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BB dissolves Premier Bank board

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank has dissolved the current board of Premier Bank and formed a new one – a move which, industry insiders claim, will end the dominance of the family members of HBM Iqbal, founder chairman of the bank and an Awami League lawmaker.

For the sake of the depositors, the central bank dissolved the seven-member board led by Mohammad Imran Iqbal, son of HBM Iqbal and chairman of the bank, Bangladesh Bank Director and Assistant Spokesperson Mohammad Shahriar Siddiqui told The Daily Star.

In its place, the banking watchdog formed a six-member board, including Arifur Rahman, a sponsor shareholder, as a director, and the remaining five as independent directors.

After leading Premier Bank as chairman for 26 years, HBM Iqbal stepped down in January this year from the private commercial bank he co-founded in 1999.

Imran Iqbal was made chairman of the bank after his father left the post.

Govt to buy 3 LNG cargoes from spot market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has approved the purchase of three cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market at a total cost of Tk 1,442 crore, with the average price set at about \$11 per million British thermal unit (MMBtu).

The approvals came at a meeting of the Advisers Council Committee on Government Purchase at the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday.

READ MORE ON B3

Govt to drop wilful defaulter tag

Amendments to Bank Company Act also propose smaller boards, reducing family control

CHANGES THROUGH AMENDMENT		
	Present situation	Proposed amendment
Wilful defaulters	Has a provision on them	It will be withdrawn
Number of directors	20	15
Independent directors	3	50% of total directors
Directors from a family	3	2
Family nominated directors	2	0
Tenure of directors	12 years	6 years
Family definition	Covers spouse, children, siblings	In-laws will be counted

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government has moved to amend several sections of the Bank Company Act, including the removal of the provision on “wilful defaulters” that was introduced for the first time in 2023, and reducing the size

workload but also leaves room for corruption due to subjective interpretation.

The proposed changes to the act are part of a wider reform of the financial sector. The central bank has already drafted the amendments, and its board has approved them recently.

that such a move was aimed at ensuring good governance through the inclusion of banking experts.

Independent directors would be chosen from a vetted pool of candidates shortlisted by an expert panel.

The officials said that bank boards in many

A finance ministry official said the draft is now under review, with preparations to place it before the advisory council by September. An ordinance could be issued by December

IPDC ডিপোজিট | ১৬৫৯৯

of bank boards.

Under the current law, banks are required to prepare separate lists of loan defaulters deemed unwilling to repay, categorised as “wilful defaulters”.

There will only be the defaulter list, and bad borrowers will face penalties according to related laws.

Bangladesh Bank officials said the rule of wilful defaulter not only creates additional

A finance ministry official said the draft is now under review, with preparations to place it before the advisory council by September. An ordinance could be issued by December.

The draft recommends reducing the number of directors to 15 from 20. Currently, banks have three independent directors, but the draft sets this at half of the board.

Officials said this would mean seven or eight independent directors, adding

countries are dominated by professionals rather than profit-seeking shareholders.

The draft also seeks to restrict the number of directors from one family. The existing law allows three family members, with two more nominated by relatives.

According to the draft, only two from a family would be permitted. Also, the definition of family would also be broadened to include in-laws.

READ MORE ON B3

Bangladesh to launch marine survey in Bay

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh is set to launch a month-long marine survey in the Bay of Bengal to assess fishery resources and ecosystem health, aiming to support sustainable management and conservation efforts.

Conducted with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Norway, the expedition will begin on August 21 using the Norwegian research vessel RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen.

Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhtar shared the details at a press conference held yesterday at the fisheries ministry in Dhaka.

Twenty-six researchers from various countries, including 13 scientists from different institutions in Bangladesh, will take part in this approximately 32 day expedition, the ministry said in a press release.



The fishery resources extracted from the Bay of Bengal play a significant role in the country’s economic growth, food security and employment, the adviser said.

Ensuring proper management of Bangladesh’s marine waters will further strengthen the sector’s contribution to the national economy, she added.

She said the survey will assess the abundance and stock of small pelagic and mesopelagic fish, evaluate the species diversity of demersal fishery resources, and analyse the overall condition of the marine ecosystem.

Additionally, data will be collected on sea temperature, salinity, current speed, productivity, deep-sea circulation systems and climate change impacts, she said.

Research on microplastics, marine debris, oxygen minimum zones, carbon dioxide levels and ocean acidification will be conducted, which will help formulate effective policies to combat the impacts of climate change in the future, she said.

The adviser further said the scientific data obtained from this survey will assist in fishery resource conservation, sustainable harvesting, climate change adaptation and protection of the marine environment.

READ MORE ON B3

Capital base of Bangladeshi banks lowest in South Asia

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladeshi banks emerged as the most fragile against shocks from risky assets compared to other countries in the South Asian region at the end of 2024, as large volumes of long-buried toxic loans surfaced after last August’s political changeover.

As the hidden losses surfaced, the safety reserves of banks were eroded, taking the capital adequacy ratio far below the required level.

The Capital to Risk-Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR), the main measure of how much cushion banks hold against risky assets, fell to just 3.08 percent at the end of 2024, according to Bangladesh Bank’s latest Financial Stability Report.

By contrast, the ratio was 16.7 percent in India as of September last year, while it was 18.4 percent in Sri Lanka and 20.6 percent in Pakistan at the end of 2024. Smaller economies such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan also reported levels well above 10 percent.

The Capital to Risk-Weighted Asset Ratio, the main measure of how much cushion banks hold against risky assets, fell to just 3.08 percent at the end of 2024, according to BB’s Financial Stability Report.

Smaller economies such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan also reported levels well above 10 percent.

Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) are in even worse shape. Their bad loan ratio rose from 31.55 percent to 33.83 percent in 2024, while their CRAR turned negative at –6.46 percent.

In simple terms, CRAR indicates how much capital a financial institution has compared to the risks it has taken on through lending. A high CRAR means the bank has enough of a safety net to withstand shocks and meet its obligations. A low CRAR means it is vulnerable to collapse if borrowers default. The minimum requirement under the Basel III rules is 10 percent, plus an additional 2.5 percent buffer. Bangladesh is nowhere close.

Capital adequacy ratio of banks in South Asia



SOURCE:BB

Bangladesh’s banking sector has long maintained lower capital adequacy than its neighbours, averaging around 11 percent. But the ratio saw a steep slide of over 8.5 percentage points from 11.64 percent a year earlier at the end of December 2024.

Veteran banker Anis A Khan said the weakness is structural.

“The initial capital requirement for setting up a bank was very low,” he said, noting that the amount was only Tk 3 crore for first-generation banks. With deposits and loan demand growing much faster, banks could not keep pace by issuing new shares or paying out dividends.

“Thanks to the low capital base, banks will not be able to lend. The low ratio indicates that their deposits were wiped out, and they cannot fulfil the central bank’s guidelines and cannot function well,” added Khan, also a former chairman of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB).

According to the central bank, the default of large borrowers posed the most severe risk to capital adequacy, followed by collateral devaluation.

By December 2024, only 42 banks still met CRAR requirements. These compliant banks retained 59 percent of total assets and 57 percent of total liabilities of the banking

sector.

In contrast, non-compliant banks held 41 percent of the sector’s total assets and 43 percent of total liabilities, marking a 2 percentage point excess of liabilities over assets in this segment.

Only foreign banks kept their ratios well above the regulatory threshold. Conventional private banks hovered just above the line.


The significant deterioration of capital adequacy happened in state-run banks and shariah-based private banks.

Banks are required to maintain buffer capital of 2.50 percent of total risk-weighted assets in addition to the minimum regulatory capital requirement of 10 percent under the Basel III framework.


Against this requirement, the banking industry of Bangladesh failed, as the buffer capital stood at 1.64 percent at the end of December 2024.

The aggregate CRAR of Islamic banks dropped from 12.71 percent in 2023 to –4.95 percent in 2024, largely because of steep losses in seven banks.


Stress tests by Bangladesh Bank show the system remains fragile. A default by the two largest borrowers in the country would have the most damaging impact on the sector’s resilience.



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Financial sector critically vulnerable to cyberattacks: experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's rapidly digitising financial sector is critically vulnerable to sophisticated cyber threats and requires an immediate strategic overhaul to secure its future, experts said yesterday.

The urgent call to action was made at an event titled "Cybersecurity in Financial Sector of Bangladesh: Securing the Digital Future," organised by the ICT Division at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

At the event, Md Mahbubur Rahman Alam, a professor at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), outlined a troubling landscape where technological advancement is outpacing security preparedness.

He identified a set of challenges, including a severe shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals, insufficient investment in security measures, and a lack of awareness among both employees

and customers.

"The human factor is the weakest link," he said, citing a BIBM study that found over 54 percent of bank employees have inadequate knowledge of IT security.

This, combined with the fact that only about 5 percent of the banking sector's IT budget is dedicated to cybersecurity, creates a highly vulnerable environment, he said.

The professor highlighted the 2016 Bangladesh Bank heist, where hackers stole \$81 million, as a grim reminder of the consequences of systemic flaws.

He warned that threats have since evolved to include sophisticated attacks on automated teller machines, mobile banking platforms, and digital payment channels.

Beyond funding, Alam pinpointed critical structural weaknesses.

He noted the widespread absence of a standard organisational chart for

cybersecurity roles and a troubling communication gap between ICT professionals and business leaders, which often leaves security strategies misaligned with business goals.

To build a resilient digital financial ecosystem, he proposed a multi-pronged solution that includes strategic investment, national-level collaboration, specialised training, and a dedicated national institute.

Against the backdrop of the election and the prevailing political situation, Bangladesh must prepare on the front of cybersecurity, said Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser on posts and telecom.

He said around 17-20 banks are underperforming in terms of cybersecurity.

"Companies often consider security expenses as an additional cost, but we must abandon such thinking."

He said there is a culture of playing hide-and seek within offices when it comes to reporting cyberattacks and threats.

"This practice must end as most companies remain vulnerable to cyber threats."

In many banks, account balances and other sensitive information, including customer profiles, can be accessed from outside, he said.

Though official emails were sent in this regard, the banks did not respond, he added.

Taiyeb said information of five crore national identities is available on the dark web and is being misused.

Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser; Md Abdur Rahman Khan, chairman of the National Board of Revenue; Nazma Mobarek, secretary of the Financial Institutions Division; and Shish Haider Chowdhury, secretary of the ICT division, also spoke.

Stocks fall after three-day gain

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange ended lower yesterday, breaking a three-day winning streak.

The DSEX, the main index of the bourse, fell 9.01 points, or 0.16 percent, to close at 5,410.89.

However, the other indices posted gains before the end of the day's trading. The Shariah-compliant DSES rose 0.42 percent to 1,189.60, while the DS30, comprising blue-chip shares, edged up 0.13 percent to finish at 2,104.77.

Turnover, a key gauge of investor participation, rose to Tk 1,037.53 crore from Tk 975.85 crore in the previous session, signalling stronger trading activity.

A total of 283,981 trades were executed, while block transactions amounted to Tk 18.03 crore across 27 scrips.

Market breadth was mixed, with 164 stocks advancing, 164 declining and 72 remaining unchanged.

Among A-category scrips, 80 advanced, 108 declined and 33 remained unchanged.

In the B-category, 45 stocks gained and 28 fell, while no trading activity was recorded in the N-category.

Japan's SoftBank to invest \$2b in Intel

AFP, Tokyo

Japan-based tech investor SoftBank Group said Tuesday it will invest \$2 billion in Intel, as the US government reportedly considers taking a 10-percent stake in the troubled US chip giant.

The move is the latest in SoftBank's succession of investments and business deals in the United States as its charismatic founder Masayoshi Son aggressively courts US President Donald Trump.

"This strategic investment reflects our belief that advanced semiconductor manufacturing and supply will further expand in the United States, with Intel playing a critical role," Son said in a joint press release with Intel announcing the deal.

SoftBank will pay \$23 per share of Intel common stock. SoftBank's move came as the Trump administration discussed taking a stake of about 10 percent in Intel to boost the chipmaker and the American semiconductor sector, according to US media, including Bloomberg News and the Wall Street Journal.

Since Trump returned to power, Son has already announced other investment plans in the United States, including its leading role in the \$500-billion Stargate project to build AI infrastructure in the United States along with cloud giant Oracle and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI.

Son stood beside the US president and fellow investors to announce the Stargate project at the White House in January.

Lip-Bu Tan, Intel chief executive officer, said in the statement the latest deal demonstrates its close ties with SoftBank.

It is "a company that's at the forefront of so many areas of emerging technology and innovation and shares our commitment to advancing US technology and manufacturing leadership," he said.

Trump had pressed Tan, a Malaysian-born tech veteran, to resign "immediately," after a Republican senator raised national security concerns over his links to firms in China. But during a meeting last week, Trump praised Tan, saying in a social media post that "his success and rise is an amazing story." Trump also wrote that members of his cabinet would work with Tan and come up with "suggestions".

Intel is one of Silicon Valley's most iconic companies but its fortunes have been dwarfed by Asian powerhouses TSMC and Samsung, which dominate the made-to-order semiconductor business.

Sharon Chen, an analyst from Bloomberg Intelligence, described SoftBank's investment as "small" but said it "suggests the company could invest more in the semiconductor industry as it seeks to be a key participant in the sector's development".

Dollar slips against peers

REUTERS, Singapore

The dollar slipped against major peers on Tuesday as markets assessed the outcome of a summit between leaders from the US, Europe and Ukraine, while awaiting policy cues from an annual Federal Reserve symposium later this week.

The euro and sterling hovered between modest gains and losses against the dollar and were last up about 0.2 percent and 0.1 percent at \$1.1683 and \$1.3520, respectively. The Japanese yen and Swiss franc ticked higher as well.

US President Donald Trump told his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Monday that the United States would help guarantee Ukraine's security in any deal to end the war with Russia.

Trump made the pledge during a summit at the White House, where he hosted Zelenskiy and a group of European allies following his meeting on Friday in Alaska with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Govt to drop

FROM PAGE B1

There are allegations that board directors have often been appointed from among in-laws, which the existing law cannot prevent. The expanded definition of family is intended to curb such practices, according to the draft.

Another proposed change is the reduction of a director's tenure from 12 years to six.

Under the current law, if a company within a business conglomerate defaults on a loan, its sister firms can still get bank loans.

The amendments would end this, meaning a default by one firm would bar other companies in the group from borrowing.

Md Nazrul Huda, a

former deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank, welcomed the proposal, saying the wilful defaulter provision could have encouraged corruption among bankers and central bank officials.

"There are no criteria which can define the defaulters either wilful or not," he said.

On board size, he said smaller boards are more effective. "More board members mean a burden, extra agendas and irregularities... the number should be between 9 and 11," he said.

He added that appointing qualified professionals such as bankers and chartered accountants mattered more than the number of directors.

Govt to buy

FROM PAGE B1

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed chaired the meeting.

The proposals were placed by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

One cargo will be imported from M/S TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd of the United Kingdom at a unit price of \$11.44 per MMBtu, with the cost amounting to Tk 481 crore.

The second cargo will be procured from the same company, M/S TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd of the United Kingdom, at a unit price of \$11.34 per MMBtu. This will cost Tk 476 crore.

The third cargo will be procured from the same entity in the UK, at a unit price of \$11.54 per MMBtu, and total cost amounting to Tk 485 crore.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, the finance adviser said previously, there was pressure on the government to raise energy

prices, particularly gas, every month or two.

But the interim government held back following various calculations by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

"It is a good thing," said Ahmed, according to Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

"Our aim is to ensure the necessary supply of LNG so that no such pressure is created on us to raise the energy price, as such rises can impact the consumers as well as the industries," he said.

He added that the government was focusing on strengthening LNG supply while easing the burden on public finances. "But, it is hard to predict what will happen in the future."

The adviser said that LNG was being purchased at a comparatively reasonable rate.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE B1

Norway has always supported Bangladesh in sustainable fisheries management and marine research, Marianne Rabe Knaevelsrud, deputy head of mission of the Norwegian embassy in Dhaka, said at the event.

The survey will help ensure sustainable fisheries

management, said Jiaoqun Shi, FAO representative in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh caught over 49 lakh tonnes of fish from its marine waters in the 2022-23 fiscal year, which rose to over 50 lakh tonnes the following year, reflecting a steady growth of 2.11 percent in marine fish production.

Stock markets cautious after Trump-Zelensky talks

AFP, Hong Kong

Stock markets traded in a narrow range Tuesday and oil prices dipped after US President Donald Trump held what he called "very good" talks with Ukrainian and European leaders on ending the war.

Hopes for a breakthrough rose after Trump said he spoke by phone with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin after hosting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and others at the White House.

"At the conclusion of the meetings, I called President Putin, and began the arrangements for a meeting, at a location to be determined, between President Putin and President Zelensky," Trump said.

Zelensky said he was ready for what would be his first face-to-face talks with Putin since Russia's invasion nearly three and a half years ago.

Oil prices, which have been volatile for several days — Russia is a major crude producer — fell back after gains on Monday. In Asia and Europe equity investors largely stayed on the sidelines after Wall Street treaded water on Monday. Japan's Nikkei briefly hit a fresh intraday record before retreating to close down 0.4 percent.

Shanghai ended flat, while Hong Kong, Sydney and Seoul retreated and Singapore, Bangkok and Mumbai edged up. In Europe, London and Paris inched up, while Frankfurt was modestly lower.

SoftBank shares fell four percent after the Japan-based tech investment giant said it would invest \$2 billion in Intel, as the US government reportedly considers taking a 10-percent stake in the troubled US chip giant.

Rice import

FROM PAGE B1

and other government agencies, the duty waiver on rice imports has been reinstated.


Although no new SRO has been issued yet, officials said rice can still be imported under the provisions of the previous order. They added that a separate SRO may also be issued if necessary.

SM Akram Somrat, an assistant commissioner of Hili Customs, also confirmed the launch of import activities from yesterday.

After deducting 2 percent duty, prices of coarse and medium rice might reduce by Tk 3-4 per kilogramme, he expects.

Yesterday, in the Dhaka market, medium grain rice was sold at Tk 60 to Tk 75 per kilogramme. Over the past year, the price has increased by 17.39 percent, according to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.


On the other hand, coarse rice was sold at Tk 55 to Tk 60 per kg in the Dhaka market. Over the past year, the price has increased by 7.48 percent.



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Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) (Re-Tender)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping
2	Agency	Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC)
3	Procuring Entity Name	ICT Cell, BIWTC
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5	Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of	Consultant Firm/Company/Organization
6	Title of Service	"E-Ticketing System for Ferry and Passenger Services" of BIWTC
7	Ref No.	18.12.0000.015.31.001.23 (2)
8	Date	18/08/2025
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Quality and Least Cost Selection (LCS)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget of BIWTC
11	Development Partners	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/Program Code	
13	Project/Program Name	"E-Ticketing System for Ferry and Passenger Services" of BIWTC
14	Eol Closing Date and Time	07/09/2025, 01:00 PM
15	Place of Eol Submission	ICT Cell, BIWTC, 24 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000
16	Joint Venture	Permitted
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
17	Brief Description of the Assignment	The specific assignments are (but not limited to): Detail Requirement Analysis, Develop Detail Software Specifications (SRS), Database Design, UI/UX Design, Design and Develop Software Security System, Develop fully functional web based application which will support offline and online mode of operation, Mobile Apps (Android & iOS), Install Systems to the provided server, Integrate AI/IoT based devices, Queue system for traffic management, Integrate Weight Machine, Vehicle Tracking & Trip Calculations, Develop Fuel Management, Cross checking of ticket by QR Code Scanner, Reports, Admin Dashboard, Audit features and Security etc. The Detail Terms of Reference (TOR) and EOI Prescribed Format for the assignment can be found at the website: http://biwtc.gov.bd/ or can be obtained at the address given above.
18	Experiences, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	Interested Firm(s) should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The shortlisting criteria are: a) Brochure of the firm containing information about the firm's existing facilities and field of expertise; b) Experience of successful completion of similar type of software development; c) Experiences of other software development in similar aspects and environments; d) Proper experience of the manpower, qualification of the professional experts, and availability of enough logistics for the firm to implement the software development services; e) Managerial capabilities of the firm and the bank solvency statements & audit report showing turnover of the firm; etc. Interested Firm(s) have to fill & submit the "Prescribed Format for Submission of REOI (Form A, Attached with the ToR) along with the REOI.
19	Other Details (if applicable)	REOI must be submitted clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)" mentioning the name of the Service. The firm will be short-listed in accordance with PPR-2008 guideline. Interested applicant may obtain further information from the undersigned during the office hours. (9:00 to 16:00 hours BST).
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
20	Name of Official Invoicee	A. T. M. Jashim Uddin
21	Designation of Invoicee	System Analyst
22	Address of Invoicee	BIWTC, 24 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000
23	Contact Details of Invoicee	Telephone No.: +8801824613379, e-mail: sa@biwtc.gov.bd
24	The Procuring Entity Reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI/Tenders.	




A. T. M. Jashim Uddin
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২	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড
৩	দরপত্র আহ্বায়ক	মহাপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা,
৪	দরপত্র আহ্বায়কের জেলা	শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
৫	দরপত্রের বিষয়বস্তু	বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড এর জন্য Archway with Associated Accessories ক্রয়।
৬	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ও তারিখ	৪৪.০৮.২৬৮০.০২০.০২.০০২.২৫.৯১৩ তারিখঃ ১৯ আগস্ট ২০২৫।
গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্যাদি		
৭	ক্রয়ের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (Open Tendering Method)।
ফ্যাক্স তথ্যাদি		
৮	বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস	বাংলাদেশ সরকার।
বিশদ তথ্যাদি		
৯	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ নং	জিআর (আইএনটি)-০৮।
১০	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম	০১ লট বিশিষ্ট বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড এর জন্য Archway with Associated Accessories ক্রয়।
১১	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২০ আগস্ট ২০২৫।
১২	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রির তারিখ	২১ আগস্ট ২০২৫ (ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত প্রত্যহ সকাল ০৮৩০ ঘটিকা হইতে ১৪০০ ঘটিকা)
১৩	দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	০২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫।
১৪	দরপত্র তফসিল জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ	০৩ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ দুপুর ১২০০ ঘটিকা।
১৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৩ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ দুপুর ১২৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৬	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পরিচালক পোয়েন্ট, পোয়েন্ট পরিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড
১৭	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের ঠিকানা (অন্যান্য)	সদর দপ্তর, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
১৮	দরপত্র খোলার ঠিকানা	
১৯	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার ঠিকানা	
২০	প্রি-টেন্ডার মিটিংয়ের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	প্রযোজ্য নয়।
২১	দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	এই ধরনের পণ্য এবং কার্য সম্পাদনের জন্য আর্থিক ও বিবিধক যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবে।
২২	পণ্যের সংক্ষিপ্ত বর্ণনা	বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড এর জন্য Archway with Associated Accessories ক্রয়।
২৩	দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকায়)	টাকা ১,০০০.০০ (টাকা এক হাজার মাত্র) অফেরতযোগ্য।
লটের আইডিফিকেশন		লট নং কার্য সমাপ্ত
জিআর (আইএনটি)-০৮		১ ১,৭৭,০০০.০০ ১২ সত্তাহ (চুক্তিপত্র স্বাক্ষরের পর হতে)
দরপত্র আহ্বায়কের বিশদ বিবরণ		
২৪	আহ্বায়কের নাম, পদবী এবং ফোন নম্বর	মহাপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক
২৫	আহ্বায়কের ঠিকানা	এলাকা, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
২৬	দুরালাপনী	ফোন নংঃ ৯১৪১৯০৮।
২৭	ফ্যাক্স	ফ্যাক্স নংঃ ৯১৪০০৯২।
২৮	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলীঃ	ক। কোস্ট গার্ড কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। খ। মুদ্রণনিত ক্রটি অথবা অন্য কোন কারণে কোন ধরনের সন্দেহের উদ্ভেগ হলে "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন-২০০৮" প্রযোজ্য হবে। গ। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়, টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট জমাদান এবং খোলার তারিখ বিঘ্নিত হলে তা পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে পূর্বের উল্লিখিত সময়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ঘ। বিল দাখিলের সময়ে NBR কর্তৃক ধার্যকৃত হারে VAT এবং IT কর্তন করা হবে। ঙ। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের রশিদ সহকারে কোস্ট গার্ড এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.coastguard.gov.bd) হতে ডাউনলোডকৃত TDS গ্রহণযোগ্য।



পরিচালক পোয়েন্ট
পক্ষে মহাপরিচালক

GD-1826

Potato output hits historic high, raises concerns of surplus

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh produced 1.15 crore tonnes of potatoes, the highest in history, in the last harvesting season, raising fears that a good portion of the tuber is likely to remain surplus this year as demand is far below the output, according to estimates by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

An expansion of cultivation area and a higher yields owing to favourable weather boosted the overall production of the popular vegetable this year, said the BBS, releasing its estimate early this month.

Farmers grew the tuber on land of 4.92 lakh hectares in the fiscal year 2024-25, up 8 percent year-on-year. Overall production increased 9 percent year on year from 1.06 crore tonnes the previous year, it added.

"We are going to see a surplus this year," said Matiar Rahman, director of Tuber Crop Research Centre (TRC).

Including around 10 lakh tonnes of potatoes used for seeds, the country requires just over 90 lakh tonnes of potatoes for domestic consumption, according to estimates by the TRC and the Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA).

With roughly 80 lakh tonnes being consumed, a portion of the vegetable is used by processors to make chips and crackers. Apart from this, just over 62,000 tonnes of potatoes were exported in the fiscal year 2024-25.

"It appears that many people will not show interest in buying potatoes at the end of the year, causing losses for farmers," he said.

Transplanted from mid-September to November, the main harvesting season starts in mid-January and continues until March every year. However, early varieties of the vegetable start coming to the market from December, and demand for old potatoes declines amid an increased arrival of winter vegetables.

Stakeholders said potatoes harvested in the January-March period will be consumed in the three and a half months of this year.



Potatoes are selling at Tk 14-Tk 15 per kilogramme whereas production and other costs are Tk 25-Tk 27 per kg, according to Bangladesh Cold Storage Association.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Mostofa Azad Chowdhury Babu, president of the BCSA, said cold storages have 29 lakh tonnes of potatoes now as only 4 lakh tonnes have been released so far.

"Now, there are no potatoes at the farmers' end," he said.

"As we have only three and a half months of the season, a good amount is likely to remain surplus," he said, adding that the price of the vegetable remains much lower than the overall cost.

Potatoes are selling at Tk 14 - Tk 15 per kilogramme (kg) whereas production and other costs are Tk 25 - Tk 27, he added.

At retail, the vegetable is selling at Tk 25 - Tk 30 per kg in Dhaka, which is 48 percent lower than the same period a year ago, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

"The amount of export is not significant," he said.

To increase consumption, the BCSA

earlier urged the government to include 10 kilogrammes of potatoes per household in the social safety net schemes, including the Food-Friendly Programme.

He said mostly farmers' stored potatoes in the cold storages and if the government takes the initiative to distribute potatoes under social safety net programmes, farmers will be saved from losses.

"We have not seen any decision from the government," he said.

OpenAI rolls out cheapest ChatGPT plan in India

REUTERS

ChatGPT maker OpenAI on Tuesday launched ChatGPT Go, a new India-only subscription plan priced at 399 rupees (\$4.57) per month, its most affordable offering yet, as the company looks to deepen its presence in its second-largest market.

Global companies often offer cheaper subscription plans for India's price-sensitive market, targeting the nearly one billion internet users in the world's most populous nation.

The plan allows users to send up to ten times more messages and generate ten times more images compared to the free version, while also offering faster response times. Message limits increase with higher-tier subscription plans.

ChatGPT Go is designed for Indians who want greater access to ChatGPT's advanced capabilities at a more affordable price, the Microsoft-backed startup said in a statement.

The top-tier version of ChatGPT - ChatGPT Pro - is priced at 19,900 rupees/month in India, while ChatGPT Plus, its mid-range plan, costs 1,999 rupees/month.

Earlier this year, CEO Sam Altman met with India's IT minister and discussed a plan to create a low-cost AI ecosystem.

Nvidia working on new AI chip for China

REUTERS, Beijing/Singapore

Nvidia is developing a new AI chip for China based on its latest Blackwell architecture that will be more powerful than the H20 model it is currently allowed to sell there, two people briefed on the matter said.

US President Donald Trump last week opened the door to the possibility of more advanced Nvidia chips being sold in China. But the sources noted US regulatory approval is far from guaranteed amid deep-seated fears in Washington about giving China too much access to US artificial intelligence technology.

The new chip, tentatively known as the B30A, will use a single-die design that is likely to deliver half the raw computing power of the more sophisticated dual-die configuration in Nvidia's flagship B300 accelerator card, the sources said.

A single-die design is when all the main parts of an integrated



circuit are made on one continuous piece of silicon rather than split across multiple dies.

The new chip would have high-bandwidth memory and Nvidia's NVLink technology for fast data transmission between processors, features that are also in the H20 - a chip based on the company's older Hopper architecture.

The chip's specifications are not completely finalised but Nvidia hopes to deliver samples to Chinese clients for testing as early as next month, said the sources who were not authorised to speak to media

and declined to be identified.

Nvidia said in a statement: "We evaluate a variety of products for our roadmap, so that we can be prepared to compete to the extent that governments allow."

"Everything we offer is with the full approval of the applicable authorities and designed solely for beneficial commercial use," it said.

The US Department of Commerce did not respond to a Reuters request for comment.

FLASHPOINT

The extent to which China, which generated 13 percent of Nvidia's revenue in the past financial year, can have access to cutting-edge AI chips is one of the biggest flashpoints in US-Sino trade tensions.

Nvidia only received permission in July to recommence sales of the H20. It was developed specifically for China after export restrictions were put in place in 2023, but company was abruptly ordered to stop sales in April.

Grounded in the AI race

MAMUNUR RAHMAN

In Rajbari, the shuttered doors of Salina Akter's jute workshop tell the story of how artificial intelligence is reshaping global trade and leaving Bangladesh's small businesses stranded. For five years, she stitched eco-friendly bags for European buyers. Then the orders stopped. Her clients now demanded AI-optimised production schedules, predictive inventory systems and delivery timelines that only automated supply chains can provide. Salina's modest factory could not keep pace.

This is not an isolated case. SMEs employ 80 percent of the non-farm workforce and generate roughly a quarter of GDP. Yet while other developing economies are rolling out targeted AI adoption programmes for small businesses, our policy response remains trapped in strategy papers and consultation rooms. Even flagship documents such as the Task Force Report 2025 and other national policy blueprints barely acknowledge the AI shockwave hitting these enterprises. The threat is real. Competitors are building SME-focused AI pipelines, while we continue to debate paper-based loan forms as if it were 1990.

Consider the ingenuity of Dholaikhal's light engineering workshops. During the darkest days of Covid-19, I connected my own network at MIT, where ventilator innovation had been open-sourced for global adaptation, with Abdul Kader and a group of machinists and fabricators in Dholaikhal. Together, we reverse-engineered the MIT process and built a fully functional mechanical ventilator prototype. The core mechanical design was ready, but the project stalled because we could not integrate an electrical control system that met regulatory standards. There was no government-backed technical assistance, prototyping support or fast-track testing facility to bridge that gap. What could have been a homegrown life-saving device became just another workshop prototype gathering dust. If we could not scale a ventilator in a health emergency, how will SMEs scale AI adoption in the midst of a trade war?

Other nations are already turning ambition into action. India's Drone Didi trains rural women to operate agricultural drones, raising yields by 30 percent and cutting pesticide use in half. Vietnam earmarks 1 percent of GDP for SME tech upgrades, delivering plug-and-play AI tools with minimal paperwork. Kenya's Ajira Digital connects SMEs to global AI-enabled service markets, backed by microfinance. Bangladesh's AI Policy does mention investment through government funding, tax incentives and public-private partnerships. Yet the criteria are tied to broad categories such as R&D, infrastructure and education. There is no ring-fenced allocation for SMEs, nor a mandate for ministries to embed AI adoption targets into sectoral budgets. The ambition to nurture a skilled workforce is welcome, but the scale is modest. Training tens of thousands will not suffice when millions will need reskilling.

Without targeted mechanisms, AI readiness will concentrate in large firms and urban start-ups, leaving rural and manufacturing SMEs locked out. The risk is not abstract. The Dholaikhal ventilator showed how quickly ingenuity can rise to meet a crisis, and how easily it can be stranded without systemic support. Bangladesh's economic rise owes much to SMEs. To sustain that rise in an AI-driven world, policymakers must turn the promises of the AI Policy into concrete SME programmes: a dedicated adoption fund worth 1 percent of GDP, subsidies for basic automation tools in manufacturing and agriculture, vocational training in machine vision and robotics, and tax holidays for SMEs that invest in AI.

Right now, India's Drone Didi and Vietnam's tech-enabled SMEs are already airborne. Bangladesh's entrepreneurs remain on the tarmac, engines idling, waiting for clearance that never comes. The race has begun. We cannot afford to stay grounded while others take flight.

The writer is a former research fellow at MIT D-Lab

Google agrees to \$36m fine over Android search deals

AFP, Sydney

Google has agreed to pay a Aus\$55 million (US\$36 million) penalty for striking "anti-competitive" deals to pre-install only its own search engine on Android mobile phones sold by two leading Australian telecoms firms.

Australia's competition authority said it had launched proceedings in the Federal Court and jointly submitted with Google Asia Pacific that it should pay the fine.

The court would now decide whether the agreed penalty and other orders were "appropriate", the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said in a statement released on Monday.

"Conduct that restricts competition is illegal in Australia because it usually means less choice, higher costs or worse service for consumers," said the commission's chair, Gina Cass Gottlieb.

Google had cooperated with the competition commission and admitted reaching the deals with telecoms firms Telstra and Optus, which were in place from December 2019 to March 2021, the body said.

In return for only installing Google's search engine, Telstra and Optus had received a share of the resulting advertising revenue, the commission said.

"Google has admitted in reaching those understandings with each of Telstra and Optus it was likely to have had the effect of substantially lessening competition," it said.

Google said it was pleased to have resolved the regulator's concerns over the provisions, adding that they had not been in its commercial agreements for "some time".

"We are committed to providing Android device makers more flexibility to preload browsers and search apps," a Google spokesperson said.

Fewer fake firs, higher prices

China tariff delay does little to save the holidays

REUTERS, New York/Shanghai

US shoppers looking for fake Christmas trees and holiday decor this year will have fewer choices and face higher prices as tariffs on Chinese imports force retailers to scale back orders as they assess how tight customer budgets are.

A 90-day extension to a tariff reprieve - agreed to by Washington and Beijing on August 11 - will allow retailers to rush in some last-minute shipments, but most holiday purchases are already done. Retailers typically import seasonal goods in advance because many products need six-month lead times.

"We're going to have a lower supply year," said Chris Butler, CEO of National Tree Company, a New Jersey-based artificial tree importer supplying Walmart, Home Depot, Lowe's and Amazon.

The company, which sources roughly half its trees from China and the rest from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand, will hike prices by 10 percent to 20 percent on its Carolina pine, Nordic spruce, and Dunhill fir trees, Butler said.

China is the biggest exporter of Christmas decorations to the US, accounting for 87 percent of such imports last year, worth roughly \$4 billion, according to United States International Trade Commission data.

"We're not overbuying (from our suppliers) because we're not sure about consumer demand and don't want expensive inventory on our books," Butler said.

Big retailers are more keen than usual to have National Tree ship directly to consumers rather than buying them as inventory, reducing the stores' risk on their balance sheets.

Butler's rival, Mac Harman, CEO of California-based Balsam Hill, expects about 15 percent fewer trees in the market this season. "Even with the extended 90 days, it's too late for any of us to add orders," he said.

Retailers started cutting orders after US President Donald Trump flip-flopped on China tariffs - raising them to 145



People shop for Christmas trees at AA Christmas Trees in Brooklyn. China is the biggest exporter of Christmas decorations to the US, accounting for 87 percent of such imports last year.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE