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Digital banks must have paid-up capital of Tk 300cr: BB

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank has raised the paid-up capital requirement for digital banks from Tk 125 crore to Tk 300 crore.

The banking regulator refixed the capital requirement for the upcoming digital banks under the power of Section 13 of the Bank Company Act, 1991 (as amended up to 2023), the central bank said in a notice yesterday.

The paid-up capital shall only comprise ordinary shares, according to the guideline.

IPDC ডিপোজিট | ১৬৫১৯

The banking regulator revised the capital requirement as applications will soon be invited for digital banks, said a senior BB official.

Under the previous government, preliminary approval was given to Nagad Digital Bank and Kori Digital Bank.

However, the initiative was suspended after the fall of the Awami League government in August 2024.

A branchless, end-to-end virtual banking system can provide momentum to extending banking services to the last mile of the country, as per the digital bank guideline.

The sponsors of the proposed digital bank must provide the initial minimum paid-up capital, and the bank must go for an initial public offering (IPO) within five years from the date of licence issuance by BB, the guideline said.

It added that the amount of the IPO should not be less than the sponsors' initial paid-up capital.

The central bank approved a guideline on digital banks in 2023 with an aim to expedite the process of cashless transactions and digital transformation in the country.

The decision came within two weeks after then finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in his budget speech said a Bangladesh Bank committee was working to work out strategies to broaden and accelerate financial inclusion effort.

Under the guideline, the major difference is that digital banks will have only a headquarters, and no other physical presence, while conventional banks have physical presence across the country.

Pakistan shows interest in shipbuilding industry

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan has expressed interest in importing ships from Bangladesh after visiting shipyards in Chattogram.

The minister, who is currently visiting Dhaka, joined a meeting with business leaders at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in Motijheel area of the capital yesterday, according to a press release.

Khan praised the growing shipbuilding capacity of Bangladesh and said that Pakistan, which now imports vessels from abroad, could turn to Bangladeshi builders in the future.

"There is a possibility for collaboration in shipbuilding," he said.

The minister added that Pakistani firms and agencies would assess options for procurement and joint ventures with Bangladeshi shipbuilders.

Khan noted that Bangladesh's expertise in shipbuilding fits well with Pakistan's import requirements, stressing the need to deepen industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Md Hafizur Rahman, administrator of the FBCCI, welcomed the interest by Pakistan.

He said Bangladesh is ready to work with the South Asian neighbour in shipbuilding and other sectors.

Rahman added that closer cooperation could create new opportunities for trade and industrial development.

Md Alamgir, secretary general of FBCCI, underlined the importance of targeted business exchanges to identify areas where Bangladesh has production strength and Pakistan has demand, such as shipbuilding.

Business leaders at the meeting also spoke in support of enhancing cooperation in industries that can offer immediate trade prospects.



Mahbubur Rahman, president of the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh, addresses a joint press conference on LDC graduation at the InterContinental Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Delay LDC graduation to 2032

Leaders of 16 major trade bodies urge government

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Leaders of 16 major business chambers and associations have urged the government to delay Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) club, saying that an early transition would severely strain the pharmaceuticals and garment industries.

The government should defer it until 2032 as both the private sector and the government need more preparation for a smooth graduation, said Mahbubur Rahman, president of the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB), at a joint press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

Representatives from the country's top trade bodies spanning pharmaceuticals, garments, knitwear, banking, footwear, leather, semiconductors and other industries attended the event to show solidarity.

At the event at InterContinental Dhaka, they argued that if the country moves to developing nation status in November 2026 without being fully prepared, most sectors serving both domestic and international

markets risk serious setbacks.

Their major concerns include a loss of competitiveness, as Bangladesh will forfeit duty-free trade preferences, face tariffs of up to 12 percent, and risk losing between 6 and 14 percent of its export share.

The business leaders said they plan to meet Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus soon to press their case.

This comes despite the chief adviser stating last year that deferring graduation was not an option, and urging swift, coordinated action as recently as May.

In a written statement, ICCB President Rahman said Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry meets 98 percent of local demand and exports to more than 150 countries, but requires an extension of the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver to remain competitive.

"Without at least six more years of preparation, the cost of life-saving medicines such as cancer and HIV drugs could skyrocket, undermining both public health and export growth," he said.

Currently, Bangladesh enjoys a TRIPS waiver valid until January 2033 or until graduation, whichever comes first. But once the country graduates in November 2026, this protection will expire, exposing the local pharma sector to full patent enforcement.

In this regard, Rahman cited alarming projections.

He said the price of cancer drug Imatinib could soar from \$30-\$40 a month to \$2,000-\$3,000, HIV antiretrovirals from \$100-\$150 a year to \$10,000-\$12,000, while biotech drugs like Trastuzumab could jump from \$200-\$400 a dose to \$3,000-\$4,000.

The garment sector, which generates over 81 percent of export earnings, faces equally tough challenges. With duty-free access ending, compliance costs rising and competition intensifying, exporters will need to diversify rapidly to protect jobs and sustain growth.

"By diversifying exports beyond garments, Bangladesh can create new growth engines, protect jobs, and ensure sustainable economic progress after graduation," Rahman said.

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Economic challenges

Slowing GDP growth dampens investor confidence

Persistent inflation erode household purchasing power

Sharp decline in private investment limits industrial expansion

Energy shortages force industries to operate below full capacity

High non-performing loans weaken banking sector

Recommendations

- ◆ Simplify loan terms and cut interest rates
- ◆ Ensure uninterrupted energy supply
- ◆ Diversify exports and tap new markets
- ◆ Broaden tax base and reduce bureaucratic hurdles
- ◆ Implement sector-specific reforms ahead of LDC graduation

Slowing growth, weak investment strain economy: DCCI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's economy is grappling with multiple challenges, including slowing growth, stubborn inflation, and a sharp fall in private investment, according to the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI).

In its report "Bi-Annual Review: Current State & Future Outlook of Bangladesh Economy (H2 FY25)", the chamber attributes the strain to a mix of global headwinds and domestic policy challenges, urging swift and strategic government action to prevent a deeper crisis.

"Private investment dropped to 22.48 percent of the GDP in FY25, the lowest in the last 5 years.

Both the opening of LCs and the import of capital machinery have declined," said DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed while presenting the review report at the chamber's office in Dhaka yesterday.

"Strengthen law and order and ensure uninterrupted and reliable energy supply to improve the business environment," he added.

The report noted that in trying to curb inflation, the government has squeezed private sector credit and dampened economic activity, creating a medium-term crisis. A multimodal approach is now needed to tackle both issues simultaneously.

To restore investor confidence, it recommended

READ MORE ON B3

Raise emission cut targets to match renewable goals: CPD

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should raise its greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2030 in line with the government's new renewable energy ambitions, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) said yesterday.

The country is set to submit its revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) next month.

In its last NDC in 2021, Bangladesh pledged to cut emissions equivalent to 43.72 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO₂e) from the power sector, nearly half the overall target.

targets of 91.24 MtCO₂e for 2035 and 103.34 MtCO₂e for 2040, aligned with the government's renewable energy roadmap.

In June, the government set fresh goals to source 20 percent of electricity from renewables by 2030 and 30 percent by 2040.

According to CPD estimates, Bangladesh would need 4,540 megawatts (MW) of power from renewable sources by 2030, 6,438 MW by 2035, and 8,928 MW by 2040. This would require 18,162 MW of renewable capacity by 2030, rising to 25,751 MW by 2035 and 35,713 MW by 2040, alongside a phase-out of fossil fuels.

"Our main challenge is monitoring implementation. We prepare documents, but due to a lack of manpower and other issues, the monitoring is limited," said Fahmida Khanom, additional secretary at the environment ministry



The transition would demand investments of about \$12.6 billion by 2030, \$12.1 billion by 2035, and \$10.5 billion by 2040.

Fahmida Khanom, additional secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said interministerial consultations would be completed within two weeks to finalise the NDC 2025.

"Our main challenge is monitoring

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Memo No. 35.01.5400.442.07.006.25-2045(15) Date: 24/08/2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is being in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur for the procurement of:

| SI No. | Tender ID | Name of work | Last selling date & time | Closing date & time | Opening date & time |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 1142492, e- GP/05/EE/MRD/P MP-Routine/2025-2026 | Supplying Different Sizes Stone Chips, Sand (F. M=2.50), Brick P. J & Fire Wood at Madaripur Stackyard for Maintenance of Different Roads under Madaripur Road Division during the year 2025-2026. | 08-Sep-2025 17:00 | 09-Sep-2025 14:00 | 09-Sep-2025 14:00 |
| 2 | 1142494, e- GP/06/EE/MRD/P MP-Routine/2025-2026 | Supplying Different Sizes Stone Chips, Sand (F. M=2.50), Brick P. J & Fire Wood at Madaripur Stackyard for Maintenance of Different Roads under Madaripur Road Division during the year 2025-2026. | 08-Sep-2025 17:00 | 09-Sep-2025 14:00 | 09-Sep-2025 14:00 |

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal.
- To submit e-Tender registration in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
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Najmul Hasan
Personal ID: 601954
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Madaripur

GD-1858

Withdraw VAT on bread, biscuits: manufacturers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Traders have urged the government to withdraw the recently imposed value-added tax (VAT) on bread and biscuits, saying it will raise the prices of these everyday foods for low-income people.

The previous government had imposed a 5 percent VAT on bread and biscuits, which has now been increased by the interim government to 7.5 percent, they added.

The government has maintained the additional VAT on bread and biscuits, which are essential daily foods for the common people, said Shafiqur Rahman Bhuiyan, president of the Bangladesh Auto Biscuit and Bread Manufacturers Association.

“But we haven’t reduced the package size or raised the price,” he continued.

“We expected the government to show goodwill and remove VAT from these essential food items.”

He made this comment at a press conference on the “Impact



PHOTO: STAR/FILE

and protest against the additional VAT on poor’s essential food – bread and biscuits” at the Dhaka Reporters’ Unity in the capital yesterday.

The government is imposing additional VAT on bread and biscuits – daily food items for labourers, students, and the general public – proving that it is shifting towards more regressive

and discriminatory tax policies than the previous government, he added.

This move goes directly against the spirit of the anti-discrimination movement, he said.

“Without any consideration, the government has turned bread and biscuit companies into tools for exploiting the poor. This is extremely distasteful and

shameful,” he added.

“On the one hand, VAT has been removed from supermarkets, but on the other hand, VAT is being maintained on poor people’s food. Why the tax on the food of the poor while the rich get exemptions? This is not only discriminatory but also unethical and an insult to the nation.”

Shakhawat Hossain Mamun, vice-president of the association, said the World Bank report showed Bangladesh is in the “red zone” in terms of food security.

In such a situation, adopting a regressive policy that exploits the poor for revenue generation is highly condemnable, he said.

“We have repeatedly said that if the government wants to collect revenue, it should tax the chairs of our industries and the wealthy businessmen, not VAT on food that feeds the poor,” he said.

“The government is using bread and biscuit companies as tools for exploiting the poor. We do not want to play this role,” he added.

Slowing growth, weak investment

FROM PAGE B1

stabilising the banking sector, ensuring political stability, and removing bureaucratic bottlenecks to improve the ease of doing business.

Growth is being further undermined by a severe credit crunch, with private sector lending expanding by only 6.4 percent in June 2025, the lowest in 22 years.

The energy crisis is compounding matters, with a daily gas supply shortfall of more than 1,000 MMCFD forcing industries, including the crucial readymade garments (RMG) sector, to operate below capacity, the chamber noted.

It stated that the financial sector is also under acute stress, with non-performing loans (NPLs) reaching Tk 5.3 lakh crore – over 27 percent of all outstanding loans. This erosion of confidence has spilled over into the capital market, where the DSEX index fell 7.2 percent in June compared with December 2024.

To address the challenges, the DCCI proposed easing loan terms and lowering interest rates to spur investment, accelerating export diversification, and ensuring uninterrupted energy through long-term LNG contracts and expanded local gas

exploration.

The report raised particular concern over Bangladesh’s upcoming graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, saying the country is ill-prepared for the loss of trade privileges.

The chamber suggested formally seeking a three-year deferment to the graduation for strengthening competitiveness and devising a robust transition strategy.

It highlighted the urgent need for structural reforms, including broadening the tax base, cutting bureaucratic hurdles, and adopting sector-specific strategies to navigate the post-LDC era.

Without decisive action, it warned, Bangladesh’s economic resilience and progress in poverty reduction are at serious risk.

The report noted that key export sectors are already showing signs of stress. RMG exports, the crown jewel of the sector, declined by 2.16 percent in the second half of FY25.

The leather sector, the second-largest exporter, also contracted and remains barred from premium Western markets due to compliance failures, leaving most exports destined for China at lower prices, it added.

Monzur Hossain, a member of the General Economics Division (GED), said the interim government is continuing the graduation process, with several committees working on it.

“Readiness for LDC graduation should not be confined to the government alone; it also requires active preparation from the private sector,” he said.

He noted that graduation could create opportunities in export diversification, supply chain development, high-end production, and SME growth. However, the final decision will rest with the next government.

Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said Bangladesh may request an extension, but such a proposal must be approved by the United Nations General Assembly.

To justify the extension, the country would need to show weaker performance on three key indicators.

He explained that achieving a per capita income of \$1,300 demonstrates readiness for graduation, whereas Bangladesh currently stands at over \$2,800.

“So, even if we seek an extension, we must continue our preparations,” he added.

Stocks rebound after three days of losses

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange rose on the first trading day of the week, rebounding from a three-day losing streak, while turnover increased significantly.

The DSEX, the main index of the bourse, gained 14.20 points, or 0.26 percent, to settle at 5,389.17.

The other indices showed a mixed performance before the end of the day’s trading. The Shariah-compliant DSES declined slightly by 0.06 percent to 1,179.52.

The DS30, comprising blue-chip shares, rose 0.58 percent to close at 2,101.59.

Turnover, a key gauge of investor participation, hit Tk 1,200.26 crore, significantly higher than Tk 766.78 crore in the previous session.

A total of 324,131 trades were executed, while block transactions amounted to Tk 16.91 crore across 40 scrips. Market breadth was mixed, with 184 stocks advancing, 190 declining, and 26 remaining unchanged.

Among A-category scrips, 128 gained, 77 lost, and 15 remained unchanged.

In the B-category, 41 stocks rose and 37 fell, while one issue declined in the N-category.

Segment-wise performance was mixed. In mutual funds, two issues advanced and 23 declined.

Corporate bonds saw two issues advance, while the government bond market recorded two issues rising and three issues falling.

Among individual performers, Alif Industries topped the gainers’ list with a 9 percent surge, while Social Islami Bank was the worst performer, dropping 9 percent.

Raise emission cut targets

FROM PAGE B1

implementation. We prepare documents, but due to lack of manpower and other issues, the monitoring is limited. We are trying to resolve this,” she noted.

Mirza Shawkat Ali, director of Climate Change and International Convention at the Department of Environment, said the draft of the new NDC targets, covering the period up to 2035, is in its final stage.

He noted that while most unconditional commitments in the 2021 NDC had been met, progress on conditional targets was “very low” due to unfulfilled donor funding. “The failure of conditional commitments is not our liability.”

Jarifa Khatun, director of IPP Cell-3 at the Bangladesh Power Development Board, said several renewable projects are being funded by government agencies themselves, while new solar

tenders are expected to be awarded soon.

“All these issues are being shared with the Department of Environment, which will reflect them in the NDC,” she added.

Imran Karim, former president of the Bangladesh Independent Power Producers’ Association, said the sector must restore investor confidence first.

He pointed out that only 55 investors had participated in 40 renewable tenders during the interim government.

“It is due to the lack of implementation agreements, which previously guaranteed payments. Investors are dealing with a company [Power Development Board] that cannot repay them on time,” he said, urging quick resolution of tenders.

Md Shafiqul Islam, professor of nuclear engineering at Dhaka University, observed that nuclear plants emit the

lowest levels of greenhouse gases among all types of power generation, yet remain absent from discussions.

Shaikh Muhammad Mehedi Ahsan, assistant professor at Independent University, Bangladesh, said reducing emissions was essential for the country itself, not just to meet international obligations.

“Some two lakh people die every year in Bangladesh due to air pollution. Many government agencies bypass environmental rules while implementing development projects,” he said.

The session was moderated by CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem, while Chairman of Power Grid Bangladesh PLC Prof M Rezwana Khan, former Research Director at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Asaduzzaman, and former BUET dean Prof Ijaz Hossain spoke, among others.

Delay LDC graduation to 2032

FROM PAGE B1

The business community called on the government to seek a three to five-year deferment of the November 2026 deadline.

They pointed to examples such as the Maldives, which deferred graduation by eight years, and Botswana, which took 20 years. Other countries, including Vanuatu, Nepal, Myanmar and Bhutan, also delayed their graduations.

Rahman added that Bangladesh needs more time to negotiate trade deals with the European Union, the United Kingdom, Asean and Gulf countries to cushion the blow of higher tariffs, especially from the US market.

He also stressed

the need for export diversification into pharmaceuticals, IT, leather, agro-processing and light engineering.

“The economy is heavily affected by external debt stress, financial strain, declining inflow of foreign direct investment, global trade tensions, climate pressures, electricity and gas constraints, logistics bottlenecks, devaluation of the local currency, and the economic pressures after the July 2024 uprising,” he said.

“So, Bangladesh needs to improve these areas before graduation. Let this be clear that graduation is certain, but success is not guaranteed. It depends on how urgently and collectively we act.”

He emphasised that before graduation, Bangladesh must defend market access through trade diplomacy, strengthen competitiveness with technology and skills, and move decisively from planning to execution.

The ICCB chief also said that financial sector reform, ease of doing business, and reliable energy supply through exploration, renewables and regional power trade were listed as priorities.

Upgrading ports, customs and transport networks to reduce costs, managing inflation, building reserves and restructuring external debt will also be essential, Rahman added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়

র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৫

মোতাপাড়া, হুড়াম, রাজশাহী

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

তারিখ: ২৪ আগস্ট ২০২৫

স্মারক নং: ৫৩৩৩/১/কিউ/রেশন/০১

২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বৎসরের অক্টোবর/২০২৫ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত র‍্যাব-৫, রাজশাহী র‍্যাব সদস্যদের নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য “The Public Procurement Act-2006” and “Regulation-2008” মোতাবেক টিকদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী টিকদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে উন্মুক্ত প্রতিযোগিতার দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এতদসম্বন্ধে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সমূহ নিম্নে এলগু হলো :

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ১। | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ | ২। | অবস্টি মন্ত্রণালয়/বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ। |
| ২। | সহকারী/কিডা | ৩। | বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ। |
| ৩। | দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান | ৪। | অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৫, মোতাপাড়া, হুড়াম, রাজশাহী। |
| ৪। | কি করণে দরপত্র আহ্বান | ৫। | গ্রুপ “ক” হোজা তেল (সার্বাধীন) এবং গ্রুপ “খ” উন্নতমানের মসুর ডাল সরবরাহ। |
| ৫। | দরপত্র সূত্র নং | ৬। | দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্মারক নং ৫৩৩৩/১/কিউ/রেশন/০১ |
| ৬। | তারিখ | ৭। | ২৪ আগস্ট ২০২৫। |

কাজের বিবরণ:

১। দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি

২। উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।

অর্থের উৎস:

১। বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত

২। পিএলএ খাতে বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ হতে।

তথ্যাদি:

১। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি-একসঙ্গে তারিখ

২। ২৫ আগস্ট ২০২৫।

৩। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ

৪। ০৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ ১৬০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

৫। দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়

৬। ০৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ ১৬০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

৭। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়

৮। ০৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫ তারিখ ১৬০০ ঘটিকা। দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তার প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র সমূহ খোলা হবে।

অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা:

১। অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা

২। র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৫, রাজশাহী মোতাপাড়া, হুড়াম, রাজশাহী।

৩। দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিটিউন বিক্রয়কারী অফিস

৪। ক। অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৫, রাজশাহী কার্যালয়।

৫। দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী/অফিস

৬। ক। অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৫, রাজশাহী এর কার্যালয়।

৭। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান

৮। ক। অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৫, রাজশাহী এর কার্যালয়।

দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্য:

১৪। দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা

১। “The Public Procurement Regulation-2008” এবং সর্বমাম সশোধানী মোতাবেক দরপত্রদাতাকে দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়ে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রাদি দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে: (ক) ন্যায়িকত্ব সনদপত্র (খ) ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (গ) ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র (ঘ) টিআইএন নম্বর উল্লেখিত হালসনের আত্মক সনদপত্র (ঙ) ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানা সনদপত্র (চ) পিডবিটিডি/এলজিটিডি/এমইএস এর তালিকাভুক্তির সনদ (ছ) আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতা সনদপত্র (জ) বাংলাদেশ শীট (ঝ) সার্ভিস প্রকল্পের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ (ঞ) দরপত্রদাতার ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠান কোনো তালিকাভুক্ত নয় মর্মে নিজ প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক প্যাডে প্রতিব্যক্তি মুহুরে (ট) প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক প্যাডে মনসাতার ০৩ (তিন) টি মনুমা স্বাক্ষর ১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত ও (ঠ) পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ০২ (দুই) কর্প ছবি। এ ছাড়াও “The Public Procurement Regulation-2008” ও তথ্যীয় সশোধানী মোতাবেক অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিটিউনে উল্লেখ করা হবে।

১৫। মাসামানের বিবরণ:

| গ্রুপ | আইটেম | পরিমাণ (টন) | দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা) (অফেরতযোগ্য) | নিরাপত্তা জমানত (ফেরতযোগ্য) | কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময় (দিন) |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| গ্রুপ “ক” | হোজা তেল সরবরাহ (সার্বাধীন)। | ১৪ টন (আনুমানিক) | ১০০০/- | ১,০০,০০০/- | ০১ অক্টোবর ২০২৫ হতে |
| গ্রুপ “খ” | উন্নতমানের মসুর ডাল সরবরাহ। | ১০ টন (আনুমানিক) | ১০০০/- | ১,০০,০০০/- | ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫ |

দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণ:

১৬। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম

১৭। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী

১৮। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা

১৯। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম

২০। বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্য:

ক। বাজি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের সন্ত্রাসবিচারী স্বাক্ষরিত প্যাডে আবেদনপত্র অধিনায়ক, র‍্যাব-৫, রাজশাহী হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সন্মুখ করা যাবে।

খ। দরপত্র সন্মুখের অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সন্মুখের সন্ত্রাসবিচারী স্বাক্ষরিত প্যাডে জমা থাকবে।

গ। অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আলোকে কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রদান করা হবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

ঘ। দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করতে হবে।

ঙ। কোন কারণ নশ্বীতে বাতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সন্মুখ করেন।

চ। কোন প্রকার কালি ছেঁড়া, ঘামামালা বা কারেকটিং ছুইড ব্যবহার করা যাবে না।

ছ। সিটিউন প্রদানের সময় অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশের তালিকাভুক্ত টিকদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি আনতে হবে।

জ। সর্বনিম্ন মদনতার দর গ্রহণে কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য নয়।

মোহাম্মদ মাসুদ পারভেজ, পিএসসি, পদাধিকারী

০২৫৮৮৭৯১৪৭

GD-1855

5056046

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police

Rapid Action Battalion Forces Headquarters

Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229

www.rab.gov.bd

Invitation For e-Tender

For financial year 2025-2026, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of :

| SL | Tender ID No & Reference No | Description of goods | Last selling Date & Time | Closing/ Opening Date & Time |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | 1142670, RABHQ/CPS/2025-2026/4113301/1118 Date:21-08-2025 | Procurement of Subscription for Various Software and Services. | 08-Sep-2025 11:30 | 08-Sep-2025 12:00 |
| 2. | 1142665, RAB HQ/CPS/2025-2026/4112316/1120 Date: 21-08-2025 | Procurement of Still Camera, UPS with Battery and other Accessories. | 08-Sep-2025 11:30 | 08-Sep-2025 12:00 |
| 3. | 1142664, RABHQ/CPS/2025-2026/4113301/1117 Date: 21-08-2025 | Procurement & Upgradation of Digital Office Management System (DOMS) | 08-Sep-2025 11:30 | 08-Sep-2025 12:00 |
| 4. | 1142630, RAB HQ/CPS/2025-2026/4113301/1116 Date: 21-08-2025 | Procurement of Server Management Software License (Web Application Firewall (WAF) License Renewal). | 08-Sep-2025 11:30 | 08-Sep-2025 12:00 |
| 5. | 1142603, RABHQ/CPS/2025-2026/4112316/1119 Date: 21-08-2025 | Procurement and Installation of IP CCTV Camera with Necessary Accessories | 08-Sep-2025 11:30 | 08-Sep-2025 12:00 |
| 6. | 1142593, RABHQ/CPS/2025-2026/4113301/1114 Date:21-08-2025 | Procurement of Necessary Software and Upgradation of Operation Managements Software. | 08-Sep-2025 11:30 | 08-Sep-2025 12:00 |

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 (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 bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Tenderer having clarity requirements are requested to contact at 01777-720118 (**Senior Assistant Director, Central Procurement Section**).

KAMRUL HASSAN

Commander BN

Director (Admin & Finance)

RAB Forces Headquarters, Dhaka.

Mobile: 01777-720110

GD-1863

Chinese shoemaker to invest \$10m in Bepza EZ

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Chinese company Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Co Ltd will invest \$10.20 million to set up a footwear manufacturing factory in Bepza Economic Zone (Bepza EZ) in Chattogram.

The company plans to produce 2.10 million pairs of sandals, flats, high heels, pumps, booties, boots, and sports shoes annually, creating employment opportunities for 1,939 people, according to a press release.

Md Ashraful Kabir, member for investment promotion of Bepza, and Ye Yary, chairman of Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes (BD) Co Ltd, signed an agreement in this regard at the Bepza Complex in the capital yesterday.

Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, executive chairman of Bepza, attended the event and thanked Dunion Taiyang Sheng Shoes for choosing Bepza EZ as its investment destination, reaffirming Bepza's commitment to providing a secure and supportive environment for investors.

Rahman urged the company to make the best use of land, noting the need for efficient factory designs that allow future vertical expansion.

He further emphasised incorporating environment-friendly features, including rooftop solar panels and rainwater harvesting facilities, within the factory premises.

Gold gains

REUTERS

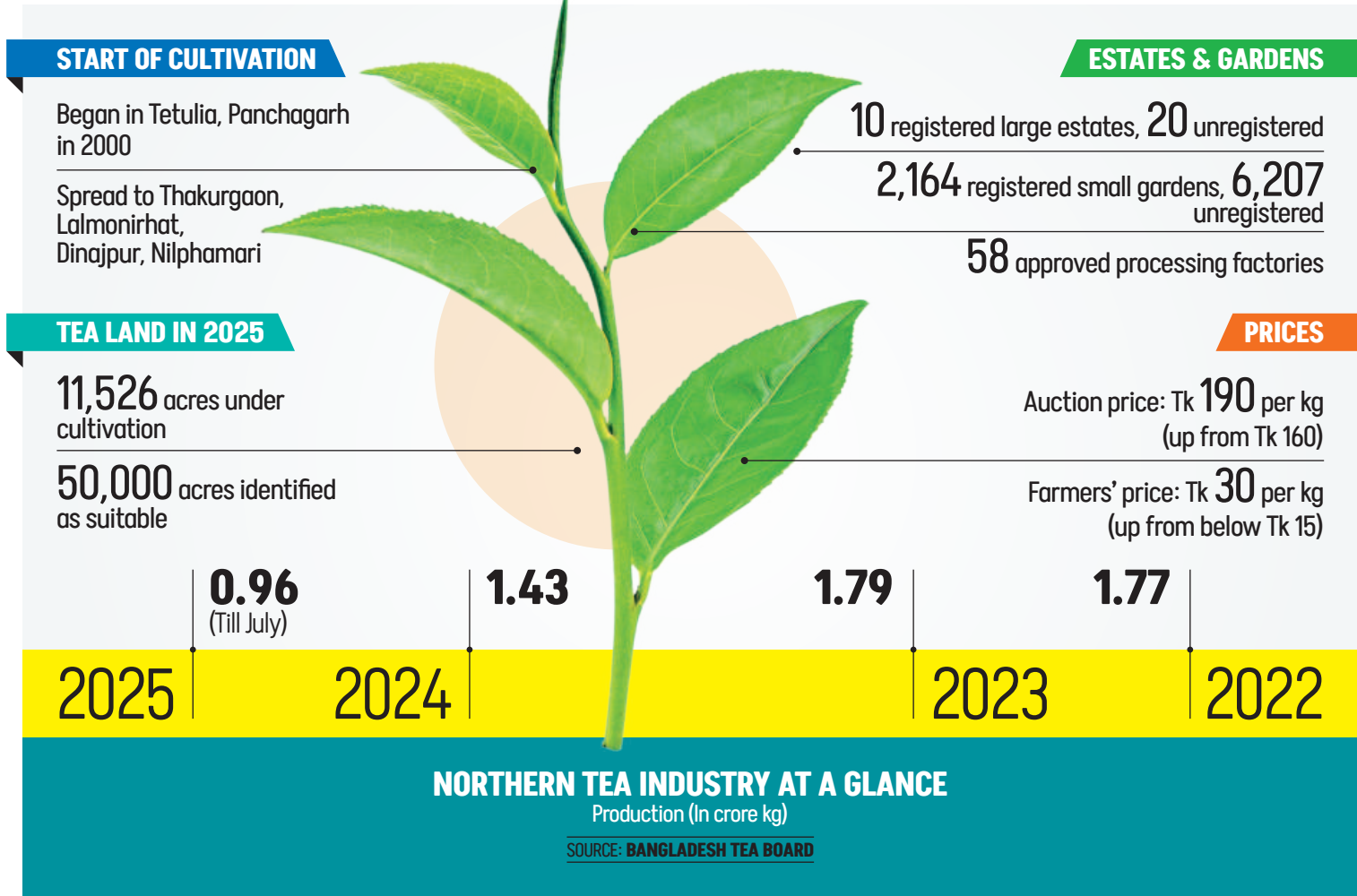
Gold prices rebounded on Friday, buoyed by heightened expectations of a September rate cut following comments from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell at the central bank's Jackson Hole symposium.

Spot gold was up 1.1 percent at \$3,373.89 per ounce by 1:31 p.m. EDT (1731 GMT), while US gold futures settled 1.1 percent up at \$3,418.50.

The US dollar was down 1 percent, making gold less expensive for other currency holders.

Powell said that the shifting balance of risks may warrant adjusting the Fed's policy stance, but stopped short of committing to a rate cut. His remarks struck a delicate balance, acknowledging growing risks to the job market, while cautioning that inflationary pressures remain.

Rising tea prices bring new life to northern growers



MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

After years of low prices that forced many farmers to abandon their plantations, tea cultivation in five northern districts is showing fresh promise this season thanks to better rates, higher yields, and improved quality.

Tea estates in the region are now fetching Tk 190 per kg at auctions, compared with Tk 160 previously, according to Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB) officials.

Farmers, too, are getting better returns. This season, they are earning Tk 30 per kg for green leaves, up from Tk 15 in recent years, when prices often failed to cover their production costs.

The tea board has set a production target of 1.52 crore kg this year from the five northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, and Lalmonirhat.

The goal looks achievable, with nearly 96 lakh kg of tea already processed by July, said Arif Khan, acting BTB officer in Panchagarh.

Most of the country's tea comes from Sylhet and the hilly regions of Chattogram. Tea cultivation in the plains began in Tetulia upazila of Panchagarh in 2000.

Tea growing has since spread across neighbouring districts. Currently, some 50,000 acres in the north have been marked as

suitable for tea, with 11,526 acres in production this season.

With 29 processing factories, 30 registered and unregistered estates, and an auction centre, the region now ranks as the second-largest tea producer in Bangladesh.

During a recent visit to the northern districts, small growers were found plucking fresh leaves in the fields.

Md Sharif, a grower at

If the trend holds, the tea grower expects to earn between Tk 2.5 lakh and Tk 3 lakh per acre.

At Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon, another tea grower, Hafijul Islam, recalled how tough recent years had been. "In the past several years, I was compelled to sell leaves at an average price below Tk 15 per kg, which did not even cover production costs," he said.

Many small farmers, Islam said,

drying leaves, cut costs, and raised output.

"As production costs have come down and factories are receiving higher prices in the auction for improved quality tea, growers are also benefiting," he said.

According to the official, farmers have also been encouraged to pluck younger leaves, a practice that had not been properly maintained in the past.

Usually, growers harvest leaves six to seven times a year.

However, Khan said this season, farmers will be able to pluck one or two extra rounds and collect more leaves through proper plucking.

Abdus Salam, in charge of Sally Lunn Tea Estate, said increased supervision by the authorities had helped revive tea growing in the plain land.

According to BTB data, tea growing this season stands at 9,729 acres in Panchagarh, 1,457 acres in Thakurgaon, 142 acres in Lalmonirhat, 68 acres in Nilphamari, and 130 acres in Dinajpur.

The north now counts 10 registered and 20 unregistered estates larger than 25 acres, alongside more than 8,300 small gardens below that size.

Considering the scale of tea farming and production in the north, the country's third tea auction centre was launched online in Panchagarh in 2023.



PHOTO: MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

Dashmile village of Panchagarh Sadar upazila, was supervising workers on his 5-acre plot.

"Leaf prices are good this season," Sharif said.

"In the initial stage, per kg of raw tea leaf was sold at Tk 22. Gradually, it increased and is now being sold at Tk 30," he said.

had uprooted their tea plants and gone back to traditional crops.

Acting BTB officer Arif Khan said the turnaround followed two years of effort to sort out issues in quality production.

He said the board has provided factories with technical support that reduced electricity use in

The impact of private sector credit slowdown

SALEKEEN IBRAHIM

Private sector credit growth fell to 6.4 percent in June 2025, the lowest in 22 years. This alarming number reflects the immense strain on the national economy, a slump not seen since the early 2000s. But the fading momentum goes beyond statistics. It is a pulse check on our economic strength, and the social cost of falling credit is immense.

On average, Bangladesh welcomes about 22 lakh new entrants to its workforce every year. Yet with the current downturn, only around 14 lakh jobs are being created, leaving about 8 lakh people without work annually. Industrial expansion tells a similar story. Imports of capital machinery, the lifeblood of new factories, have dropped sharply. In 2025, capital machinery LCs fell by 25 to 33 percent compared with the previous year. New ventures and bold expansions are increasingly being put on hold.

At the same time, banks face record levels of non-performing loans (NPLs). As of March 2025, NPLs stood at Tk 4.2 lakh crore, up from Tk 1.82 lakh crore a year earlier, more than double. Some banks are suffering liquidity crises, while inflation and political instability add further pressure, choking their lending capacity. Restricted credit means weaker consumption, less investment in factories and infrastructure, and slower GDP growth ahead.

Average double-digit inflation for the past 12 months has eroded real wages, forcing families to dip into savings to survive. The informal economy has swelled, and inequality has deepened. Rising unemployment has left many young people under psychological stress, with some drawn into unlawful activities. Incidents of communal violence are also increasing. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that banking stress and tight credit conditions threaten growth and could raise fiscal risks further.

Why has this economic syndrome emerged? Local entrepreneurs have been unsettled by prolonged uncertainty following the political changeover last year. Weak law and order discourage risk-taking and investment. Mounting NPLs, sluggish deposit inflows, and high borrowing costs have squeezed banks' capacity to lend.

The central bank's policy rate is at 10 percent, as set in the last two monetary policies, in an attempt to tame inflation. But this has pushed commercial lending rates to nearly 15 percent. Such costs deter businesses, especially small and medium enterprises.

Meanwhile, heavy government borrowing is crowding out private borrowers. Banks with comfortable liquidity prefer treasury bills, which promise secure returns, rather than extending credit to businesses.

The way forward requires urgent steps. Once inflation cools, lowering the policy rate must be a priority to ease credit costs. The central bank's Banking Sector Reforms Task Force should accelerate its work to strengthen governance, reduce NPLs, and reinforce bank capital. Restoring law and order and ensuring fair regulation will be critical for rebuilding investor confidence.

Cheap, priority-sector credit should be channelled into SMEs, export-oriented firms, and green industries. The World Bank's Country Private Sector Diagnostic identifies these as areas that can generate jobs, revenues, and inclusive growth. At the same time, the government must cut non-essential spending, clear arrears, and improve revenue collection.

Signs of lost confidence, squeezed livelihoods, and muted aspirations are already visible. Picture a nation with skilled workers, promising industries, and bold vision, but lacking the fuel to power it. That fuel is credit. Without affordable loans, even the best factory cannot open its gates. Without confidence in the rule of law, even the most capable entrepreneur hesitates.

To restore momentum, we must stabilise banking, reduce credit costs, and re-establish investor confidence. Do that, and we do not just lift credit growth. We unlock jobs, innovation, and new windows of hope.

The writer is a senior banker.



Foreign workers have boosted euro zone economy

ECB president Lagarde says

REUTERS, Jackson Hole

An influx of foreign workers has given the euro zone's economy a boost in recent years, helping offset shorter working hours and lower real wages, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said on Saturday.

Migration into the European Union pushed its population to a record last year despite declining births but governments are placing curbs on new arrivals in response to domestic discontent.

Lagarde listed a rise in the number of workers from outside the 20 countries that share the euro as a factor that supported the bloc's economy despite a growing preference for fewer working hours and a fall in living standards in some sectors.

"Although they represented only around 9 percent of the total labour force in 2022, foreign workers have accounted for half of its growth over the past three years," Lagarde said in a speech at the US Federal Reserve's annual symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. "Without this contribution, labour market conditions could be tighter and output lower."

She said gross domestic output in Germany would be around 6 percent lower than in 2019 without foreign workers and added Spain's strong economic performance since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic also owed much to the contribution of foreign labour.

The EU's population rose to a record 450.4 million people last year as net immigration offset a natural population decline for the fourth straight year.

China stablecoin push is better late than never

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Sometimes China's leaders throw markets a curveball, and the latest could prove curvier than most: the country's State Council, or cabinet, may approve a roadmap for boosting global use of the yuan later this month, including a bid to catch up with US progress on stablecoins, per a Reuters report citing unnamed sources.

This would follow passage of the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for US Stablecoins ("GENIUS") Act in Washington. America's embrace of such tokens had already prompted soul-searching in the People's Republic, where the state-run Securities Times suggested in June that stablecoins backed by offshore yuan assets could provide "a new path forward for renminbi internationalization in these turbulent times".

Jumping on the bandwagon now may smack of fear of missing out, but it nonetheless marks an inflection point for China's currency, which is subject to extensive management and strict capital controls. The mere existence of a plan for stablecoins — digital assets that, unlike bitcoin and its ilk, are pegged to fiat currency — would be a massive U-turn for Beijing, which has outlawed cryptocurrency trading and mining in the country since 2021.

Hong Kong, which sits outside Chinese



PHOTO: REUTERS/FILE

A woman holds Chinese yuan banknotes in this illustration. The state-run Securities Times suggested in June that stablecoins backed by offshore yuan assets could provide "a new path forward for renminbi internationalisation in these turbulent times".

capital controls and is already a hub for offshore yuan, would be an ideal place to experiment. The city just launched its own regulatory regime this month for the tokens, which requires every stablecoin to be fully backed by highly liquid assets held in reserve. That means every yuan-backed token that is minted will take offshore

yuan out of circulation from the city's pool in equal measure, helping minimize risk to China's stated goal of a strong and stable currency.

Obvious candidates to become licensed issuers include the Hong Kong branches of state-run lenders like Bank of China and Bank of Communications.

They could buy offshore yuan-denominated paper, known as dim sum bonds, to hold in reserve and facilitate issuance. If and when demand for stablecoins grows, China's central government and policy banks can simply sell more dim sum bonds to these banks to expand the pool of offshore yuan-denominated assets. And since the new debt in this scenario simply sits with the banks, authorities do not have to worry about extra liquidity unduly impacting the exchange rate.

Use cases will probably be limited at first. Trade finance may be one bright spot: stablecoins can help lower transaction costs, speed up settlements and increase transparency. Stringent anti-money laundering rules included in Hong Kong's new regulations ought to help assuage concerns over unapproved or illicit use, as should the trail of settlements left on a blockchain by every stablecoin transaction.

In an ideal world this would kick off a virtuous cycle that helps bolster global demand for the yuan, starting with offshore renminbi-denominated debt. Issuance of dim sum bonds in Hong Kong this year already topped 475 billion yuan (\$66.2 billion), per the Financial Times, and is on a course to surpass last year's record high. But that's largely due to higher yields offered on offshore bonds relative to the domestic market.