

Economy stabilising despite challenges: Salehuddin

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh has made notable progress in stabilising its economy in recent months, even as it continues to grapple with multiple challenges, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

Speaking at the "Nagad DRU Best Reporting Award 2025" ceremony at the International Mother Language Institute, he pointed to improvements in foreign exchange reserves, export earnings, and the easing of inflation as signs of recovery.

"Many may not realise how severe the crisis was in August 2024. The fact that we have managed to stabilise the economy since then is a significant achievement," he said, urging journalists to remain critical but also acknowledge progress.

He pointed out that foreign exchange reserves have increased, exports are rising despite global pressures, and inflation has fallen from 14 percent to 8 percent.

The adviser cautioned against narratives that dismiss all developments under the interim government. "They overlook the significant steps we've taken to stabilise the economy. If we had not acted when we did, the situation could have been far worse."

Ahmed criticised the tendency to focus on large-scale "monument projects" that do not "serve real economic needs," warning that such selective criticism can distort public understanding.

He drew comparisons with regional economies hit far harder during crises, noting that Indonesia's GDP once halved and Thailand faced 50 percent inflation. By contrast, he argued, Bangladesh has held up relatively well.

"Yes, scepticism is healthy, but let us not fall into perpetual despair," he said, urging the media to support progress in education, healthcare, and social welfare alongside economic reporting.



Salehuddin Ahmed

Kaiser A Chowdhury, chairman of Nagad's Management Board, said responsible journalism, investigative reporting, and constructive criticism have helped Bangladesh navigate difficult times. "Bangladesh is going through a challenging period. Journalists are not

immune, and neither are we."

Despite obstacles, he said Nagad has maintained financial stability and strengthened its position in the mobile financial services (MFS) market. Even after social safety net disbursements were opened to MFS providers, most beneficiaries continued choosing Nagad.

Md Motasem Billah, administrator of Nagad, said the company is now operating profitably and independently, without any support from the government or Bangladesh Bank.

He said Nagad paid Tk 276 crore in revenue to the National Board of Revenue over the past year – its highest so far. It also recorded its highest monthly transaction volume in October at Tk 35,000 crore.

A total of 27 journalists were awarded across 24 categories, including three from The Daily Star – Shariful Islam, Helemul Alam, and Dipan Nandy.

Swiss firm to run Pangaon

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the Dhaka-Chittagong highway and rail corridors.

However, businesses have shown little interest in using the Pangaon terminal for containerised cargo to and from Chittagong port due to high inland water transport costs, lengthy customs clearance, and other challenges.

To ensure uninterrupted and cost-effective services, the shipping ministry decided in 2023, following the CPA board's approval, to appoint terminal operator on a long-term basis through the Expression of Interest (EOI) system.

Accordingly, an invitation for EOI was issued on April 28, 2024, to appoint a terminal operator for 12 years at the Pangaon terminal.

Six firms purchased the pre-qualification documents, and by the submission deadline on September 5, 2024, three firms – Medlog SA, HR Lines Limited, and Saif Powertec Ltd – submitted pre-qualification proposals. These proposals were found substantially responsive by the pre-qualification evaluation committee formed by the

shipping ministry. In July this year, the CPA board decided to appoint a terminal operator for 22 years to attract long-term investment at Pangaon and obtained the ministry's approval.

Following the CPA board's decision, Request for Proposal (RFP) documents were issued on October 4 to the three firms deemed substantially responsive by the evaluation committee. By the RFP submission deadline on November 5, two firms – Medlog SA and HR Lines Limited – submitted their proposals.

According to sources at the CPA, at 12:30pm on the same day, the tender opening committee opened the submitted RFPs in the presence of the bidders' representatives.

A seven-member RFP evaluation committee, formed by the ministry and led by the CPA member (Harbour and Marine), completed the evaluation of the technical proposals the following day, November 6.

A CPA official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the evaluation committee found that

Medlog SA's technical offer scored 100 out of 100 points in six technical categories, including financial model, cargo handling equipment and performance specifications, emergency plan for fire, marketing plan, and financing plan.

Finding no issues with the technical offer, the committee declared Medlog SA's proposal responsive, the official said.

The other firm, HR Lines, scored 60 because it did not submit two of the six items in the technical scoring of its RFP and was declared unresponsive, he added.

The evaluation committee chief, CPA Member (Harbour and Marine) Commodore Ahmed Amin Abdullah, could not be reached for comment despite repeated calls.

LALDIA TERMINAL PROJECT

Under the concession agreement to be signed, APM Terminals will take about three years to complete the construction and commissioning of the Laladia Container Terminal in Chittagong and will operate for 30 years. There is a possibility of a 15-year extension.

Revival and Ecomill leaders are scheduled to visit Dhaka in the third week of November for the official signing ceremony.

Even though Beximco, a listed firm, announced the lease, it has not formally informed its shareholders.

Osman Kaiser Chowdhury, managing director of Beximco, said the lease is price-sensitive information (PSI) and will be disclosed once final approval is received.

"Revival is not buying Beximco shares. They are leasing the factories to help reopen them," he told The Daily Star.

Saiful Islam, president of the DSE Brokers' Association, said the company should have informed investors sooner. "It is their duty to notify shareholders first," he added.

Beximco plans

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A draft Tripartite Agreement between Revival Projects Ltd, Beximco, and Janata Bank was submitted on 8 October 2025. Janata Bank's board will review it in their next meeting next Tuesday, with all parties expecting a signing within the month.

Beximco owes Janata Bank a total of Tk 23,407 crore.

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On bond misuse, the NBR chairman said, "Not everything can be publicly disclosed. Everyone has friends, allies, and business competitors."

"Even if a few abusers are known, we cannot publicly name them because they are operationally active. Nonetheless, we have begun addressing these issues, and many will be resolved."

He also said revenue officers and assistant revenue officers will undergo one week of training followed by an examination.

Why punish

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"From now on, no paper-based work will be accepted, everything must be 100 percent automatic," he said.

He added that the system would ensure punishment for those who misuse facilities or evade taxes, while protecting compliant taxpayers. "Automation will eliminate such issues."

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Garment exports

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Former BGMEA president Anwar Uz-Alam Chowdhury (Parvez) said exports picked up slightly in October as US buyers received previously held-up work orders from Bangladesh due to reciprocal tariff negotiations.

He added that exports of garments to the USA depend on many factors, as sales of garment items to the US have also declined slightly.

Moreover, the lowering of tariffs by the Trump administration on Malaysia, Thailand, and Cambodia could affect Bangladesh's shipments to the American market in the near future.

Apart from the USA, the European Union (EU) remains Bangladesh's largest export destination for RMG, accounting for 48.17 percent of total exports in this category.

Export earnings from the EU stood at \$6.26 billion, registering a year-on-year growth of 0.46 percent.

Exports to Canada and the United Kingdom also showed positive momentum. Exports to Canada reached \$442.7 million, up 10.84 percent year-on-year, giving the country a 3.4 percent share of Bangladeshi garment exports.

Shares of the bank fell 3 percent to Tk 37 yesterday. Last year, it declared a 10 percent dividend, down from 17.5 percent the previous year.

The bank said it had submitted all required documents, including price justification, arm's length evaluation, approval process, financial impact, and building details.

DSE Chairman Mominul Islam and its Chief Operating Officer Mohammad Asadur Rahman could not be reached for comment.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Sirajganj
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8800.000.07.001.25. 6454

Date: 13.11.25

Notice for e-Tender Notice No. 32/2025-26

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works are given below:		
SI. No.	Tender Proposal ID	Name of the Scheme with Package No.
1.	1170615	Periodic Maintenance of Tarash U.P. Office-Boalia Hat Road Via Solapara Road from Ch. 00m-7534m [Tarash] [Road ID: 188893011] (Package No. LGED/GOBM/SERAJ/25-26/RW-61)
2.	1170614	Periodic Maintenance of Pangash GC-Nalika NHW (Fujore College) Road from Ch. 5000-8624m [Raijam] [Road 188612010] (Package No. LGED/GORM/SERAJ/25-26/RW-60)
3.	1170613	Periodic Maintenance of Simanta Bazar RHD-Sonamukhi GC Road from Ch. 4300m-8503m [Kazipur] [Road ID: 188502001] (Package No. LGED/GOBM/SERAJ/25-26/RW-59)
4.	1170612	Periodic Maintenance of Simanta Bazar RHD-Sonamukhi GC Road from Ch. 00m-4300m [Kazipur] [Road ID: 188502001] (Package No. LGED/GOBM/SERAJ/25-26/RW-58)

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. 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 branches. Further information and guideline is available on e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) and also from c-mail: kcn.sirajganj@lged.gov.bd or call to: 025877-52066, 01708-123237. Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

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GD-2448

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT SHERPUR

Memo No-37.07.8900.001.48.006.25-7929

Date: 16/11/2025

e-Tender Notice No-09/EED/Sher-2025-2026

e-Tender is Invited in National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works details are given below.

SL	Tender ID No	Description of works	Procurement Method
1	1155862	Repair & Renovation Works at Saluatala Dakhil Madrasah, Nalitabari, Sherpur.	LTM
2	1155858	Repair & Renovation Works at Panchgaon Dakhil Madrasah, Nalitabari, Sherpur.	LTM
3	1155826	Repair & Renovation Works at Kalapara Meftahul Ulum Dakhil Madrasah, Nakla, Sherpur.	LTM
4	1098705	Repair and Renovation Works of Semi-Pucca Building at Sherpur Govt. Mohila College, Sadar, Sherpur	LTM

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