

Provisioning rules eased for farm, small loans

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday relaxed loan classification rules to encourage banks to finance the farm sector and micro and small businesses.

Banks will maintain provisions at the rate of 1 percent in their Standard and Special Mention Accounts (SMAs) against all unclassified short-term agricultural loans and cottage, micro, and small enterprise credits until December 31, 2026, said the BB in a circular.

The central bank had earlier asked banks to maintain provisions at the rate of 1 percent on Standard accounts and 5 percent on SMAs. In its circular, it said the rule has been relaxed to encourage banks to disburse short-term agricultural credit and micro and small loans.

The directive becomes effective immediately. The BB earlier set a target for banks to disburse Tk 39,000 crore during the current fiscal year (FY) 2025-26, which is 4.48 percent higher than the actual lending of Tk 37,326 crore in the previous fiscal year.

In July of FY26, banks disbursed Tk 2,154 crore, up 20 percent from Tk 1,790 crore a year ago. The amount was, however, lower than the disbursement in June.

The report said that at the end of July, outstanding loans given by the scheduled banks increased by 4.5 percent year-on-year to Tk 59,470 crore. This increase was mainly driven by a rise in the outstanding balance of foreign banks and state-owned banks.

Govt dismisses rumours over merger of Islamic banks

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The finance ministry has rejected “baseless rumours” circulating on social media that investors would be harmed by the planned merger of five shariah-based commercial banks.

In a press release yesterday, the ministry said no decision has been taken that would undermine investor interests.

“The matter is completely baseless and a rumour. Everyone is requested to be careful about such misleading rumours,” it said.

The government has already approved the consolidation of First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, and Exim Bank into a new state-run Islamic lender named Sammilito Islami Bank Limited.

Under the merger, all assets and liabilities of the five listed banks will be transferred to the new entity.

The Bangladesh Bank said the lender will have an authorised capital of Tk 40,000 crore and a paid-up capital requirement of Tk 35,000 crore.

Monno Ceramic sponsor director to transfer Tk 20cr shares

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Afroza Khanam, a sponsor director of Monno Ceramic Industries, will transfer shares worth more than Tk 20 crore to her husband.

According to disclosures posted on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website yesterday, Khanam intends to transfer a combined 26 lakh shares of the company to her husband, Moynul Islam, a general shareholder, by way of gift outside the trading system of the exchange.

Based on Sunday’s closing price of Tk 78.7 per share, the transaction is valued at Tk 20.46 crore. The transfer is expected to be completed by October 31.

Monno Ceramic, one of the country’s leading ceramics producers, has faced earnings pressure in 2025 as higher finance costs eroded profitability.

The company reported a 43 percent year-on-year decline in profit for the financial year ending on June 30, with earnings per share falling to Tk 0.22 from Tk 0.39 a year earlier.

As of September 30, sponsors and directors held 37.43 percent of the company’s shares, institutions 14.29 percent, foreign investors 0.10 percent, and general shareholders 47.89 percent, according to DSE data.

Bhutan wants

FROM PAGE B1

Regarding Saarc, the ambassador acknowledged that regional cooperation has been slow but said she remains optimistic. “South Asia is home to nearly 1.5 billion people, and trade potential remains largely untapped.”

Meanwhile, moderating the discussion, Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said importing power from Bhutan will have to be transmitted through the Indian grid before reaching Bangladesh, so a tripartite agreement will be very important. “That’s indeed a very encouraging development.”

The distinguished CPD fellow also highlighted lessons from the Saarc Motor Vehicle Agreement (SA MVA), which eventually became the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) MVA after Pakistan raised legal concerns over cross-border incidents.

“At the last moment, Pakistan raised a question: if a truck travels from Lahore to Dhaka via India and meets an accident, which country’s law would adjudicate the dispute? That became a major sticking point,” he stated.

Nevertheless, Rahman noted that even the BBIN framework will be very important for the region.

“A motor vehicle agreement could significantly boost regional competitiveness by reducing lead time and costs,” Rahman said, acknowledging Bhutan’s

environmental concerns and noting that the country wants to limit vehicular movement.

Speaking about Safta, he said, “Unfortunately, it has not seen much progress. But it is worth remembering that there is still an LDC scheme under Safta through which India provides duty-free and quota-free access to all LDCs.”

Although Bhutan is no longer an LDC, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan continue to benefit from India’s duty-free access under this scheme since 2011, he further noted.

“Someone asked why our exports to India are increasing despite non-tariff barriers. One reason is that the zero-tariff benefit gives us a competitive advantage even when costs have gone up due to non-tariff barriers,” Rahman stated.

Mashfee Binte Shams, former secretary (East) at Bangladesh’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, drew comparisons with other regions, highlighting the importance of regional integration.

“Looking at Asean or the European Union, we see that their colonial experiences differ. Asean countries were colonised by three different powers — the British, French, and Portuguese — while Europeans were colonisers themselves.

“Yet both regions have moved toward integration. Africa too is coming together despite its colonial diversity.”

Private firms can now sell

FROM PAGE B1

Previously, all plants had to sign PPAs with the PDB, which acted as the sole authority to buy all electricity generated and sell it to consumers through six state-owned distributors.

Those agreements guaranteed that the government would buy a minimum portion of electricity from each plant.

The new merchant model aims to promote competition across power generation, transmission and distribution, improve efficiency, and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

“As the requirement for reducing the carbon footprint of consumer products, especially in the garments and textiles sector, is increasing, international buyers and local export-oriented industries have to comply with such requirements to remain in the business by using green energy from reliable sources at a competitive tariff, the policy is initiated,” added the policy.

The policy follows the Renewable Energy Policy introduced in June this year. It sets the goal of generating 20 percent of electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

Currently, grid-connected solar and wind plants produce around 829 megawatts (MW), which is roughly 3 percent of the country’s total capacity of 27,742 MW.

According to the new policy, merchant plants and their customers will negotiate power prices, while tariffs for state distributors will be determined by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

| WHAT'S IN THE NEW POLICY | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ➤ | Private renewable plants can sell power directly to customers |
| ➤ | State firms may also buy from them |
| ➤ | PDB no longer the sole buyer |
| ➤ | One investor can set up multiple projects |
| ➤ | There will be no govt intake guarantee |
| ➤ | Govt targets 20% power from renewables by 2030 |
| ➤ | Current renewable capacity is just 3% of total national capacity |

“The BERC would determine the technical standards of grid connectivity and the transmission-distribution charges on a non-discriminatory basis,” the policy said.

It also allows merchant plants to supply multiple customers and permits large consumers, such as industries and factories, to source electricity from more than one producer.

State-run distributors will be allowed to purchase up to 20 percent of an MPP’s declared monthly output.

However, the policy says that this will not constitute a government guarantee. The terms will instead be set through “Service Level Agreements” among the MPPs, PDB, Power Grid Bangladesh and relevant distributors.

At the Bangladesh Investment Summit in April, Swedish fashion retailer H&M, Pran-RFL Group and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) signed a memorandum of understanding to build a solar power plant under the MPP model.

Kamruzzaman Kamal, director (Marketing) of the Pran-RFL Group, said they have already selected land in Moulvibazar for the

project and are now waiting for a land reclassification approval from local authorities.

“Once that is done, we will start work on the ground. We have already advanced quite a bit,” he told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that the site will be used for multiple purposes, including fish farming during the monsoon and crop cultivation when dry.

Kamal said H&M would buy the electricity to supply its factories.

“Suppose we will generate around 100 MW of electricity and supply it to the national grid. The factories located in different areas of the country will get 100 MW from the national grid, and we will get payment from H&M,” he added.

Kamal said the deals to use the national grid are yet to begin as they were waiting for the policy to be approved. “Many investors will be interested in entering the electricity business through the new system. It will also help address the government’s power shortage and ensure better use of plants.”

Mostafa Al Mahmud, president of the Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association

(BSREA), an association of business houses and NGOs working for promoting clean energy, described the MPP policy as “a landmark and visionary initiative” that would open new opportunities for private and foreign investment in the power sector.

“It will help enhance competition, transparency and investor confidence in the market,” he said, adding that the policy will ensure a green, reliable and affordable electricity supply for industrial zones, export-oriented factories and economic zones.

Mahmud recommended swift formulation of implementation guidelines, stronger coordination among agencies, incentives for local production and technology transfer, and better access to green finance to make the policy effective.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at local think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), welcomed the policy.

He, however, said that its effective implementation will need additional rules, regulations, and clearer guidance.

Moazzem said industrial companies seeking renewable electricity quickly, without navigating lengthy bureaucratic procedures, will now be able to achieve their goals with private sector support.

“The government is not providing any sovereign guarantee in this case to maintain competitiveness, but the effectiveness of market competition depends on a fair, speedy, and transparent dispute management system,” said the CPD research director.

“The question is, can we ensure that in Bangladesh? If not, investors will lose interest,” he commented.

| Bangladesh Lamps PLC. | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| Head office : House-22, Road-4, Block-F, Banani, Dhaka-1213 | | | | | | | |
| 1st Quarterly Financial Statements (July-September 2025) | | | | | | | |
| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UN - AUDITED) | | | | | | | |
| AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025 | | | | | | | |
| | As at 30 September 2025 | As at 30 June 2025 | | | | | |
| | Taka | Taka | | | | | |
| ASSETS | | | | | | | |
| Non-current assets | | | | | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 125,396,158 | 133,737,308 | | | | | |
| Intangible asset | 42,960,188 | 44,113,465 | | | | | |
| Capital work-in-progress | 68,340 | - | | | | | |
| Right-of-use asset (ROU) | 72,231,973 | 75,698,505 | | | | | |
| Investment in shares at fair value: | 539,268,956 | 422,449,892 | | | | | |
| Investment at cost | 88,527,133 | 88,527,133 | | | | | |
| Fair value adjustment | 450,741,823 | 333,922,759 | | | | | |
| Loans and deposits | 5,331,178 | 5,063,395 | | | | | |
| Total non-current assets | 785,256,793 | 681,062,565 | | | | | |
| Current assets | | | | | | | |
| Inventories | 693,125,598 | 712,553,513 | | | | | |
| Trade and other receivables | 241,600,379 | 252,993,482 | | | | | |
| Advance, deposit and prepayments | 43,483,479 | 36,554,877 | | | | | |
| Advance income tax | 494,915,759 | 486,465,123 | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalent | 46,899,399 | 26,472,005 | | | | | |
| Total current assets | 1,520,024,614 | 1,515,039,000 | | | | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 2,305,281,407 | 2,196,101,565 | | | | | |
| EQUITY & LIABILITIES | | | | | | | |
| Capital and reserves | | | | | | | |
| Share capital | 105,278,770 | 105,278,770 | | | | | |
| Reserves and surplus: | 401,867,547 | 315,061,637 | | | | | |
| Fair value reserve | 383,130,550 | 283,834,345 | | | | | |
| Accumulated retained earnings | 18,736,997 | 31,227,292 | | | | | |
| Shareholders' equity | 507,146,317 | 420,340,407 | | | | | |
| Non-current liabilities | | | | | | | |
| Deferred liability - gratuity payable | 15,930,025 | 13,930,025 | | | | | |
| Deferred tax liability | 57,777,838 | 41,563,517 | | | | | |
| Lease liabilities- Net off current portion | 72,335,603 | 75,821,202 | | | | | |
| Total non-current liabilities | 146,043,466 | 131,314,744 | | | | | |
| Current liabilities | | | | | | | |
| Lease liabilities- Current portion | 13,502,940 | 13,215,138 | | | | | |
| Short term finance | 1,176,745,873 | 1,209,369,991 | | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 180,673,134 | 166,587,875 | | | | | |
| Other liabilities | 39,575,010 | 18,557,957 | | | | | |
| Unclaimed dividend | 983,175 | 983,175 | | | | | |
| Provision for tax | 240,611,492 | 235,732,278 | | | | | |
| Total current liabilities | 1,652,091,624 | 1,644,446,414 | | | | | |
| TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES | 2,305,281,407 | 2,196,101,565 | | | | | |
| STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UN - AUDITED) | | | | | | | |
| FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025 | | | | | | | |
| | 1 July to 30 September 2025 | 1 July to 30 September 2024 | | | | | |
| | Taka | Taka | | | | | |
| Revenue | 487,921,502 | 421,680,928 | | | | | |
| Cost of sales | (373,190,525) | (339,724,926) | | | | | |
| Gross profit | 114,730,977 | 81,956,002 | | | | | |
| Operating expenses | (85,318,167) | (105,120,830) | | | | | |
| Profit/(loss) before net finance cost | 29,412,810 | (23,164,828) | | | | | |
| Finance cost | (38,356,062) | (33,989,051) | | | | | |
| Finance income | 23,633 | 37,447 | | | | | |
| Net finance cost | (38,332,429) | (33,951,604) | | | | | |
| Profit/(loss) before contribution to WPPF & Welfare Fund | (8,919,619) | (57,116,432) | | | | | |
| Contribution to WPPF & welfare fund | - | - | | | | | |
| Profit/(loss) before income tax | (8,919,619) | (57,116,432) | | | | | |
| Income tax : | | | | | | | |
| Current tax | (4,879,215) | (2,530,085) | | | | | |
| Deferred tax | 1,308,539 | 802,211 | | | | | |
| Net profit/(loss) for the period | (12,490,295) | (58,844,306) | | | | | |
| Other comprehensive income/(loss) | | | | | | | |
| Changes in fair value of shares available for sale | 116,819,065 | 42,561,612 | | | | | |
| Deferred tax income/(expenses) | (17,522,860) | (4,256,161) | | | | | |
| Net other comprehensive income/(loss) | 99,296,205 | 38,305,451 | | | | | |
| Total comprehensive income/(loss) | 86,805,910 | (20,538,855) | | | | | |
| Basic earnings per share (par value Tk. 10 each) | (1.19) | (5.59) | | | | | |
| STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (UN-AUDITED) | | | | | | | |
| FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025 | | | | | | | |
| | 1 July to 30 September 2025 | 1 July to 30 September 2024 | | | | | |
| | Taka | Taka | | | | | |
| A. Cash flows from operating activities | | | | | | | |
| Collection from customers | 573,985,230 | 469,472,472 | | | | | |
| Payment to suppliers | (276,011,571) | (468,685,550) | | | | | |
| Payment to employees | (47,215,969) | (49,546,816) | | | | | |
| Payment for services received | (69,421,296) | (25,123,695) | | | | | |
| Cash payment of VAT | (77,073,446) | (95,424,375) | | | | | |
| | 104,262,948 | (169,307,964) | | | | | |
| Interest paid | (41,648,288) | (31,451,605) | | | | | |
| Income tax paid | (8,450,636) | (18,181,077) | | | | | |
| | 54,164,024 | (218,940,646) | | | | | |
| B. Cash flows from investing activities | | | | | | | |
| Dividend received | 2,344,625 | - | | | | | |
| Payment for acquisition of property, plant and equipment | (259,340) | (56,063,890) | | | | | |
| | 2,085,285 | (56,063,890) | | | | | |
| C. Cash flows from financing activities | | | | | | | |
| Payment of lease liability- Principal portion | (3,197,797) | (2,933,757) | | | | | |
| Dividend paid | - | (9,173) | | | | | |
| | (3,197,797) | (2,942,930) | | | | | |
| D. Effect of exchange rate changes in cash and cash equivalent | | | | | | | |
| | - | (686,866) | | | | | |
| E. Net cash inflows/(outflows) for the period (A+B+C+D) | 53,051,512 | (278,634,332) | | | | | |
| F. Opening cash and cash equivalents | (1,182,897,986) | (964,974,416) | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 26,472,005 | 37,956,748 | | | | | |
| Short term finance | (1,209,369,991) | (1,002,931,164) | | | | | |
| G. Closing cash and cash equivalents (E+F) | (1,129,846,474) | (1,243,608,748) | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 46,899,399 | 29,458,599 | | | | | |
| Short term finance | (1,176,745,873) | (1,273,067,347) | | | | | |
| STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (UN-AUDITED) | | | | | | | |
| FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025 | | | | | | | |
| Particulars | Share Capital | Fair value Reserve | Accumulated retained earnings | Total equity | | | |
| | Taka | Taka | Capital Reserve General Reserve Retained Earnings Total | Taka | | | |
| Balance as at 1 July 2025 | 105,278,770 | 203,034,348 | 2,085,197 | 94,447,808 | (85,584,304) | 31,227,292 | 420,340,407 |
| Net profit/(loss) for the period | - | 99,296,205 | - | (12,490,295) | (12,490,295) | - | 86,805,910 |
| Other comprehensive income | - | - | - | - | - | - | 99,296,205 |
| Balance as at 30 September 2025 | 105,278,770 | 302,330,553 | 2,085,197 | 94,447,808 | (70,815,290) | 18,736,997 | 507,146,317 |
| Balance as at 1 July 2024 | 100,365,500 | 305,533,335 | 2,305,167 | 238,025,386 | (134,351,773) | 106,778,700 | 512,363,615 |
| Net profit/(loss) for the period | - | 30,305,451 | - | (58,844,306) | (58,844,306) | - | (28,383,151) |
| Other comprehensive income | - | - | - | - | - | - | 38,305,451 |
| Balance as at 30 September 2024 | 100,365,500 | 341,838,786 | 2,305,167 | 238,025,386 | (193,196,079) | 47,034,451 | 482,024,768 |
| COMPARATIVE STATEMENT FOR INFORMATION OF THE SHAREHOLDERS | | | | | FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2025 | | |
| | 2025 | | 2024 | | | | |
| | Taka | | Taka | | | | |
| Basic earnings per share (EPS) | (1.19) | | (5.59) | | | | |
| Net assets value per share (NAVPS) | 48.17 | | 46.74 | | | | |
| Net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) | 5.14 | | (20.80) | | | | |
| Company Secretary | Chief Financial Officer | | Director | | | | |
| Director | Managing Director & CEO | | | | | | |
| The detail of the published quarterly financial statements is available in the website of Bangladesh Lamps PLC. The address of the website is www.bli.com.bd | | | | | | | |

Bangladesh Lamps PLC.
Head office: House-22, Road-4, Block-F, Banani, Dhaka-1213

Price Sensitive Information
Based on Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended 30th June 2025, the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Lamps PLC. at its meeting held on 12-10-2025 at 3:00 pm, decided to recommend cash dividend