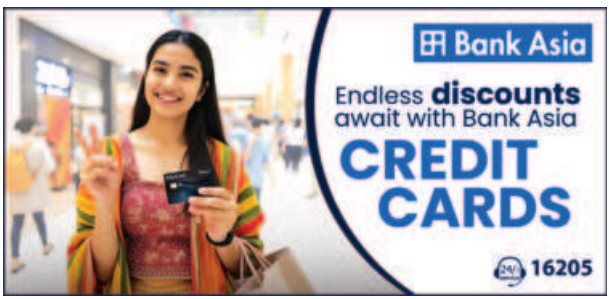


Star

BUSINESS



Justification, plan needed to defer LDC graduation

UN team tells govt

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

If Bangladesh wishes to defer its graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, it must submit a formal application with a clear justification and a detailed action plan, a visiting United Nations team told the government yesterday.

The UN team outlined the possible process for such an application at a meeting chaired by Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Shahriar Kader Siddiky, which included representatives from various ministries.

The government has not submitted any proposal for the deferral as of now, a finance ministry official told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

The team noted that the country's graduation was previously postponed by two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. If Bangladesh now seeks a further delay of up to three years, the reasons must be clearly specified, and a comprehensive action plan provided to address existing challenges.

Bangladesh is currently scheduled to graduate from an LDC to a developing country in November next year. The UN visit comes amid calls from local businesses to seek an extension, even though the interim government has repeatedly said it intends to adhere to the original timeline.

The high-level team is led by Roland Mollerus, acting director of UN-OHRLS – the UN office that supports least developed, landlocked

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Govt urges patience over pay scale

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed has advised government employees to exercise patience regarding the implementation of the new pay structure.

Responding to a journalist's question after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Government Procurement yesterday, he said, "Nothing has happened in the past seven to eight years. At least we've taken an initiative. Instead of expressing frustration, we should be thanked."

Frustration has grown among government employees as they believe the matter may be delayed until a political government takes office.

A question was raised to the finance adviser about whether the interim government would be able to implement the new pay structure.

Ahmed said the task of finalising the new pay structure is being carried out independently by the National Pay Commission.

"It's a complex process, but the interim government will finalise the pay commission's report (salary structure) for government officials and employees. Hopefully, the next government will treat the matter with importance."

Bangladesh to be 2nd largest LNG importer in S Asia by 2035: IEA

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports are likely to outpace Pakistan's by 2035, making it the second-largest importer in South Asia after India, according to a projection by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Pakistan and Bangladesh together would import around 75 billion cubic metres (bcm) of LNG in 2035, up roughly 60 percent from 2024 levels, projected the intergovernmental organisation, which provides policy recommendations, analysis, and data.

"In the Stated Policies Scenario, LNG imports in other developing Asia—primarily Pakistan and Bangladesh—increase from 45 bcm in 2024 to 80 bcm in 2035," the IEA said in its latest World Energy Outlook 2025, published yesterday.

The Stated Policies Scenario reflects reading of country-specific energy, climate and related industrial policies that have been adopted or put forward, even if not yet codified in law.

Bangladesh's expansion of regasification capacity and faster gas-field depletion are expected to lift its import needs

Though the report did not specifically state the share of each country, the outlook data and infrastructural trends showed that Bangladesh would import around 42-44 bcm of LNG in 2035, while Pakistan would import around 33-36 bcm.

In 2024, Pakistan still imported slightly more LNG than Bangladesh. But by the early 2030s, the IEA projections suggest Bangladesh will pull ahead, driven by faster depletion of local gas and larger regasification capacity.

In India, LNG imports have been growing in recent years, driven by opportunistic buyers and strong potential growth in demand, especially in industry, as per the report.

In 2035, India would import 50 bcm of LNG, up from 35 bcm at present, it added. Both Bangladesh and Pakistan are already dependent on LNG for power generation and industrial feedstock.

However, Bangladesh's expansion of regasification capacity and faster gas-field depletion are expected to lift its import needs beyond Pakistan's over the next decade, the projection suggested.

In Bangladesh, most onshore gas fields are in decline, while new exploration has lagged, driving a steady rise in LNG dependence for electricity generation, fertiliser production, and industries.

The country operates two floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) and is expected to expand by two more floating and one land-based terminal.

READ MORE ON B3

Traders decry police silence on extortion



Labourers load a truck at Khatunganj wholesale market in Chattogram, from where imported essentials are distributed across the country. Traders say extortion has increased around the food supply ahead of Ramadan next year.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Claiming that extortion has become rampant, large traders have blamed the authorities for failing to ensure a smooth supply of essential commodities.

At a meeting yesterday on commodity supply in the upcoming Ramadan, they said they are forced to pay middlemen as police inaction has allowed such practices to continue unchecked.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the view exchange meeting, where traders from Shyambazar, Moulvibazar and Karwan Bazar also called for steps to stop harassment by public officials and to curb market manipulation by large companies.

Mohammad Farid Uddin, president of the Shyambazar Agricultural Products Traders' Association, alleged that extortion has become widespread. "We pay extortions twice, once while loading and again while unloading goods," he said.

He added that police remain silent despite being aware of the situation.

"There is another problem, the middlemen," he said. "Between the traders and the sellers,

there are farias [touts] in Dhaka. They must be eliminated. Because of them, prices rise by 10 to 20 percent."

Omar Faruk, president of the Karwan Bazar Wholesale Traders' Association, said market stability depends entirely on an uninterrupted supply chain.

"If goods flow properly, prices will remain stable," he said, urging that traders be allowed to conduct business "without fear."

He also demanded uniform pricing for soybean oil. "Different companies are selling at different rates. Price discipline must be ensured," he said.

At the programme, former FBCCI director Md Gias Uddin Chowdhury urged the authorities to take stringent action against extortion. "I am not just talking about controlling extortion. I am talking about concrete steps to stop it," he said.

TRADERS ACCUSE CORPORATES, GOVT OFFICIALS

Shyambazar Traders' Association President Farid Uddin said corporate businesses are deceiving consumers.

"The word 'corporate' sounds beautiful, but inside it hides something rotten. They buy something for Tk 3, put it in a new packet, and

sell it for Tk 40," he commented.

"If you go to the market, and buy rice, lentils, sugar or oil; you will see the reality yourself," he added.

Moulvibazar Traders' Association President Bashir Uddin alleged that during crises, refiners supply edible oil only to selected dealers, creating artificial shortages.

He, too, demanded an end to extortion.

Meanwhile, Zakir Hossain, president of the Super Market Owners' Association, said harassment by public officials has become a regular obstacle.

"Every Ramadan, prices go up, and due to weak monitoring, a few traders take advantage of the situation," he said, criticising large corporate firms for "unjust business practices".

COMPLAINTS OVER HIGH DUTIES, INTEREST RATES

At the programme, fruit importers complained about high import duties.

"If the import price of dates is Tk 100, we pay Tk 200 in duties," said Sirajul Islam, president of the Fruit Importers' Association. "High customs valuations not only raise import costs but also create scope for money laundering."

READ MORE ON B3

CHALLENGES

Bangladesh spends \$1.3b yearly on API import

Stagnant medicine prices push many drug makers into negative growth

Investors lose Tk 20 lakh a day in loan interest due to a lack of gas in API Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduce urgent policy reforms to cut API import reliance

Form a permanent multi-agency taskforce

Offer incentives and energy assurance to make Munshiganj API Park operational

Study India and China's policy models to strengthen API sector

Policy support vital for API industry growth: experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Health experts and pharmaceutical industry leaders yesterday called for policy support and the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers to boost local production of raw materials for drugs, aiming to reduce import dependency and keep medicine prices stable.

They also proposed forming a permanent taskforce involving all stakeholders to advance the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) industry.

Experts said competition in the pharmaceutical sector would intensify once Bangladesh graduates from the least developed country (LDC) category and loses exemptions under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

In such a scenario, increasing local API production will be crucial for sustaining growth.

They noted that with long-term planning and effective public-private partnerships, Bangladesh could become self-reliant in API production within a short time.

The views were shared at a discussion titled "Policies and Implementation Strategies for the Development of the API Industry" at the Super Specialised

Hospital of Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) yesterday.

The Alliance for Health Reforms, Bangladesh (AHRB), a platform for healthcare reforms and the event's organiser, offered three proposals — giving production linkage incentives, forming a permanent taskforce, and ensuring an uninterrupted gas supply at the API Industry Park in Munshiganj.

Bangladesh's pharmaceutical sector now meets almost the entire domestic demand for medicines and exports to over 150 countries.

However, most of the raw materials, or APIs, still have to be imported, which increases pressure on foreign currency reserves and makes local production vulnerable to international market volatility.

In a keynote presentation, Prof Syed Abdul Hamid, convenor of the AHRB, said Bangladesh spends \$1.3 billion annually to import APIs, so the industry must be developed to save hard-earned foreign currency.

The industry needs to flourish to address the post-LDC graduation challenges of the pharma sector and generate thousands of jobs, he said.

He recommended providing both

financial support, including a 20 percent incentive following in the footsteps of India, and policy support, including streamlining regulatory requirements, to develop the sector.

Zakir Hossain, secretary general of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (BAPI), said practical policy support was needed to advance the API industry, as merely forming committees would not be enough.

He said that despite several committees being formed by the government over the past 15 months, none included any representatives from BAPI.

Yet, he added, the opinions of relevant stakeholders are essential for the development of this sector.

SM Saifur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh API and Intermediaries Manufacturers Association (BAIMA), said that to compete with India and China, Bangladesh needs to properly understand their strategies for expanding the API industry.

He said India has formed a permanent taskforce to support the growth of its API sector, and Bangladesh should also establish a similar body involving all relevant stakeholders.

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Govt approves \$57m project for e-waste management

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has approved a project worth \$57 million to establish a modern e-waste management plant amid growing concerns over rising levels of contamination in the country.

The Advisory Committee on Government Purchases on Tuesday approved, in principle, the project for the establishment of the state-of-the-art facility at Kaliakoir Hi-Tech Park in Gazipur.

The project will be implemented by the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority under the ICT Division through a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

The PPP approach aims to enhance national capacity for e-waste processing while reducing pressure on the government's revenue budget for the high-cost infrastructure.

According to official documents, the project involves the design, installation, and operation of high-technology e-waste processing facilities with an annual processing capacity of 200,000 to 300,000 tonnes.

The proposal sets a target of commissioning the plant by 2028 and anticipates significant employment generation as well as foreign investment opportunities.

Currently, Bangladesh lacks a formal system for managing e-waste.

As a result, the vast majority of electronic waste — often containing hazardous substances such as lead, mercury, and cadmium — is handled by the informal sector.

READ MORE ON B3

Prime Bank offers cash management services to SMC Enterprise



Sayef Nasir, managing director of SMC Enterprise Limited, and Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing an agreement at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka recently.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed a cash management services agreement with SMC Enterprise Limited.

Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, and Sayef Nasir, managing

director of SMC Enterprise Limited, signed the agreement at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, SMC Enterprise will avail comprehensive cash management solutions from Prime Bank.

The company will use PrimePay, the bank's

omni digital platform, to initiate all types of domestic disbursements and manage nationwide sales collections through Prime Bank's extensive branch network.

The arrangement also includes a robust MIS reporting and reconciliation system to enhance efficiency and transparency.

PrimePay enables corporate clients to initiate various types of payments with ease while maintaining the highest standards of security.

This omni digital channel supports both electronic and paper-based transactions, including RTGS, BEFTN, intra-bank fund transfers, NPSB, and MFS wallet transfers, as well as the issuance of corporate cheques and pay orders with digital signatures.

Additionally, clients can make duty, tax, VAT, and utility payments directly through PrimePay.

With its seamless authorisation process, PrimePay ensures faster turnaround times, reduced operational costs, and greater transparency.

The platform is secured with advanced two-factor authentication and offers flexible access anytime, anywhere through web-based connectivity, the release added.



M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, and Mohammad Ashaduz Zaman, secretary of Dhaka North City Corporation, pose for photographs after signing the memorandum of understanding at a hotel in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NCC BANK

NCC Bank signs MoU with Dhaka North City Corporation to collect fees, taxes

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), enabling NCC Bank customers to conveniently pay various fees and taxes, including holding tax, trade licence fee, hotel tax, market salami, wheel tax, and other municipal charges, through the bank's extensive branch network across the country as well as its digital platforms.

Mohammad Ashaduz Zaman, secretary of Dhaka North City Corporation, and M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, signed the MoU at a hotel in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Arefin said, "This partnership marks a significant milestone in delivering citizen services through our branch network, CRM, and digital platforms. Under this technology-driven initiative, DNCC residents will be able to pay various taxes and fees conveniently through any NCC Bank branch, the Internet Banking app 'NCC Always,' or CRM."

"By integrating technology with

banking services, we are providing citizens with a seamless, real-time, and digital payment experience," he added.

"This initiative will make DNCC's revenue collection process faster, safer, and more transparent, and play an important role in building a cashless society."

Brig Gen Imrul-Ai-Quais Chowdhury, chief health officer of DNCC; Mohammad Mamun-Ul Hassan, chief social welfare and slum development officer; Mohammad Mamun Mia, chief revenue officer; Mohammad Shawkat Osman, chief estate officer; and Md Barkat Hayat, chief accounts officer, attended the event.

Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, deputy managing director and chief financial officer of the bank; Md Sajjadul Islam, senior vice-president and head of ICT division; Shahin Akter Nuha, senior vice-president and head of transaction banking and cash management division; Md Aminul Islam, senior assistant vice-president and head of cards (current charge); and Md Shaiful Islam, first assistant vice-president and head of DFS business, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.

Yamaha Bangladesh organises 'Yamaha Bike Carnival'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Yamaha Bangladesh and ACI Motors Limited, the authorised distributor of the Yamaha brand in Bangladesh and the automobile unit of ACI Limited, are entering their ninth year of partnership.

To celebrate the occasion, Yamaha Bangladesh recently organised an event titled "Yamaha Bike Carnival" at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in Purbachal, Dhaka.

Subrata Ranjan Das, managing director of ACI Motors Limited, attended the event as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Thousands of bikers and members of the Yamaha Riders Club (YRC) from across the country joined the celebration.

Throughout the day, participants enjoyed various activities, including test rides, gymkhana, stunt shows, and other biking events. Live performances by popular singers Kona and Nagar Baul James added extra excitement to the festivities.



Subrata Ranjan Das, managing director of ACI Motors Limited, attends an event titled "Yamaha Bike Carnival" at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in Purbachal, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: ACI MOTORS

Policy support vital

FROM PAGE B1
Muhammad Halimuzzaman, treasurer of BAPI, said that encouraged by the government, they had set up a factory in the API Park in Munshiganj with a loan of Tk 490 crore two years ago.

But the government's relevant agency is now saying that it will not be able to provide gas supplies, he said.

"Now, we are paying Tk 20 lakh in interest every day... In this situation, no one else would be foolish enough to invest in the API Park," he added.

Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman, a scientist at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), and a member

of the government's Health Sector Reform Commission, said 90 percent of the problems faced by the API industry are well known.

"These issues have been discussed for over a decade, but no progress has been made. Before moving forward, the government and the companies must first clarify their vision for the API sector," he added.

Abdul Mukhtar, president of BAPI, said around 70 percent of pharmaceutical companies are experiencing negative growth, as the government has not adjusted medicine prices since 2017.

He added that the API industry is facing two major obstacles — an inadequate supply of primary energy and a lengthy, time-consuming

process to obtain approval from the Department of Narcotics Control for solvent intermediates.

He called for the authorities' intervention to ensure that alternative energy sources are managed efficiently and that approvals from the Department of Narcotics Control can be obtained within 15 days.

He said developing the API industry would not only benefit the pharmaceutical sector but also support the agrochemical and dye industries.

ATM Saiful Islam, additional secretary to the Health Services Division, said national health protection, economic growth, and employment are closely linked with the pharmaceutical sector.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন

সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়

এ/৪, সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৬

ই-মেইলঃ md@jpuf.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৪১.০২.০০০০.০০৬.০০.১০৮.২০২৫-০৫(ক)

২৫ কার্তিক ১৪৩২

১০ নভেম্বর ২০২৫

প্রতিবন্ধী সেবা ও সাহায্য কেন্দ্রের নষ্ট মোবাইল থেরাপি ডান মেরামত করার জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে দরপ্রস্তাব আহবান সংক্রান্ত

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীন জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন কর্তৃক পরিচালিত মোবাইল থেরাপি ডানসমূহের (Kama Brand, Made in China এবং TATA Brand, Made in India) মধ্যে মেরামতযোগ্য নষ্ট মোবাইল থেরাপি ডান মেরামত করার লক্ষ্যে মেরামত করার কাজে অভিজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগের জন্য দরপ্রস্তাব আহবান করা হচ্ছে।

দরপ্রস্তাবের শর্তাবলীঃ

০১। দরপ্রস্তাবের সাথে অগ্রাধি প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট সনদ, ও হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ প্রস্তাব সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

০২। আগামী ০৪/১২/ ২০২৫ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন (এ/৪, সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৬), সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর (সমাজসেবা ভবন, ই-৮/বি-১, আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭) এবং বাংলাদেশ সমাজকল্যাণ পরিষদ (সমাজসেবা ভবন, ৪/এ, ইস্টার্ন গার্ডেন, ঢাকা-১০০০) এ রক্ষিত বাস্তব দরপ্রস্তাব দাখিল করতে হবে। একই তারিখ বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় প্রাপ্ত দরপ্রস্তাবসমূহ দাখিলকারীগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ থাকেন) জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশনের সভাকক্ষে খোলা হবে।

০৩। ট্রাক/কার্ডার ডান এবং এ জাতীয় গাড়ি মেরামত করার অভিজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।

০৪। কার্যদেশে প্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিল হতে বিধি মোতাবেক ভ্যাট ও আইটি কর্তন করা হবে।

০৫। দরপ্রস্তাব জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ৯০ দিনের জন্য দরপ্রস্তাব কার্যকর থাকবে।

০৬। যদি ইউনিট প্রতি দর ও মোট দরের মধ্যে পার্থক্য পরিলক্ষিত হয় তবে ইউনিট প্রতি দর সঠিক হিসেব ধরে মূল্যায়ন করা হবে।

০৭। দরপ্রস্তাবের সাথে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন বরাবর প্রস্তাবিত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স জামানত হিসেবে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টির মাধ্যমে জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন নামে জমা দিতে হবে যা নিখারিত সময়ের পরে ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।

০৮। অতিরিক্ত কোন তথ্য প্রয়োজন হলে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে এ কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

০৯। জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন (এ/৪, মিরপুর-১৪, ঢাকা-১২০৬) অফিস হতে কাজের পরিধি আগামী ০৩/১২/২০২৫ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতি কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে এবং একইসাথে ফাউন্ডেশনের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.jpuf.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।

শেখ মোহাম্মদ মোজালিব

উপপরিচালক (বাস্তবায়ন)

জাতীয় প্রতিবন্ধী উন্নয়ন ফাউন্ডেশন

GD-2403

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Munshiganj

Dashkani, Panchasar (Mukterpur), Munshiganj.

Phone # 02-998847019

E-mail: eemunrhd@gmail.com

Memo No-35.01.5900.447.04.008-25-3193

Date: 12/11/2025

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in The National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj for the procurement of

SL No	Tender ID # & Package No	e-Tender Description	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	1174048, 08/e-GP/Mundiv/ 2025-2026	Construction of RCC Retaining Wall and Repair of Damaged Pavement by Aggregate Base Type II, Carpeting & seal coat at 5th (P) Km & 6th (P) Km of Nimtoli-Shirajdikhan-Kakaldi Road (Z-8005) under Munshigonj Road Division During the year 2025-2026.	26/11/2025 16:00	27/11/2025 10:00	27/11/2025 10:00

1. The above tender is online Tender. Where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-Gp portal and no Offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

2. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National E-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branch.

3. Further information and guidelines are available in the National E-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Masud Mahmud Sumon)

ID No-602165

Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Munshiganj.

GD-2414

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation

Purchase Section

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Date: 12 Nov 2025

e-Tender Notice

Subject: Procurement of Electrical Maintenance of BFIDC building.

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e-Tender ID No	Description of goods	Last Selling Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1163685	Electrical Maintenance of BFIDC building.	27-Nov-2025 15:00	27-Nov-2025 15:00

• This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

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• Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Nahida Barik

Secretary

02223382119

secretary@bfidc.gov.bd

GD-2412

GD-2415

Ibn Sina Pharma's profit doubles in Jul-Sept

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical Industry reported a sharp rise in earnings in the July-September quarter, with profit more than doubling on the back of strong revenue growth and higher other income.

Its net profit jumped 160 percent year-on-year to Tk 22 crore, according to the company's financial statements.

The company's revenue climbed 35 percent year-on-year to Tk 372 crore, while other income rose 13 percent to Tk 94 lakh.

Its earnings per share surged to Tk 7.08 in the July-September period, compared with Tk 2.72 in the same period a year earlier.

The company's net operating cash flow per share, however, fell to Tk 5.46 from Tk 9.71.

The company's revenue climbed 35 percent year-on-year to Tk 372 crore

The Dhaka Stock Exchange data show that as of October 31, 2025, sponsors and directors held 44.68 percent of shares of Ibn Sina Pharma, the public 31.89 percent, with the remainder owned by institutional and foreign investors.

Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical Industry, founded in 1983, began commercial production in 1986 and became publicly listed in 1989.

It introduced ophthalmic products (medicines and solutions specifically for eye care) in 1995, natural medicine (herbal or plant-based remedies) in 2008, and a cephalosporin (antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections) plant in 2016.

It now markets over 100 products across Bangladesh's healthcare sector, according to its website.

Rice output fell in FY25 despite historic high Boro harvest



SOHIEL PARVEZ

Bangladesh's total rice production fell slightly in the last fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, even as farmers harvested a record Boro crop supported by favourable weather and expanded cultivation.

Farmers produced 4.06 crore tonnes of rice in FY25, marginally below the 4.07 crore tonnes recorded in the previous year, according to estimates released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) earlier this week.

The decline is owed to a reduction in Aush rice acreage, which is harvested during the monsoon, and recurrent floods and unfavourable weather affecting rain-fed Aman rice, harvested mainly in November-December.

Year-on-year, Aush and Aman production fell by 6 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively, with 27.93 lakh tonnes and 1.64 crore tonnes produced, according to the BBS.

Consequently, total production in the July-June period of FY2024-25 declined, though production of Boro rice rose by 1.2 percent to 2.13 crore tonnes, marking the highest dry-season harvest on record.

The BBS attributed the rise to an increase in cultivated area, which expanded to 48.89

lakh hectares from 48.77 lakh hectares a year earlier, driven by the adoption of hybrid varieties.

Hybrid rice, which yields 14 percent more than High-Yielding Varieties, accounted for 12.96 lakh hectares of the Boro crop, up 2.29 percent from 12.67 lakh hectares last year. While inbred rice still made up roughly two-thirds of total Boro production, hybrid rice output grew at a faster pace.

"It was a good season for the crop. The weather remained favourable, and there were no natural disasters such as floods before the harvest," said Mohammad Khalequzzaman, director general of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI).

"We also did not see temperature fluctuations that affect yields. Farmers' awareness has also improved, contributing to higher output," he added.

The BBS released the final Boro estimates at a time when rice prices, the staple food for around 17 crore people, have eased slightly over the past month due to increased supply from imports and the Aman harvest, which accounts for roughly 40 percent of annual output.

Between July 1 and November 11 of FY2025-26, Bangladesh imported 4.37 lakh tonnes of rice, which amounts to 30 percent of the 14.36

lakh tonnes imported in FY25, according to the food ministry.

BRRI chief Khalequzzaman added that Aman yields in some areas have so far surpassed last year's levels.

"Total production is expected to be good this year, despite recent rainfall causing some lodging of paddy. The extent of damage will be low," he said.

A Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) estimate attributed crop losses of Tk 212 crore across 29 districts to unseasonal heavy rainfall and gusty winds in late October and early November, intensified by Cyclone Mantha. The damage affected transplanted Aman paddy as well as vegetables, potatoes, onions, chillies, maize, and mustard.

Farmers transplanted Aman on 59.28 lakh hectares, 6 percent higher than last year, according to DAE's preliminary estimates. Prior to the rains and cyclone, officials had anticipated a good harvest due to increased acreage and favourable weather.

For FY26, the DAE has set production targets of 32 lakh tonnes for Aush rice, 1.81 crore tonnes for Aman, and 2.27 crore tonnes for Boro. Preliminary data indicate that Aush cultivation has expanded this year but still falls short of the DAE's targets.

The \$40b forex dream: A race against global, internal challenges

MEER SAJED-UL-BASHER

The Bangladesh Bank has set a critical economic goal: to increase the nation's foreign exchange reserves to approximately \$40 billion by June 2026 to stabilise the local currency and bolster economic confidence. While this target is ambitious, recent trends show momentum.

The country's gross foreign exchange reserves were approximately \$31.94 billion as of early October 2025. Under the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) stricter Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM-6) methodology, the figure was \$27.12 billion.

The recent momentum reflects both market response and coordinated efforts. Record remittance inflows have played a major role, with the central bank's reforms, including a move toward a more market aligned exchange rate, encouraging expatriates to use formal banking channels over informal systems like hundi.

The export sector, led by ready-made garments and supported by growing contributions from pharmaceuticals and agro-processing, has also remained resilient.

Meanwhile, funds from the IMF, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and World Bank have injected crucial liquidity, helping to stabilise the external account.

Despite this progress, Bangladesh faces a difficult path fraught with internal and external threats.

One major hurdle lies in the transition to a more flexible, market-based exchange rate regime. While the Bangladesh Bank initially adopted a crawling peg and has since allowed greater flexibility, the gap between official and unofficial exchange rates remains a long-standing concern. For years, the BB sold US dollars from reserves to support the taka's value, directly contributing to reserve depletion. The success of the current policy hinges on its ability to truly unify the exchange rate.

Deep-rooted financial mismanagement also poses a serious risk. Internal challenges like money laundering and illicit financial flows significantly undermine reserve accumulation. Practices such as over-invoicing of imports and under-invoicing of exports are key mechanisms used to funnel foreign currency out of the country. These actions directly diminish the official foreign exchange stock and require stringent oversight and enforcement to curb them.

External factors add another layer of difficulty. Global economic instability continues to pose significant headwinds. Imported inflation, triggered by surges in global commodity prices, particularly for fuel and food amid geopolitical tensions, has inflated Bangladesh's import costs, draining foreign currency reserves.

At the same time, a slowdown in major economies could reduce demand for Bangladeshi exports, weakening a vital source of foreign exchange earnings.

On a positive note, the Balance of Payments (BOP) recorded a surplus in the last fiscal year 2024-25. This improvement was driven not only by the current account, thanks to remittances and exports, but also by a strengthening of the financial account. The financial account has recently shown a robust surplus due to positive shifts in capital flows.

The journey to reaching \$40 billion in reserves by June 2026 is ultimately a test of policy credibility and external financing consistency. While Bangladesh benefits from two resilient pillars, remittance and export growth, the outcome depends largely on mitigating internal leakages and sustaining recent improvements in capital inflows. The newfound financial account surplus offers a necessary buffer to finance debt obligations and help build reserves, but it remains fragile.

This surplus must be viewed with caution; it is easily reversible if foreign investor confidence is shaken by policy uncertainty or domestic financial instability.

The writer is principal & CEO of Sajed Meer Chartered Accountants

China's soybean glut could defeat US export hopes after trade thaw

REUTERS, Singapore/Beijing

China is grappling with a glut of soybeans after months of record imports, curbing prospects for US exports despite a recent trade truce that Washington said includes a pledge by Beijing to resume heavy purchases.

Traders and analysts warn that vast stockpiles at ports and in state reserves, coupled with weak crush margins, limit Beijing's appetite for further purchases.

"State firms may be waiting for margins to recover before making large-scale purchases," said Johnny Xiang, founder of Beijing-based AgRadar Consulting. "Even with tariff waivers, margins remain negative and Brazilian beans are still cheaper."

After President Donald Trump met Chinese leader Xi Jinping last month officials in Washington said China had agreed to buy 12 million tons of US soybeans by year-end and 25 million tons in each of the next three years.

China has not publicly committed to making purchases, although it suspended retaliatory tariffs on US imports, while state buyer COFCO has booked only a few cargoes for December and January shipment, traders and analysts say.

Chinese buyers sharply boosted soybean purchases from South America earlier this year, while shunning those from the United States, fearing a shortfall if the trade war with Washington dragged on, leading to oversupply.

Soybean stocks at Chinese ports reached a record 10.3 million tons on Nov. 7, up 3.6 million tons on the year, while processors, known as crushers, held 7.5 million tons, the most since 2017, data from Sublime China Information showed.

Physical prices for soymeal, used



A man is loading soybeans from grain bins into a truck in Dwight, Illinois. Officials in Washington said recently that China had agreed to buy 12 million tons of US soybeans by year-end.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

to fatten animals in the world's biggest pig producer, have dropped more than 20 percent from an April peak in key coastal regions, to hover around 3,000 yuan (\$421) a ton, Mysteel data showed.

Such areas are the northern region of Tianjin, the eastern provinces of Shandong and Jiangsu and southern Guangdong.

Chinese crushers have faced losses since mid-year, with a negative margin this week of about 190 yuan a ton in the processing hub of Rizhao, and traders expect margins to stay negative until at least March.

"There is not much room for China to increase soybean imports," said a trader at an international house that runs oilseed processing units. "Soybean stocks are huge and demand for the feed sector is very slow."

Market expectations for state grain importers COFCO and Sinograin to quickly resume significant purchases

as a goodwill gesture after the trade talks have yet to materialise. It is still possible that state firms could make large purchases despite market conditions.

"The administration expects our trading partners to adhere to their deal commitments," a US official told Reuters.

"The president reserves the right to adjust tariff rates, export controls, and other concessions to hold our trading partners accountable to their deal commitments."

China's commerce ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

China's grain and oilseed stocks are a state secret, but at least two traders estimated soybean inventories held by state companies at about 40 million to 45 million tons.

That would be double China's US imports last year and sufficient for five months of typical early-year demand.

Vietnam eyes US tariff deal soon

REUTERS, Hanoi

Vietnam is working to sign a trade agreement with the United States soon, Deputy Prime Minister Bui Thanh Son said on Wednesday, as a new round of negotiations gets underway in Washington.

In October, the two countries agreed to finalise a trade deal within weeks that would maintain US tariffs of 20 percent on its imports of Vietnamese goods, but exempt some unspecified products from the new duty imposed by US President Donald Trump in August.

Son urged US businesses at a conference in Hanoi to help in bilateral negotiations so that the two parties could "soon sign a fair and balanced trade agreement."

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Michael DeSombre, told the conference in a recorded statement that the trade deal should rebalance commercial flows between the two countries, reducing the US deficit with Hanoi, which is the largest after China and Mexico.

For the first 10 months of the year, Vietnam has recorded a \$111 billion trade surplus with the US - pointing to another potential annual record - according to Vietnamese data, which is usually more conservative than US trade figures, currently unavailable because of an ongoing federal government shutdown.

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