

Direct tax expansion, compliance to help boost FDI: business leaders

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Expanding the direct tax base, boosting domestic consumption and ensuring tax compliance in a professional manner are crucial to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and strengthening revenue collection, business leaders said.

They spoke at a seminar on the macroeconomic outlook and the impact of the Finance Ordinance 2025, organised by MABS & J Partners at a hotel in Dhaka

on Monday, according to a press release. Speakers stressed greater transparency in revenue collection and rationalising tax exemptions.

They welcomed steps such as the contractionary monetary policy to tame inflation, new rules on non-performing loans, moves to align with international standards and the formation of a task force for banking sector reforms.

The event brought together economists, business leaders, professionals and

policymakers to share views on fiscal policy and its impact on the economy.

Kamran T Rahman, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), termed the Finance Ordinance 2025 an integral part of the national budget, saying it comes at a critical juncture for Bangladesh's economy.

"We are facing persistent inflationary pressure, sluggish private investment and the challenge of LDC graduation. In this context, the government has tried to

strike a balance between fiscal prudence and economic growth," he said.

Md Shahadat Hossain, senior partner at MABS & J Partners, an affiliated CA firm of Nexia in Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper.

He noted that foreign exchange reserves stood at \$25.9 billion, with gross reserves projected to exceed \$30 billion by mid 2025, supported by strong remittance inflows and slower import growth.

EBL women clients to get discounts on beauty, wellness services via Sheba

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has signed an agreement with Sheba.xyz, the country's largest service marketplace and one-stop platform for home services.

M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking at Eastern Bank PLC, and Adnan Imtiaz Halim, founder and chief executive officer of Sheba.xyz, inked the deal at the bank's head office in the capital recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Eastern Bank's women banking customers will enjoy discounts on beauty and wellness services through the Sheba.xyz online platform.

Among others, Sarmin Atik, head of liability and wealth management of the bank; Tanzeri Hoque, head of priority and women banking; Farzana Qader, head of retail alliance; Ronald Micky Gomes, chief operating officer of Sheba.xyz; and Nudrat Nawar Nodee, assistant vice-president and head of commercial, were also present.



Adnan Imtiaz Halim, founder and chief executive officer of Sheba.xyz, and M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking at Eastern Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

Pubali Bank wins awards at ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC recently won awards in five categories at the "3rd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards 2025", organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce at Le Meridien in New Delhi.

The categories were Best Bank, Asset Quality, Growth, MSME Acceleration and AI/ML Implementation.

JPR Karunaratne, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, presented an award to Monzurur Rahman, chairman of Pubali Bank PLC, at the ceremony held in the Indian capital, according to a press release.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank, was also present.

Partha Ray, director of the National Institute of Bank Management; Joydeep K Roy, president and CEO of QUIET Inc and former partner at PwC; and Atanu Sen, former chairman of NPS Trust-PFRDA, former managing director and CEO of SBI Life Insurance Co Ltd, and chairman of ICC's National Expert Committee on BFSI, attended the event.



Monzurur Rahman, chairman of Pubali Bank PLC, receives an award from JPR Karunaratne, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, at the "3rd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards 2025" at Le Meridien in New Delhi recently.

Textile Series Exhibitions to begin in Dhaka on Sept 10



Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global for the USA and Asia-Pacific, speaks at a press conference at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: CEMS BANGLADESH

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The 24th Bangladesh edition of the "Textile Series of Exhibitions", a major international showcase for

the textile and garment industry, will begin in the capital's Purbachal on September 10.

The four day event, jointly organised by CEMS-Global USA and

CEMS Bangladesh, will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre, according to a press release.

Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global for the USA and Asia-Pacific, announced the event at a press conference at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka yesterday.

For over two decades, the exhibition has brought together global manufacturers, professionals and innovators from across the textile and apparel supply chain.

By hosting thousands of exhibitors, visitors and buyers every year, it has helped position Bangladesh as a reliable and innovative global sourcing hub, organisers said.



Raiyan Shahriar Islam, chairman of the board of trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Foundation Bangladesh; Mirza Salman Ispahani, honorary secretary; Talita Choudhury, treasurer, and Naser Ezaz Bijoy, Zakiya Shahrood Khan Runa and Rizwan Bin Farouq, members of the board of trustees, pose for photographs at the foundation's annual general meeting 2025 at Standard Chartered Bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

BRAC Bank appoints Tareq Refat Ullah Khan as MD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank PLC has appointed Tareq Refat Ullah Khan as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of the bank, effective from September 2, 2025.



Tareq Refat Ullah Khan

Prior to this appointment, Khan had been serving as MD and CEO (current charge) since May 27 this year, according to a press release.

He began his career with IFIC Bank and subsequently held various roles at Eastern Bank and AB Bank.

Khan joined BRAC Bank in 2017 as head of credit risk management, bringing nearly three decades of experience at leading financial institutions.

His career has been marked by innovation and excellence, particularly in corporate and institutional banking, transaction banking, and risk management.

In April 2025, he was promoted to additional managing director and head of corporate and institutional banking in recognition of his leadership in driving innovation, business growth, and organisational transformation.

Commenting on Khan's appointment, Meheriar M Hasan, chairperson of BRAC Bank, said: "Tareq is the right leader to take BRAC Bank into its next phase. His vision, integrity and leadership will make the bank more trusted, innovative and inclusive, positively impacting customers, the banking industry, society and the state."

Khan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Chittagong and a master's degree in marketing from the University of Dhaka. He later completed an MBA.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Promoting Diaspora Investment and Optimal Usage of Remittance Project (1st Revision)

Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB)

Probashi Kallyan Bhaban

Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

www.wewb.gov.bd

Reference No. 49.04.0000.004.18.158.25-130

Date: 02-09-2025

Tender Notice

Invitation for Tenders for Hiring of Vehicles for Promoting Diaspora Investment and Optimal Usage of Remittance Project (1st Revision):

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment			
2	Agency	Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB)			
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Promoting Diaspora Investment and Optimal Usage of Remittance Project (1st Revision)			
4	Procuring entity code	N/A			
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka			
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Service Provider Firm for Transport Hiring			
7	Tender Ref. No. & date	49.04.0000.004.18.158.25-130, Date: 02/09/2025			
8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National) (OTM)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
9	Budget and source of funds	Grant, IFAD			
10	Development partners	Grant, IFAD			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
11	Project/programme code	223043600			
12	Project/programme name	Promoting Diaspora Investment and Optimal Usage of Remittance Project (1st Revision)			
13	Date	Time			
14	03/09/2025				
15	17/09/2025	5.00pm			
16	18/09/2025	2.00pm			
17	Name & address of the office	Project Office: Promoting Diaspora Investment and Optimal Usage of Remittance Project (1st Revision); Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) Probashi Kallyan Bhaban Level-10, Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000. Ph No. +8802-22222347; E-mail: d.ipr@wewb.gov.bd			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
18	Brief description of the service	Hiring of 04 (Four) Microbuses for Official Purposes			
19	Eligibility, experience, resources, delivery capacity required and other details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Service Provider must have minimum 3 (three) years experience in providing similar services in govt./semi govt./statutory bodies/autonomous bodies; Must have completed similar nature of service with a minimum value of BDT 21,00,00.00 (Taka twenty-one lakh) under a single contract within the last (3) three years; Other criteria as mentioned in Tender Document (PSN) 			
20	Package No.	Location	Tender security amount (BDT)	Completion time after contract signing (months)	
	SD-02	Procurement of Service Provider Firm for Transport Hiring	Dhaka	68,000.00 (Taka sixty-eight thousand)	03 months
21	Price of tender documents	1000.00 (one thousand) Taka only (non-refundable)			
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
22	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Imran Ahmed			
23	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director (Deputy Secretary)			
24	Address of official inviting tender	Promoting Diaspora Investment and Optimal Usage of Remittance Project (1st Revision) Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) Probashi Kallyan Bhaban Level-10, Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000			
25	Contact details of official inviting tender	Ph. No. +8802-22222347; E-mail: d.ipr@wewb.gov.bd			
26	The procuring entity reserves all the rights to accept or reject all the Tenders without showing any reason.				

Md. Imran Ahmed
Project Director (Deputy Secretary)