



A man uses a mould to design blocks on cloth for saris and three-piece suits at Baitun Noor Shopping Complex in Khulna city. They charge Tk 300-Tk 600 for each sari design and can make 3-5 blocks a day. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

CPA halts penal rent on FCL containers for a month

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has suspended the fourfold penal rent on storage of imported full container load (FCL) containers for one month, giving businesses time to clear goods without penalty.

FCL refers to a shipment in which a single shipper's goods occupy an entire container.

In a circular issued on Tuesday, the CPA said the suspension would remain in effect from August 23 to September 22. The facility will not apply to empty containers.

On March 10 this year, the port authority imposed the higher rent on storage of FCL containers lying at the port and the Kamalapur Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Dhaka as a punitive measure, since an increased number of undelivered imported FCL containers severely disrupted the port's operations.

Later, different business associations, including the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, requested the CPA to reconsider the decision.

Digital transactions surge

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wallets, internet banking usage stands at 44 percent, and card usage at 30 percent.

Government initiatives, such as distributing social allowances and scholarships through MFS, enabling digital tax payments, and facilitating utility bill payments, have significantly reduced leakages and improved efficiency.

Bhattacharya noted that Bangladesh remains in a transitional phase, characterised by "partial and uneven" digital adoption.

He also noted overreliance on platforms such as bKash and Nagad and underuse of interoperability systems.

He highlighted critical barriers to a cashless economy in Bangladesh, including 84.9 percent of the workforce operating in the informal sector with low digital literacy and limited banking access.

Other challenges include poor internet and power infrastructure and user mistrust, with one in ten MFS users reporting fraud.

"Overreliance on platforms like bKash and Nagad adds risk, and interoperability systems remain underused," he also said.

Banks incur Tk 260 crore annually on cash handling, and avoidance of VAT, plus lack of digital incentives, further hinders progress, added the policy

expert.

To accelerate the shift toward a cashless economy, he put forward three key recommendations.

First, an aspirational framework to promote digital literacy, expand the internet, make smartphones affordable, and build trust through cybersecurity.

Second, an integrated action plan led by the Planning Commission to mandate digital governance and incentivise merchants.

Lastly, identifying lead institutions, with Bangladesh Bank heading a multi-stakeholder task force for coordination, compliance, and innovation.

Also speaking at the event, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said the central bank is preparing a regulation requiring all licensed businesses to obtain a national unified QR code and accept QR payments, with non-compliance punishable by law.

"If a customer wishes to make a payment via QR, the business must accept it. Failure to do so will be a punishable offence. In the future, this regulation will be formalised into law," he said.

He also noted that although digital transactions are reportedly increasing, data indicate that cash usage is not declining.

"Customers use cash at the start (receiving salaries) and end (making purchases)

points, while only intermediate transactions, bank-to-bank or MFS, are digital.

"Therefore, cash-outs need to be reduced, and incentives should be offered for keeping money in wallets and using it directly," he explained.

He said the Bangladesh Bank prints currency to meet market demand.

"The demand for printed money is growing, rising at least 10 percent annually, costing about Tk 20,000 crore per year," he said.

He also mentioned plans to fully digitise and mobile-enable agent banking, saying banks have been requested to enhance the digital skills of their agents, which will improve financial inclusion, he said.

The banking regulator aims to implement a strategic shift from cash to digital transactions within the next year.

Speaking at the summit, ICMB President Mahtab Uddin Ahmed said, "Bangladesh is at a critical juncture in its financial evolution. The shift to a cashless economy is no longer a distant goal but an immediate necessity."

Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Mastercard Bangladesh, said a cashless society drives innovation, enhances efficiency, and expands financial access across sectors, marking a step towards a future-ready, inclusive economy.

31 banks lost Tk 3,600cr

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Last year, Janata Bank took the biggest hit, losing Tk 400 crore, mainly from the Beximco Sukuk Bond, Shahjalal Islami Bank lost between Tk 100 crore and Tk 200 crore each.

Md Mazibur Rahman, managing director of Janata Bank, could not be reached for comment. He did not receive phone calls or reply to messages.

Ali Imam, managing director and CEO of Edge Asset Management, said the poor performance shows a deeper problem in the way banks manage their investment portfolios.

"Banks are the major institutional investors in the stock market, and the pale scenario of their

portfolio is showing the behavioural problem of the investors," he said.

Even though banks follow good governance in their banking operation, they incurred a huge loss, which is mainly due to their lack of expertise," said Imam.

He said banks appoint officials who are trained to deal with collateral-based lending, not equity.

So, when these officials manage the equity investment, it does not give a good return. Sometimes they invest in some equity where they could not even lend.

The market slumped throughout 2024. The

benchmark DSEX index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) fell 16 percent, or 1,026 points, last year.

But, Imam said this was not the main reason for the woes of the banks. "Portfolio managers do better even in a dull market scenario," he said.

The CEO of Edge Asset Management said stock investments require specialised skills very different from money market or foreign exchange management, where bank treasury departments usually focus. Without professionals to guide their strategies, banks risk losing further or missing out on better returns.

Expert urges policy for local data hosting

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should formulate a policy to facilitate data hosting on local cloud infrastructure, said Plexus Cloud CEO Mobarain Hossain yesterday.

"Data residency, access, and control should be ensured locally," he said at a workshop on OpenStack-based sovereign cloud organised by the Bangladesh ICT Journalists Forum (BJJF) in Dhaka.

He explained that a sovereign cloud is a computing service that keeps all data, applications, and infrastructure within a specific country or region, strictly adhering to local laws.

"At the international level, this ensures that no other country can interfere in a state's internal affairs, and all sovereign states remain equal under international law," he added.

According to Hossain, sovereign cloud architecture enables digital sovereignty by giving governments and organisations enhanced control over sensitive data and protecting it from foreign jurisdiction. The benefits include jurisdictional control, robust security, and continuous regulatory compliance.

It also ensures resilience through high availability, minimal disruptions, and adaptability to evolving legal frameworks.

Furthermore, sovereign clouds support workload protection with comprehensive security auditing.

Stocks fall for second day

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka stocks ended lower yesterday for the second consecutive day, as turnover also plunged.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, inched down 5.51 points, or 0.10 percent, to close at 5,443.31.

The other indices performed similarly, as the Shariah-compliant DSES posted a drop of 0.12 percent to 1,188.72, while the DS30, which tracks blue-chip shares, fell 0.35 percent to 2,116.15.

Turnover, a key indicator of market participation, hit Tk 971.52 crore, down significantly from Tk 1,247.68 crore in the previous session.

A total of 271,340 trades were executed, with block transactions worth Tk 12,96 crore across 30 scrips.

Market breadth was negative, with 158 issues advancing, 174 declining, and 62 remaining unchanged.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Tourism Board
(National Tourism Organization)
Level-9-10 (Parjatan Bhaban), E-5 C/1, West Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka - 1207.

Invitation for Tender Notice

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
2. Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB)
3. Invitation for	Non-Consulting Services for Organizing World Tourism Day (WTD) - 2025
4. Invitation Ref No	30.33.0000.221.39.0001.18.528
KEY INFORMATION	
5. Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
6. Budget and Source of funds	GOB
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
7. Tender Publication Date	August 28, 2025
8. Place, Last date & Time of selling tender documents	Public Relation Section, Bangladesh Tourism Board Level-9-10 (Parjatan Bhaban), E-5 C/1, West Agargaon Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka - 1207 September 11, 2025; Time: 3:00 pm.
9. Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender documents	Date: September 14, 2025; Time: 12:00 pm.
10. Place of submission	Office of the Chief Executive Officer Bangladesh Tourism Board Level-9-10 (Parjatan Bhaban), E-5 C/1, West Agargaon Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka - 1207
11. Tender opening date and time	September 14, 2025; Time: 1:00 pm.
12. Place of opening	Office of the Chief Executive Officer Bangladesh Tourism Board Level-9-10 (Parjatan Bhaban), E-5 C/1, West Agargaon Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka - 1207.
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
13. Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	1. 5 years' work experience as Event Management Firm in Bangladesh. 2. Experience of organizing at least 05 (Five) contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of 5 (Five) years with a value of at least Tk 1.00 (One crore) shall be required. Among the 05 (five) similar contracts. 3. Updated Trade License, Updated Income Tax clearance certificate, Audit report of last 03 years, e-TIN Certificate and VAT Certificate. 4. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be 1.00 (one crore) crore. 5. Valid document of Annual Turnover at least 1 crore. 6. Other necessary document as per tender document and PPR-2008.
14. Brief description of services	1. Event Management services for organizing World Tourism Day (WTD)-2025 2. Venue decoration, Outdoor branding, Tourism Day Celebration, Workshop arrangement, Design and supply Program Materials.
15. Price of Tender Document (BDT)	BDT. 1000.00 (One thousand taka) non-refundable
16. Tender security	The amount of the Tender Security shall be for Tk. 2,50,000.00 (Two Lakh Fifty Thousand taka) in the form of Pay Order in favour of the "Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Tourism Board".
PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAILS	
17. Name & Designation of Official Initiating Tender	Md. Burhan Uddin, Deputy Director (Public Relation), Bangladesh Tourism Board (National Tourism Organization), Level-9-10 (Parjatan Bhaban), E-5 C/1, West Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka - 1207.
18. Contact details of the official inviting Tender	Phone: +88-02-41024234 E-mail: btbnto@gmail.com

The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all tenders of annual the tender proceedings without assigning any reason.

Md. Burhan Uddin
Deputy Director (Public Relation)
Bangladesh Tourism Board



Apply for
A Defining Role as a
Proven Leader

With over 1,400 branches and sub-branches (Uposhakhas) nationwide, IFIC Bank PLC holds the distinction of being Bangladesh's largest bank by network. Today, IFIC Bank offers a full suite of banking services—including corporate, retail, SME, investment banking, digital, and Islamic products—and is committed to sustainable growth, best-in-class service delivery and diversified portfolios. Led by an experienced Senior Management Team, our strategic focus includes expansion of retail, MSME, and corporate operations, risk management, and digital transformation.

As part of its strategic drive to enhance asset quality and accelerate recovery performance, IFIC Bank is seeking an accomplished senior leader to serve as Deputy Managing Director (DMD). This pivotal role will lead the Bank's end-to-end loan recovery strategies, oversee large-scale recovery operations, and lead the initiatives to significantly reduce non-performing loans (NPLs).

DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Oversee and guide a large, specialized recovery team at the Head Office with challenging recovery targets and ensuring accountability for results.
- Formulate and execute targeted recovery plans for non-performing, stressed, and written-off assets, delivering measurable results while ensuring strict adherence to legal and regulatory frameworks.
- Drive branch-level recovery performance through continuous monitoring, performance reviews, and direct engagement with branch business.
- Work closely with legal, and external lawyers to quickly resolve court cases under Artha Rin Adalat act to achieve targeted recovery goals.
- Manage relationships with key borrowers and other relevant stakeholders along with regulatory and government authorities.
- Initiate negotiations with defaulters for restructuring, settlement, or legal action.
- Drive early identification and proactive management of potentially at-risk accounts through robust monitoring systems and early warning mechanisms.
- Support the Managing Director in executing strategic initiatives by offering expert insights on lending and recovery trends, market behavior, and client solutions.
- Develop policies for restructuring, rescheduling, or settlement of bad loans.
- Build a culture of accountability, transparency, and ethical conduct in all recovery efforts.

KEY REQUIREMENTS:

Education & Experience Requirements

- Master's/MBA/MBM from a reputed university with no 3rd division/class in any examination.
- Minimum 15 years of experience in Banking or NBFIs, including at least 5 years in senior management roles—preferably involving lending, risk oversight, or corporate governance, with experience as a member of the Credit Committee and/or ALCO.
- Demonstrated track record in managing large-scale recovery operations, restructuring deteriorating assets, and improving portfolio quality.

Personal Attributes

- Proven ability to manage large teams and cross-functional coordination with business, risk, and compliance units.
- Strong expertise in loan recovery strategies, credit operations, and risk assessment.
- In-depth understanding of Bangladesh Bank regulations, particularly in rescheduling, restructuring, and resolution of distressed loans.
- Ability to persistently pursue corporate loan defaulters for recovery, restructuring, exit settlements, and negotiate favorable terms effectively.
- Excellent judgment, leadership maturity, and ability to work under pressure in high-stakes environments.

How to Apply

If you believe you are the right person, please send the following to career@ificbankbd.com with subject line: "Application - Deputy Managing Director".

- A cover letter expressing interest in the role along with concise career summary.
- A detailed résumé/CV including detailed work history: position titles, job grade, employers, durations (day/month/year), and key achievements.

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. IFIC Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.