

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.



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 pharmaceutical 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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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.



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

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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.



CPD now recommends increasing that to 76.96 MtCO2e by 2030, including 19.24 MtCO2e of unconditional cuts.

The findings were presented by CPD Senior Research Associate Helen Mashiyat Preety and Programme Associate Mehadi Hasan Shamim at a discussion titled "NDC 3.0 for the Power Sector: Is Bangladesh Setting Ambitious Targets?" held at the Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka.

The think tank proposed setting

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Dhaka Bank launches 'Entrepreneurship Development Program' with BB

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Bank PLC, in collaboration with Bangladesh Bank, has launched a month-long skills development training initiative, titled "Entrepreneurship Development Program", in Dhaka recently.

Designed to support aspiring and existing entrepreneurs particularly those outside the formal banking network, the programme aims to equip participants with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to expand their businesses, access finance, and generate employment.

The training will run until 15 September 2025.

The course comprises 100 hours of sessions over one month, with 25 participants selected by a five-member trainee selection committee.



Husne Ara Shikha, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of the skills development training initiative, titled "Entrepreneurship Development Program", in Dhaka recently.

Husne Ara Shikha, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the programme as chief guest, according to a press release.

The initiative forms part of the "Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)," a project of the

Ministry of Finance supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Dhaka Bank, selected to represent the Dhaka region, is conducting the training through its institutional infrastructure.

AKM Shahnewaj, managing director and CEO (current charge) of Dhaka Bank PLC, presided over the programme.

Among others, Md Nazrul Islam, project director of SICIP and additional director of the central bank; Md Ayub Ali, joint director; Md Mostaque Ahmed, deputy managing director and CEO of Dhaka Bank PLC; Md Mahbubur Rahman Palash, head of MSME and emerging business division; and Fahmida Chowdhury, principal of Dhaka Bank Training Institute, were also present.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK



PHOTO: NATIONAL BANK

Adil Chowdhury, managing director of National Bank PLC, inaugurates the relocated Dhanmondi extension branch at Jigatola in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

National Bank opens relocated Dhanmondi extension branch

STAR BUSINESS DESK

National Bank PLC yesterday unveiled a relocated Dhanmondi extension branch at Jigatola in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Adil Chowdhury, managing director of National Bank PLC, inaugurated the branch as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Chowdhury said, "The Dhanmondi extension branch is beginning a new journey at its new location with broader space and higher service capacity."

"I firmly believe this branch will play a vital role in boosting business activities

in this area and in expanding financial services for the people," he added.

Kazi Kamal Uddin Ahmed and Md Meshkat-Ul-Anwar Khan, deputy managing directors (in charge) of the bank; Ashish Kumar Laskar, executive vice-president and head of the Dhaka South region; Mohammad Nabir Hossain Howlader, assistant vice-president and manager of the Dhanmondi Extension Branch; SM Shamim Hasan, executive director of Bishwas Builders Ltd; and Md Shafiqul Islam, proprietor and importer of M/S Islam Traders; along with branch officials, local businesspersons, and clients, were also present.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC has been recognised by Bangladesh Bank (BB) as one of the Top 10 Sustainable Banks in Bangladesh at the Sustainability Rating 2024.

This recognition reflects the bank's strong performance across five key indicators: core banking sustainability (including the bank's core ratios, non-performing loans, capital adequacy, and annual profit), green and sustainable finance, banking coverage components, corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, and green refinance.

Ahsan H Mansur, governor of Bangladesh Bank, presented the certificate of excellence and a crest to M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, at the BB headquarters in the capital's Motijheel last week, according to a press release.

Expressing his gratitude, Arefin remarked, "This is the first time NCC Bank has been recognised by Bangladesh Bank as a 'Sustainable Bank,' and it marks a significant milestone in our journey. It reflects our unwavering commitment to strong corporate governance, responsible banking, and full compliance with regulatory guidelines."

"NCC Bank has consistently pursued sustainable growth through green financing, technology-driven innovation, CSR initiatives, and inclusive banking strategies. These efforts are part of our broader mission to support the country's economic development and environmental sustainability."

"We believe that this national recognition will further strengthen our sustainable banking initiatives and enhance the trust and confidence of our valued customers," he added.



M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, receives a certificate from Ahsan H Mansur, governor of the Bangladesh Bank, at the BB headquarters in the capital's Motijheel last week.

PHOTO: NCC BANK



PHOTO: SBAC BANK

Md Moklesur Rahman, chairman of SBAC Bank PLC, presides over the bank's 12th annual general meeting at RAOWA Convention Centre in the capital's Mohakhali recently. Md Maksudur Rahman Sarker, independent director and chairman of board audit committee at the bank; Mushfiqur Rahman, director; Mohammad Moqbul Hossain Bhuiyan, independent director; Md Abdur Razzak, chairman of Shariah supervisory committee; Md Rabiu Islam, managing director and CEO (current charge); Md Altaf Hossain Bhuyan and Md Nazimuddoula, deputy managing directors, and Md Mokaddess Ali, company secretary and executive vice-president, were also present.



PHOTO: NRBC BANK

Ali Hossain Prodhania, chairman and independent director of NRBC Bank PLC, presides over the bank's 12th annual general meeting at Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka recently. Muhammad Emdad Ullah, independent director and chairman of the audit committee; Nurul Haque, independent director and chairman of the risk management committee; Abul Bashar, Anwar Hossain and Md Shafiqul Rahman, independent directors; Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO; Harunur Rashid, deputy managing director and chief financial officer, and Mohammad Ahsan Habib, company secretary, were also present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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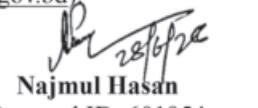
Date: 24/08/2025

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.
- For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


Najmul Hasan
Personal ID: 601954
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Madaripur

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.

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 Rezwan Khan, former Research Director at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Asaduzzaman, and former BUET dean Prof Ijaz Hossain spoke, among others.

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.

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'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.

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.

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.

"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.

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

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.

পারক নং ৫৩০/১/কিট/রেশন/০১

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
রাজ্যিক একাডেমি বাটালিয়ন-৫
মোঝাপাড়া, হকুমাম, রাজশাহী

উন্নত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

তারিখ: ২৪ আগস্ট ২০২৫

২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের অক্টোবর/২০২৫ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত বার-৫, রাজশাহীর কার্যালয়ে মিমুর্সিত কার্যক্রম "The Public Procurement Act-2006" and "Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক টিকিলের নিয়মের মিলে প্রত্যেক বাণিজ্যিক বাটালিয়ন-৫, মোঝাপাড়া, হকুমাম, রাজশাহী।

১. মূল্যায়ন/কোম্পানি
২. সর্বপ্রতিক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান
৩. কি কর্তব্যে দরপত্র আবশ্যিক
৪. মূল্যায়ন মূল্য
৫. কার্যক্রম বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান
৬. কার্যক্রম বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান
৭. দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান
৮. বাটালিয়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান
৯. অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা
১০. বাটালিয়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান
১১. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান
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১৩. অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা
১৪. অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা
১৫. অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা
১৬. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান
১৭. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী কর্মকর্তা
১৮. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী কর্মকর্তা
১৯. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী কর্মকর্তা
২০. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী কর্মকর্তা

১. মূল্যায়ন/কোম্পানি
২. বাটালিয়ন পুলিশ।
৩. অধিনায়ক, রাজশাহী একাডেমি বাটালিয়ন-৫, মোঝাপাড়া, হকুমাম, রাজশাহী।
৪. প্রেস "ক' ভোজা টেল (স্যারিসিম) এবং প্রেস "খ' উন্নতাবাদের মেলা মন্ত্র ভাল সরবরাহ।
৫. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান কর্তব্য প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান কর্তব্য প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান।
৬. ২৪ আগস্ট ২০২৫।
৭. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান কর্তব্য প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান।
৮. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান কর্তব্য প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান।
৯. ২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫।
১০. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান কর্তব্য প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান।
১১. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান কর্তব্য প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান।
১২. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান কর্তব্য প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান।
১৩. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান কর্তব্য প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান।
১৪. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান কর্তব্য প্রক্রিয়াকারী প্রধান।
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২১. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী কর্মকর্তা
২২. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী কর্মকর্তা
২৩. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী কর্মকর্তা
২৪. দেশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রক্রিয়াকারী কর্ম

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.

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.

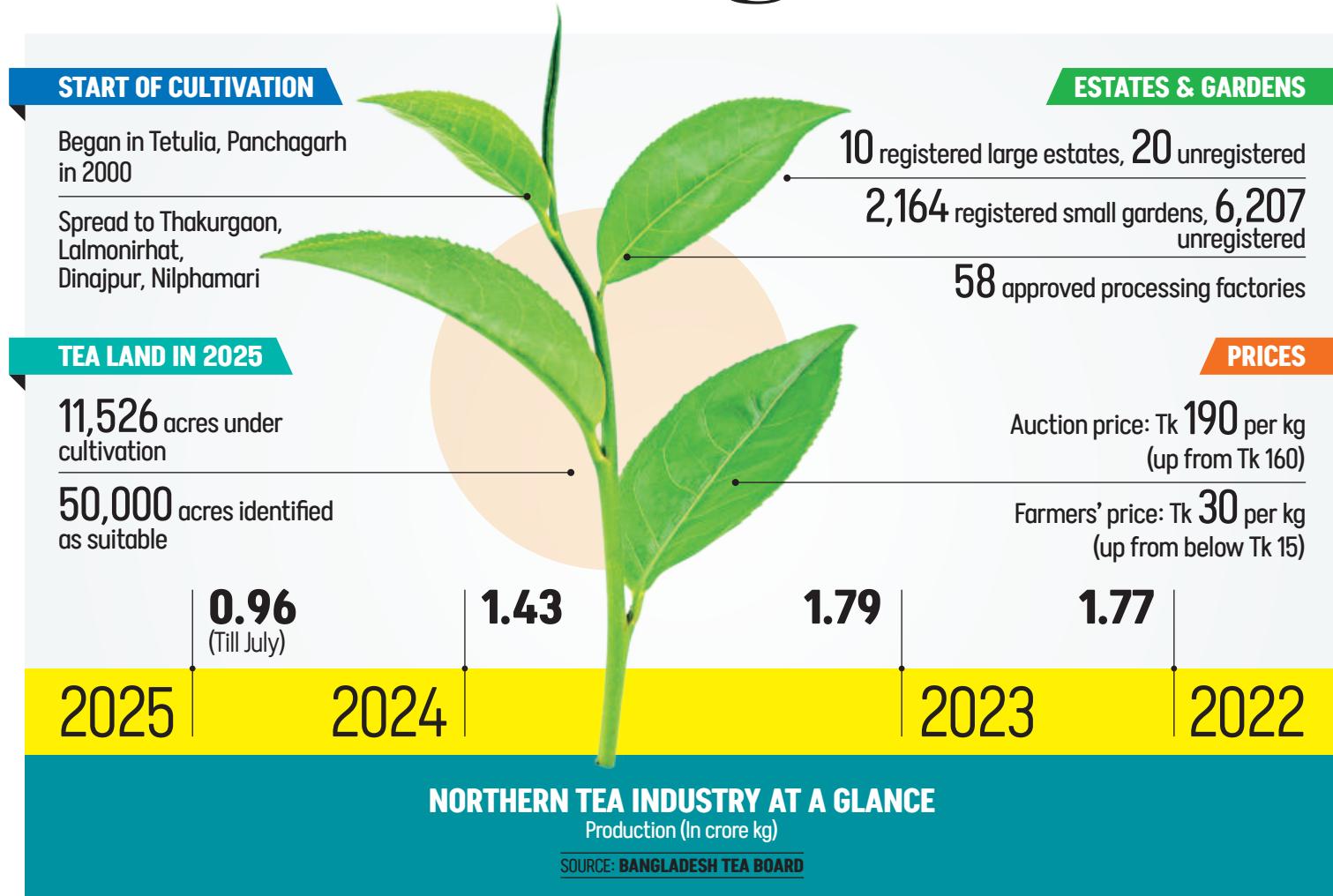
Lagarde listed a rise in the number of workers from outside the 20 countries that share the euro as a factor that supported the bloc's economy despite a growing preference for fewer working hours and a fall in living standards in some sectors.

"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.

Rising tea prices bring new life to northern growers



MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT,
Thakurgaon

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

Dashmille 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

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.

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.

Hong Kong, which sits outside Chinese



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.

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.

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 trial 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.