

Customs houses to run on limited scale during Puja holidays

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's customs houses and stations will continue operating on a limited scale to facilitate imports and exports during the upcoming Durga Puja holidays, which begin today.

The move aims to ensure uninterrupted trade flows despite the two-day public holiday on October 1-2, marking the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community.

In a notice issued yesterday, the National Board of Revenue instructed officials to take necessary measures to ensure cross-border shipments proceed smoothly during the festival period.

Stocks extend gains

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The main index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) closed higher yesterday, extending gains for a second straight session as engineering and banking shares advanced, while turnover also picked up.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the bourse, gained 26 points, or 0.48 percent, to close at 5,415.78, according to DSE data.

Other indices had mixed performances as the Shariah-based DSES increased, while the blue-chip DS30 declined.

Turnover, a key indicator of investor activity, stood at Tk 696.8 crore, up from Tk 599.33 crore in the previous session, reflecting higher investor participation in line with the market rally.

The market closed in the green as most large-cap sectors posted positive performances, said BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Ltd in its daily market update.

Block trades, high-volume transactions involving large numbers of securities, contributed 8.8 percent of the overall market turnover.

Market breadth was mostly positive, with 207 issues advancing against 130 declining, while 60 remained unchanged.

Among the major sectors, engineering shares booked the day's highest gain of 1.18 percent, followed by banks at 1.02 percent and non-bank financial institutions at 0.79 percent.

Telecommunication advanced 0.54 percent, while fuel and power edged up 0.20 percent, and pharmaceuticals added 0.18 percent. In contrast, food and allied shed 0.63 percent.

With new law

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and the mandatory e-GP system "a decisive shift away from outdated practices that had allowed space for manipulation and political influence".

He advocated for independent monitoring, performance audits and stronger capacity-building in ministries to ensure consistent enforcement.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, said the new rules indicate "a shift away from favouritism, political

influence, and inefficiency in procurement".

He described the inclusion of beneficial ownership disclosure and sustainability principles as a significant step, but said ministries will need greater technical and administrative capacity to put the reforms into practice.

Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said that reforms must be applied equally across the board. "Equality is more

important because within the process itself, there are segments that enable formalistic control and obstruct the spirit of open competition," he said.

He said loopholes could still be exploited if internal controls are poorly designed or selectively applied.

The withdrawal of certain provisions may help close avenues for manipulation, creating space for healthier competition. "That is what we should aspire to," added the TIB executive director.

How stock investors get scammed

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The exposé comes just weeks after the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and the BSEC issued warnings against such fraudsters.

The group has been using the DSE name, logo, and even its official address to appear credible before approaching people on WhatsApp and other platforms, they warned.

The regulator reminded investors that publishing market advice without

registration is illegal under the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Research Analyst) Rules, 2013.

Similar scams have

previously been reported in

India, where social media,

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Islamic bank deposits

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However, the number of rural branches of full-fledged Islamic banks has not kept pace with demand. "They may focus more on expanding their outreach into rural areas," said the report.

The report said Islamic banks may invest more in industries that bring about social benefits, particularly in agriculture and small businesses.

The BB said some

full-fledged Islamic banks had faced severe liquidity crises in the recent past due to irregularities and a lack of good governance.

"So, it is essential to establish good governance in the Islamic banking system, as good governance and accountability are key to navigating the current crisis and ensuring sustainable growth of this sector," said the central bank.

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Similar scams have previously been reported in India, where social media, messaging platforms, and fake websites were used to lure ordinary users with promises of high returns from the stock market, ultimately defrauding them of millions of rupees.

The decision to go fully digital followed a high-level inter-agency meeting held at Bida headquarters on September 2 this year, chaired by the Bida executive chairman and attended by Ghani.

Representatives from the Department of Immigration and Passports, law enforcement agencies, and investment promotion bodies were also present.

These reforms are expected to be completed by December 2025, aiming to make Bangladesh's investment climate more efficient, transparent, and globally competitive.

The BB said some

Independence of BB

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financial stability, enforce discipline in the banking sector, and credibly apply an orthodox monetary policy, said Rahman.

In effect, central bank independence is no longer a desirable policy choice—it is a fundamental necessity for Bangladesh's economic future. Without it, stabilisation will remain fragile, vulnerable to capture, and at constant risk of reversal, he added.

Addressing the event

as chief guest, former BB governor Mohammed Farashuddin said the government should not

persecute everybody in order to create congeniality

so that the private sector can do business and create jobs.

The government should identify some 10 to 12 "delinquent" companies, and it should go all the way to punish them by collecting evidence and

let all other companies go about their business, he said.

"We must create a condition of congeniality to let the economy grow. It is not good to persecute everybody," he said.

Money laundering takes place in almost all countries. According to a Washington-based think tank, \$7 billion has been laundered on average from Bangladesh every year since 2004, said Farashuddin.

"But good friends of mine heading a taskforce have found it to be \$17 billion... We should not dramatise... we should go slow, steady, and do our jobs," he said.

He lauded the government for the financial reforms it has been bringing about, saying, "This is the best financial reform in many years in Bangladesh."

The former BB governor also praised the

government for purchasing food grains in large amounts, which raised food stocks.

He said the country needs large amounts of venture capital to identify and support cottage, small and medium enterprises, and that would solve unemployment, and disparity.

Rizwan Rahman, former president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry, urged the creation of an instrument for ensuring accountability.

A national accountability commission can be formed involving members of civil society, he added.

Kamran T Rahman, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dhaka, urged a focus on ensuring energy for the private sector and increasing revenue mobilisation.

UN to support

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Shipments to Canada and Japan will also face higher tariffs, while pharmaceutical manufacturers will need to comply with international patent law, which could push up medicine prices.

Prof Yunus welcomed the readiness assessment, stressing the importance of evidence before making the transition.

"It has become an

emotional issue," he said, underlining the need for data-driven decisions.

Fatima pointed out that the UN's most recent economic figures on Bangladesh are more than two years old.

"A lot has changed since then," she said, stressing the urgency of reassessing the country's current economic landscape.

Prof Yunus also voiced concern for the future of

the pharmaceutical sector, which has long benefited from trade preferences linked to LDC status.

He said graduation could jeopardise the industry unless adequate transition measures are introduced, according to the statement.

Bangladesh was placed in the LDC category in 1975. It first met graduation criteria in 2018, and again in reviews in 2021 and 2024.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food
Directorate General of Food
Procurement Division
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
www.dgfood.gov.bd

Date: 30/09/2025.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE FOR IMPORT OF NON-BASMATI PARBOILED RICE (Package-02, FY- 2025-2026)

(Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice)

No. 13.01.0000.093.46.003.25-716

International tender in sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders for supply of 50,000 (Fifty thousand) (5%±) Metric Tons of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice. The particulars of international tender are furnished below:

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1 Ministry/Division : Ministry of Food
2 Agency : Not applicable
3 Procuring Entity Name : Director Procurement
4 Procuring Entity Code : Not applicable
5 Procuring Entity District : Dhaka
6 Invitation for : Procurement of 50,000 MT (5%+) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice
7 Invitation Ref. No. & Date : 13.01.0000.093.46.003.25-716, Dated: 30/09/2025

KEY INFORMATION:
8 Procuring Method : International Open Tender Method

FUNDING INFORMATION:
9 Budget and Source of Fund : GoB Fund
10 Development Partners (If applicable) : Not applicable

PARTICULAR INFORMATION:
11 Project/ Programme / Code (If applicable) : Not applicable
12 Project/ Programme Name (If applicable) : Not applicable
13 Package No. : Package-02
14 Package Name : Procurement of 50,000 MT (5%+) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice
15 Notice publication date : 01 October, 2025
16 Selling of Tender schedule : 05 October, 2025 to 14 October, 2025 up to 4.30 PM (BST)
17 Date and Time of closing : 15 October, 2025, Upto Time 1.00 PM (BST)
18 Date and Time of opening : 15 October, 2025, Time 2.00 PM (BST)

19 Name and Address of the Office(s):
Selling Tender Documents : Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
Receiving place of Tender : 1) Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
2) Office Chamber of Joint Secretary, Room No. 114, (1st floor), Building No. 04, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
Opening Place of Tender : Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.

20 Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional) : Not applicable

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

21 Eligibility of Tender : Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

22 Brief Description of Goods or Works : 50,000 (5%+) MT of Non-basmati Parboiled rice at Chattogram (60%) and Mongla (40%) port on CIF Liner Out term. Cost of the Cargo, Insurance and Freight including Stevedoring, Overside Handling and Lightering are on seller's account. Single price per MT is to be quoted in US\$.

23 Brief Description of Related Services : Not applicable

24 Price of Tender Document (Tk.) : Tk 5,000 (five thousand) or USD 100 (One hundred) non-refundable by Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favour of Director General, Directorate General of Food.

Mode of Payment : Through Letter of Credit (L/C).
Crop Year : 2025 or latest
Validity of the offer : 30 October, 2025 Upto 5.00 PM. (BST)

25 Quality & Specification:

Quality parameters : Specification : Margin of tolerance with claim for deviation beyond specification : Rejection

Moisture (maximum) : 13.5% : 14.0% : above 14.0%

Broken grain (Maximum) : 5.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 2%) : 6.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 3%) : above 6.0%

Foreign matter (Maximum) : 0.3% : 0.5% : above 0.5%

Dead, damaged & discoloured grains (Maximum) : 3% in total : 4.0% : above 4.0%

Radio-Activity (maximum) : 50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country) : 50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country) : above 50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs

All the parameters must be limited to percentage mentioned against each item individually and separately.

Pack. no. : Identification of Shipment : Country of origin : Location : Tender Security Amount (US\$.) : Shipment period

Pack-02 : 50,000 MT (5%+) Non-Basmati Parboiled rice on CIF Liner out term : Any country of the world except Israel : Chattogram port-60% and Mongla port-40% : US\$ 300,000 (Three hundred thousand) in favour of Director General of Food for 50,000 MT Parboiled rice (5%+) in the form of a Bank draft/pay-order (No Bank Guarantee is allowed) : 40 (forty) days from the date of opening of the L/C. Note that at least 50% of the total quantity must be shipped within 25 days of opening of the L/C.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS:

26 Name of official inviting tender : G.M. Faruk Hossain Patwary
27 Designation of official inviting tender : Additional Director (Procurement)

28 Address of official inviting tender : Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.

29 Contact details of official inviting tender : Phone: +88-02-41050178 E-mail: dproc@dgfood.gov.bd

30 (i) Incomplete, conditional tender and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason.
(ii) Tenderer who has been awarded two NOAs (Notification of Award) waiting for signing the contract or has signed two contracts but shipment under any of the contracts has not yet set sail for destination, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender.
(iii) Tenderer who has been awarded NOAs (Notification of Award) earlier but could not execute contract by submitting PG (Performance Guarantee) on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the next two tenders.<br