

# 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.

## 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.



**BIWTC**  
**Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation**  
Ministry of Shipping  
Fairly House, 24 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka - 1000  
www.biwtc.gov.bd

**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.   |
| 18 | Experiences, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required | The Detail Terms of Reference (TOR) and EOI Prescribed Format for the assignment can be found at the website: <a href="http://biwtc.gov.bd/">http://biwtc.gov.bd/</a> or can be obtained at the address given above.<br>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.<br>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.<br><br>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 Inveitee   | A. T. M. Jashim Uddin                                       |
| 21 | Designation of Inveitee   | System Analyst  |
| 22 | Address of Inveitee   | BIWTC, 24 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Banglamotor, Dhaka-1000 |
| 23 | Contact Details of Inveitee   | Telephone No.: +8801824613379, e-mail: sa@biwtc.gov.bd      |
| 24 | The Procuring Entity Reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Eol/Tenders. |   |



A. T. M. Jashim Uddin  
System Analyst, BIWTC

GD-1823

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

## Govt to buy

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.



**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বরাট্ট মন্ত্রণালয়  
বাংলাদেশ কোস্ট গার্ড  
[www.coastguard.gov.bd](http://www.coastguard.gov.bd)  
**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

|                              |  |  |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| ১                            | মন্ত্রণালয়/ডিভিশন                         | বরাট্ট মন্ত্রণালয়।  |
| 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)।  |
| ফলক 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                           | দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা                 | এই ধরনের পণ্য এবং কার্য সম্পাদনের জন্য আর্থিক ও বিধিবদ্ধ 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 নিরাপত্তা জামানত কার্য সমাধা   |
| 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।<br>খ। মুদ্রণনিত ক্রটি অথবা অন্য কোন কারণে কোন ধরনের সন্দেহের উদ্ভেগ হলে "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন-২০০৮" প্রযোজ্য হবে।<br>গ। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়, টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট জমাদান এবং খোলার তারিখ বিঘ্নিত হলে তা পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে পূর্বের উল্লেখিত সময়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।<br>ঘ। বিল দাখিলের সময়ে NBR কর্তৃক ধার্যকৃত হারে VAT এবং IT কর্তন করা হবে।<br>ঙ। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের রশিদ সহকারে কোস্ট গার্ড এর ওয়েবসাইট ( <a href="http://www.coastguard.gov.bd">www.coastguard.gov.bd</a> ) হতে ডাউনলোডকৃত TDS গ্রহণযোগ্য। |



পরিচালক পোয়েন্ট  
পক্ষে মহাপরিচালক

GD-1826