

Berger Paints raises investment in Mirsharai factory

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Berger Paints Bangladesh has increased its planned investment to Tk 980 crore, up from the previously declared Tk 813 crore, for a new factory at the National Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) in Mirsharai, Chattogram.

The company shared the information through a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website yesterday.

The increase reflects design changes aimed at improving efficiency through enhanced automation, instrumentation, and a manufacturing execution system, as well as higher construction material costs due to inflation.

The board also approved a revised date for commercial production, moving it to April 1, 2027, to accommodate the additional time required for the design changes.

The new facility will include a water based paint plant, warehouses, and other essential infrastructure to meet rising demand and support future growth.

As of September 30, 2025, sponsors and directors held 89.76 percent of Berger Paints' shares, institutional investors 8.30 percent, foreign investors 0.10 percent, and the public 1.84 percent, according to DSE data.



Rupali Bank plunges into loss in Jul-Sept

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Rupali Bank plunged into losses in the July-September quarter of 2025 as its income declined, according to a price-sensitive disclosure.

The state-run lender reported a consolidated loss per share of Tk 3.44 for the third quarter, compared with earnings per share of Tk 0.13 (restated) in the same period a year earlier.

The bank attributed the fall in earnings to a decrease in total operating income.

For the nine months through September 2025, consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCPFS) stood at Tk 128.19, against negative Tk 43.33 (restated) in the corresponding period of 2024. The improvement in NOCPFS was driven by higher deposits, the bank said.

Nagad hits record Tk 34,705cr in monthly transactions in Oct

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Nagad Limited, the mobile financial service (MFS) arm of the Bangladesh Postal Department, set a new record for monthly transaction volume in October, processing over Tk 34,705 crore during the month, thanks largely to government allowance disbursements.



Last month, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Women Affairs disbursed allowances among 79 lakh beneficiaries through Nagad, according to a press release.

In addition, services such as cash-in, cash-out, fund transfers, payments, and mobile recharges contributed to the record transaction volume, further strengthening Nagad's position as one of the leading

MFS providers in the country.

Earlier, in March 2025, Nagad recorded monthly transactions of Tk 34,000 crore, while in June 2024, the figure stood at Tk 32,000 crore.

Congratulating customers, employees, entrepreneurs, and partners on the new milestone, Md Motasem Billah, administrator of Nagad, said, "Success never comes by chance; rather, it is the outcome of collective effort and dedication. When everyone works together with a shared vision and values, striving for excellence becomes much easier."

He added, "As the digital financial service of the Bangladesh Postal Department, Nagad continues to move forward with improved services and stronger assurances for customers' money. Customer confidence in the current management board has grown markedly compared to previous years, resulting in a sustained increase in transactions."

National Bank reduces quarterly losses

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

National Bank PLC reduced its losses by nearly 34 percent in the July-September quarter of this year, after reporting heavy losses over the past few years due to a large volume of non-performing loans.

In the third quarter of the current calendar year, the bank posted a loss of Tk 463 crore, down from Tk 699 crore in the same period a year earlier.

However, the commercial lender's total losses in the first nine months of the year rose to Tk 1,448 crore, an 8.4 percent increase compared with the same period in 2024.

In a stock exchange filing, the bank said it was unable to record interest income on certain loans and advances because they were classified and had not been recovered.

It also reported higher interest costs on deposits and borrowings, which resulted in an operating loss.

The bank added that "negative media coverage" led to withdrawals of deposits, putting further pressure on operating cash flow.

Net operating cash flow per share stood at negative Tk 10.54 at the end of the third quarter, compared with negative Tk 11.15 a year earlier.

National Bank has not issued any dividend to shareholders since 2021 and remains in the Z or junk category.

Its share price closed unchanged at Tk 2.90 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

National Bank reported non-performing loans of Tk 27,352 crore in March, accounting for 64 percent of its outstanding loans, up from Tk 20,929 crore nine months earlier, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

Govt to amend import policy

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processing times and enhanced transparency, said the press release issued after a meeting of the investment coordination committee chaired by Lutfey Siddiqi, special envoy on international affairs to the chief adviser.

"We have a long way to go, but we are going there with clear intent, rigour and transparency," Siddiqi said at the meeting.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur, Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan, as well as secretaries and business representatives, were also present.

To ease congestion and speed up cargo movement at Chattogram Port, construction of the Laldia yard and Taltala container yard is underway, with the latter's 6.25-acre facility expected to open soon.

To clear more than 6,000 containers currently

stuck at the port, auctions have already been held for 403 containers. A seven-member expert committee is also working to establish clear protocols for the disposal of dangerous goods.

The CA Office said new scanner procurement guidelines now allow the port authority to purchase scanners, using specifications provided by the NBR.

According to the statement, in response to private sector requests, the central bank has

BTRC to seek

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Earlier, on August 13, Starlink applied for permission to commercially use IP-LC connections and obtain unfiltered IP transit from local operators to serve foreign customers in neighbouring countries.

Technology expert Sumon Ahmed Sabir told The Daily Star that if approved, this setup would allow Starlink to use Bangladesh as a regional data hub, enabling local companies to earn foreign currency.

He said no country would allow bandwidth that has been filtered by another country.

"For instance, Bangladesh gets bandwidth from Singapore. If the Singapore government filtered it, Bangladesh wouldn't allow such bandwidth to enter the country," he explained.

"Similarly, if Starlink wants to supply bandwidth through Bangladesh to Nepal or Bhutan, those countries will not accept filtered bandwidth," said Sabir.

However, the BTRC's conditions are legitimate, and Starlink's intention is to supply this unfiltered internet traffic for users in other countries, he said.

According to the BTRC documents, Starlink has already submitted a technical diagram showing how Bangladeshi and foreign customer data would be routed separately.

Remittance

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Over 40 lakh people left the country for jobs abroad in the four years to the end of fiscal year 2024-25, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

This migration will push up remittance earnings in the coming days, according to industry insiders.

They also said that since irregular or alternative payment methods are now being controlled, the demand for US dollars has declined, which has caused a drop in foreign currency inflows through hundi or informal channels.

That is why remittance inflows through banking channels are growing, they added.

enabled Real Time Gross Settlement services at bank branches near ports and is working to ensure round-the-clock availability to reflect the needs of international trade.

"Bangladesh Bank is developing full flowchart documentation of payment procedures for export and import transactions, which will be shared digitally to clearly explain regulatory steps," it said.

According to the CA office, the government has also streamlined business registration and licensing.

Telcos can sell phones

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instalment-based sales rise by 28 percent—from an average of 227,467 units per month to 293,893—after adopting device-locking technology approved in April 2025.

As of September 2025, smartphone penetration in Bangladesh had reached 63.2 percent, and 18 local manufacturers were active in the market, according to the BTRC.

HANDSET SALE BOOST EXPECTED

The BTRC expects the new framework to boost handset sales. Its Systems and Services Division found that device-locking models can support controlled credit sales, particularly for locally manufactured phones.

It cited the case of Ismartu Technology Bangladesh Ltd, which saw

Most operators

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PLC have completed both incoming and outgoing tests and are awaiting live deployment.

Dutch Bangla Bank PLC, Standard Bank PLC, and BRAC Bank PLC have finished user acceptance testing but are yet to go live.

During a recent commission meeting, the BTRC also discussed Starlink's operational progress following a field inspection and several exchanges of letters with the company's local subsidiary.

The inspection, conducted on September 7 at Starlink's registered office in Dhaka, revealed no visible administrative or technical setup at the location.

In response, Starlink informed the regulator on October 14 that it had already commenced operations on August 8 and established three ground stations (gateways)—two in Kaliakoir and one each in Jashore and Rajshahi.

Additional gateways are planned in Syedpur, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, and Cumilla.

Starlink's latest report to the BTRC says it is currently sourcing 80 Gbps of bandwidth from local international internet gateway operators but using only 30 Gbps.

The company's gateway and points of presence (PoP) backbone capacity stand at 400 Gbps.

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In fiscal year 2024-25, remittance inflows crossed \$30 billion for the first time and rose by a record \$6.4 billion.

Prior to this, the highest volume of remittance received by Bangladesh was \$24.8 billion in fiscal year 2020-21.

Now the country's foreign exchange reserves are in a stable situation due to various reasons, including high remittance inflows.

As of October 30 this year, the forex reserves stood at \$27.54 billion, up from \$19.87 billion in the same period last year, BB data showed.

Bankers said the growing trend of remittance inflows has helped boost the forex reserves.

Abdur Rahim Khan made FBCCI administrator

STAR BUSINESS REPORT



The government has appointed Md Abdur Rahim Khan, additional secretary to the commerce ministry, as the new administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) for 120 days.

During his tenure, Khan will conduct the FBCCI election, according to a FBCCI statement yesterday.

He replaced Md Hafizur Rahman, another former additional secretary to the commerce ministry, who was appointed as the administrator after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government in August 2024.

Private sector credit appetite wanes

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There is no dearth of dollars in the market as we saw in the past. Foreign exchange reserves have increased. Inflation has moderated. But demand for credit from the private sector has declined."

"It appears that all are in a wait-and-see mood. It seems that all are waiting for political stability, looking at the upcoming election in February as the cut-off line."

The banker said imports of capital machinery, especially in the ready-made garments and spinning sectors, have fallen. The import growth seen in recent months has mainly been driven by commodity shipments.

With low demand for loans from businesses, banks with surplus liquidity are turning to treasury bills and bonds.

"You have noticed that interest income of banks has dropped. It is not healthy for the banking sector. Neither excess liquidity nor a crunch is good," said Hasan.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

OFFICE OF THE JAIL SUPER

Lakshmpur District Jail

jslpur@prison.gov.bd

Memo No. 58.04.5100.125.03.001.2025-3406

Date: 02-11-2025

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Goods	Publishing date & time	Closing Date & Time
01	1160970	Procurement of Various types of Animal Protein Under package -1 for the period of July, 2025 to December, 2025.	02-Nov-2025 13:00:00	12-Nov-2025 13:00:00
02	1160971	Procurement of Various types of Animal Protein Under package -2 for the period of July, 2025 to December, 2025.	02-Nov-2025 13:00:00	12-Nov-2025 13:00:00
03	1160972	Procurement of Various types of Animal Protein Under package -3 for the period of July, 2025 to December, 2025.	02-Nov-2025 13:00:00	12-Nov-2025 13:00:00
04	1160973	Procurement of Various types of Animal Protein Under package -4 for the period of July, 2025 to December, 2025.	02-Nov-2025 13:00:00	12-Nov-2025 13:00:00
05	1160974	Procurement of Various types of Vegetables Under package -1 for the period of July, 2025 to December, 2025.	02-Nov-2025 13:00:00	12-Nov-2025 13:00:00
06	1160975	Procurement of Various types of Vegetables Under package -2 for the period of July, 2025 to December, 2025.	02-Nov-2025 13:00:00	12-Nov-2025 13:00:00
07	1160976	Procurement of Various types of Vegetables Under package -3 for the period of July, 2025 to December, 2025.	02-Nov-2025 13:00:00	12-Nov-2025 13:00:00
08	1160977	Procurement of Oils, Spices, Food Ingredients and Related Products Under package -1 for the period of July, 2025 to December, 2025.	02-Nov-2025 13:00:00	12-Nov-2025 13:00:00
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