensify competition in alternative markets from large exporters like China and India.

"While the target is realistic under current circumstances, sustaining high export growth will require broader market diversification and careful navigation of tariff-related uncertainties," he added.

The economist said that despite India's ban on imports through land ports, Bangladesh's exports are unlikely to have any significant

impact on the new export target for FY26.

RESOLVING ENERGY, BANKING ISSUES CRITICAL

Some others think the export target is not just achievable, but could even exceed the goal, if the existing problems with the banking sector and energy supply are addressed properly.

"Our expectations have risen following the government's successful negotiations with the United States, which could create further opportunities to perform better. To seize these opportunities, certain domestic bottlenecks must be addressed," said Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

He identified the gas crisis, banking sector problems, customs delays, and law and order issues as the major challenges. "If these matters are resolved, we are ready to exceed the set targets."

He urged the commerce adviser to sit with businesses to find ways to resolve the bottlenecks.

Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman voiced a similar confidence in achieving the export target.

"Compared to last year's target and achievements, the gap is minimal, about half a billion dollars, which shows our projections are realistic. If the domestic constraints are managed, I can confidently say we can surpass the target."

The secretary announced that the government will hold a meeting with businesspersons, the Energy Division and the banking sector representatives next week to address the bottlenecks.

He said Bangladesh is negotiating FTAs with Japan, South Korea, and Singapore, pursuing only those agreements that bring tangible benefits while trying to retain preferential market access for as long as possible.

SECTORAL TARGETS

The readymade garment (RMG) sector, the country's crown jewel of exports, has been assigned a combined target of \$44.49 billion, including \$20.79 billion for woven products (4.3 percent growth) and \$23.70 billion for knitwear (12 percent growth).

Home textiles target has been set at \$1.02 billion, up 17 percent, while leather and leather goods aim for \$1.25 billion, reflecting a conservative 9.2 percent rise.

The frozen and live fish sector has a \$539 million target, with expected growth of 22 percent.

Jute and jute goods exports are projected at \$900 million, a 9.7 percent increase, with emphasis on lab testing and capacity building at the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute to ensure quality.

Agricultural products have been assigned a \$1.21 billion target, reflecting 22.4 percent growth.

Yunus urges Malaysians

FROM PAGE B1

Bangladesh offers to investors and the interim government's efforts to lift tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Vivek Sood, Axiata Group CEO and managing director and the primary shareholder of cellular operator Robi, also gave a presentation on the 28 years of growth, partnerships and shared success of Axiata in Bangladesh.

The chief adviser urged Axiata to roll out 5G services in Bangladesh and invest in the country's data centres.

He stressed that Bangladesh needs high-speed internet for its growing economy and to attract investment from global companies eager to tap into its digital economy.

The chief adviser said the interim government was streamlining licensing regimes to create a more business-friendly environment for top telecommunications operators.

Vivek Sood said the company had conducted a 5G trial in Bangladesh but noted that the expansion of the country's fibre optic network was essential for full 5G deployment.

Sood said Robi had invested around \$200 million annually in Bangladesh in recent years and remains open to investing in 5G services.

However, he cited costly spectrum fees and a fragmented licensing regime as factors weighing on foreign operators' investment decisions.

He added that Axiata was also interested in joint venture partnerships for data centres in Bangladesh.

Political parties agree

FROM PAGE B1

defaulted, and the chairman, along with his associate, had taken away the funds," said the finance adviser.

According to him, recovery has slowly begun since then. However, many challenges remain.

"There is light at the end of the tunnel. I believe we have begun moving in the right direction, and it would be better if progress happens faster. But I am optimistic that better days lie ahead."

On BB's autonomy, he said autonomy does not mean giving complete control.

"Many countries have it; in some places, full autonomy exists. But here, autonomy means operational autonomy. They need to have autonomy in day-to-day operations because whichever government comes, it will have its own political guidance. There has to be a connection between the two and a system for accountability."

Regarding the draft law on the BB's autonomy, he said they have agreed in principle but need to analyse it in detail.

Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser on financial affairs, said that after similar uprisings in other countries, economic and GDP growth usually remain low.

However, in Bangladesh, no such negative indicators persist, which he described as exceptional.

Finance Division Secretary Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder said the country's macroeconomy is now stable.

He noted that there has been no volatility in the foreign exchange rate

since the introduction of the market-based rate. "On one hand, inflation has decreased, and on the other, wage rates have increased."

Abdur Rahman Khan, chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), said no blanket measures were taken against officials involved in the movement opposing the separation of tax policy and implementation.

"Actions were taken against those who broke the limits only," Khan said.

Nazma Mobarek, secretary of the Financial Institutions Division, said people's confidence in banks has grown as deposits have increased.

She said deposits in the weak state-owned Janata Bank increased by Tk 15,000 crore, while BASIC Bank saw a Tk 12,000 crore rise.

Gold firms

REUTERS

Gold prices edged higher on Tuesday, after a sharp selloff in the previous session, as investors focused on US inflation data that could shape the Federal Reserve's rate-cut timeline.

Spot gold was up 0.2 percent at \$3,349.13 per ounce, as of 0904 GMT. US gold futures for December delivery were steady at \$3,398.90.

Bullion slid 1.6 percent to a more than one-week low on Monday, while futures dropped more than 2 percent, after US President Donald Trump ruled out tariffs on imported bullion.

Comex front-month gold futures are now in line with London spot after a near \$40/ounce premium on Friday, said Nitesh Shah, commodities strategist at WisdomTree.

Financial reforms show the way

FROM PAGE B1

Under the new governor, the BB tightened dividend payout rules for listed banks.

As a result, a number of banks failed to declare dividends for their shareholders at the end of 2024 due to their poor financial health.

REFORMS VISIBLE, ENCOURAGING

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said it seems that it is the financial sector, especially the banking sector, where they are seeing visible reforms, which is very encouraging.

"Such signs are not really evident in other sectors. I observe that within the financial sector, it is specifically the banking sector where notable

reforms are visible," she commented.

However, the economist said that it was unclear whether reforms would continue after elections.

"One concern is what will happen after the election, how committed the incoming government will be. Whether they will continue these reforms or if it will remain superficial or short-term is something to think about. We are uncertain about political parties' commitment to medium- to long-term and continuous reform."

Mustafa K Mujeri, executive director of the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM), said that although the central bank has taken several initiatives, there has not been much success in recovering default loans. "In fact, over the past

year, there has not been significant progress in this area."

Mujeri, also the former chief economist of the Bangladesh Bank, said no strong measures have been taken, and the central bank's loan support to weak banks is essentially keeping them afloat. "So even though assistance is being provided, the core problem remains unresolved."

Areif Hossain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of the Bangladesh Bank, told The Daily Star that the reforms are not limited to the banking sector. Rather, initiatives have also been taken to reform non-performing Non Bank Financial Institutions (NBFI). For those in a very fragile condition, strict actions are being considered.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Bhola Sadar, Bhola
lged.bhola-s.bhola.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice No. 05/2025-2026(PEDP-4)

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

APP ID	Tender ID	Name	Date of publication	Date of last selling	Remarks
210738	1124900	e-Tender/PEDP4/BHL/SAD/2022-2023/W15.0466 1. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Santir Hat Govt. Primary School under PEDP4. 2. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Moddhyo Bapta under PEDP4. 3. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Paschim Gazipur under PEDP4. 4. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of 93 No. Bangla Bazar Fatema Khanom Govt. Primary School under PEDP4. 5. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Char Pata under PEDP4	13/08/2025 (11:00am)	28/08/2025 (05:00pm)	
210738	1124901	e-Tender/PEDP4/BHL/SAD/2024-25/W15A.01282 1. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Ratan Pur Primary School under PEDP4. 2. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Banker Hat Primary School under PEDP4. 3. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Char	13/08/2025 (11:00am)	28/08/2025 (05:00pm)	
210738	1124902	e-Tender/PEDP4/BHL/SAD/2024-25/W15B.01819 1. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Bhola Pouro Girls Primary School under PEDP4. 2. Construction of Head Teacher's room with attached toilet of Ali Nagar Primary School under PEDP4.	13/08/2025 (11:00am)	28/08/2025 (05:00pm)	

This is an 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 banks branches according to [Tender Notice](#). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


Md. Abu Ashraful Hasan
Upazila Engineer
LGED
Bhola Sadar, Bhola
Phone: 01708-161219
Email: ue.bhola-s.lged.gov.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Resilient Infrastructure for Adaptation and Vulnerability Reduction (RIVER) Project
Workshop Bhaban (Level-3), Agargaon,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
www.lged.gov.bd

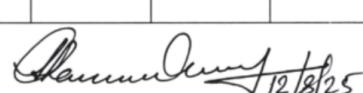
Memo No.: 46.02.0000.670.07.024.2025-1110 Date: 12/08/2025.

1st Corrigendum Notice (e-Tender)
Tender Notice No. 2/2025-2026

Corrigendum notice issued in the National e-GP Portal System (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works details are given below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Name of the Project	Description of Works	Tender Last Selling (Time & Date)		Tender Closing & Opening (Time & Date)	
			As original	As amended	As original	As amended
1	1131617 & Resilient Infrastructure for Adaptation and Vulnerability Reduction (RIVER) Project	Construction of Primary School cum Flood Shelter with Solar PV Nano Grid, Street Light, Lightening Protection & Connecting Roads, Bridge/Culvert, Furniture and Tree Plantation at Pabna District. (Package No.: LGED/RIVER/PABN/21-22/NW-08)	17.00 hrs 26-Aug-25	17.00 hrs 01-Sep-25	14.00 hrs 27-Aug-25	14.00 hrs 02-Sep-25

Others conditions will remain unchanged.


Project Director
Phone: +88-02-55006730
Email: pd.lged.river@gmail.com

GD-1781