

Govt to import 6.5 lakh tonnes of rice, wheat

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is all set to import 6.5 lakh tonnes of food grains to boost national food stocks and ensure a buffer against volatility in rice and wheat prices.

The advisory committee on economic affairs approved the food ministry's proposals yesterday.

Under government-to-government (G2G) contracts, the food ministry will purchase 3 lakh

tonnes of wheat. The ministry will import 3 lakh tonnes of rice through international tenders.

To expedite the import of rice, the high-powered committee relaxed public procurement rules, reducing the timeframe for bringing in the grains to 15 days instead of the usual 42 days.

Additionally, the advisory committee on government purchases has granted permission to import 50,000 tonnes of non-

basmati rice from Singapore-based Aditya Birla Global Trading Pte Ltd. The supplier will sell the rice at \$354.19 per tonne.

From July 1 to November 17 this year, Bangladesh imported a total of 26.17 lakh tonnes of food grains, of which 2.22 lakh tonnes were purchased by the government.

As of November 17, food stocks in public storage stood at 13.71 lakh tonnes, according to food ministry data.

Platform launched to bolster supply chains ahead of LDC exit

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government, in collaboration with the United Nations, yesterday launched a platform aimed at strengthening Bangladesh's supply chains to support sustainable and inclusive economic growth as the country prepares to graduate from the least developed country (LDC) category next year.

Named the Resilient Supply Chains for Sustainable Trade and Investments Platform, it has been jointly initiated by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), the Ministry of Commerce, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The platform will act as a central

mechanism for policy dialogue, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, with a focus on improving supply chain development, fostering policy coherence and strengthening public-private partnerships, Bida said in a press statement.

The initiative supports Bangladesh's LDC graduation by promoting international labour standards, inclusive growth, and decent work, it added.

"Bangladesh's graduation from LDC status is a chance to build a new kind of competitiveness, one based on value, skills, quality and fairness," Lutfe Siddiqi, special envoy on international affairs to the chief adviser, said at the launching ceremony at Bida's Dhaka office.

He said the platform would bring

together government, private sector and development partners to shape the country's next phase of economic development, matching growth with dignity and sustainability.

Bida Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun emphasised the need for a clear roadmap and accountability mechanisms, so that "by the end of 2026, we know exactly where we stand."

He said the platform was intended to deliver tangible progress rather than mere dialogue.

Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman said the government is advancing regulatory reforms and updating trade and investment policies in line with global standards as the country nears LDC graduation in November 2026.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Rangpur
E-mail: eran@rhd.gov.bd

Date: 16-11-25

Invitation for e-GP Tender

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender has been invited in the e-GP Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for procurement of works. Interested person/Firms can see details by visiting the www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Memo No. 35.01.8549.467.07.000.25-2679

SL No.

Tender ID No.

Tender Ref. No.

Description of works

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Description of works	Tender/ proposal document last selling date & time	Last date & time for tender /proposal security submission	Tender/proposal opening date & time	
1	1177282	e-GP-01/EE/PMP-Major/RHD/RANG/2025-2026.	Periodic Maintenance Program (Road-Major) by providing Widening and Surfacing work at Ch.11+400 km to Ch. 14+170 km (Mirbag Bazar to Bailey Bridge), Ch. 15+600 km to Ch. 18+006 km (Sohorab Brick Field to Kauma Fire Station) & Ch.18+916 to Ch. 19+750 km (Nizpura to Traffic Police Box) of Rangpur-Barabari-Kurigram (N-506) Road, under Road Division Rangpur during FY 2025-2026.	17-Dec-2025 17:00	18-Dec-2025 12:50	18-Dec-2025 13:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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

GD-2475

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Netrokona

Memo No. 37.07.7200.008.07.002(30).25-204

Date: 18/11/2025

e-Tender Notice No: 2025-2026/30

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED Netrokona as mentioned below:

SL . N o	Package No.	Name of works	Tendering Method	Tender ID	Last date and time of selling documents	Tender Closing Date/time	Tender opening Date/time
1	WD-08/SHED/70 16/2025-26	Construction Of Single Storey Academic Building With 4-Storied Foundation In/C.Sanitary , Water Supply And Electrification Works At Bausi Ardochandra Higher Secondary School under Barhatta Upazilla Netrokona District	LTM	1175564	02/12/2025 15:00	03/12/2025 13:00	03/12/2025 13:00
2	WD-10/SHED/70 16/2025-26	Construction Of Single Storey Academic Building With 4-Storied Foundation In/C.Sanitary , Water Supply And Electrification Works At Fothetur Saiyod Ali Choudhury High School under Modon Upazilla Netrokona District	LTM	1175565	02/12/2025 15:00	03/12/2025 13:00	03/12/2025 13:00
3	WD-12/SHED/70 16/2025-26	Construction Of Single Storey Academic Building With 4-Storied Foundation In/C.Pile Works,Sanitary , Water Supply And Electrification Works At Munsur Ahamed Mohila College under Barhatta Upazilla Netrokona District	LTM	1176425	02/12/2025 15:00	03/12/2025 13:00	03/12/2025 13:00
4	WD-14/SHED/70 16/2025-26/Ex	Construction Of Single Storied Academic Building With 4-Storied Foundation In/C.Sanitary , Water Supply And Electrification Works At Abdul Jabbar Ansari Memorial College under Kalmakanda Upazilla Netrokona District	LTM	1176426	02/12/2025 15:00	03/12/2025 13:00	03/12/2025 13:00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP system portal and No offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason what so ever.

Md. Manirul Kabir
Executive Engineer
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Netrokona.
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GD-2478

AB Bank seeks Tk 2,000cr

FROM PAGE B1

Central bank officials said the governor has decided not to provide further liquidity support because many banks cannot repay what they already owe.

AB Bank, once a reputed lender formerly known as Arab Bangladesh Bank, has grown financially weak over the years.

Its bad loans rose to Tk 22,279 crore at the end of 2024, equal to 67 percent of total loans and advances, according to the 2024 annual report.

Non-performing loans of the lender stood at Tk 10,115 crore in September last year.

The bank reported a Tk 3,113 crore net loss in the January-September period of this year, compared with a Tk 1.58 crore profit in the same period a year earlier.

The central bank appointed an observer in 2017 to monitor AB Bank closely, yet its condition continued to deteriorate.

Officials at the bank said loans approved through irregularities in previous years have since turned default. Weak recovery from major borrowers has worsened the situation.

They said the bank is struggling to recover funds from Beximco Group, Sikder Group, Asian City, Buildtrade and Mahin Group.

Leadership vacuum

FROM PAGE B1

this has not happened for many years. The leadership has eventually become a one-man, one-board FBCCI, which, as a federation, can hardly contribute to policy formulation on trade, economy, business, and commerce."

He cited India as an example, where the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the country's apex trade body, actively works with the government to provide quality consultation on import policies.

"We need to significantly improve the quality of leadership in the FBCCI," Sarker added.

Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury (Parvez), president of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, said,

"Industries have been suffering from the lack of qualitative services. We need FBCCI leadership that can serve businesses and the government responsibly."

ELECTION CHALLENGES AND NEW RULES

According to Md Hafizur Rahman, the election was postponed during his tenure due to two cases -- one related to the election commission and the other to membership fees.

"One case challenged the administrator's power to form the election commission, but it was later withdrawn as the trade rules allow both the administrator and the director general of the trade

organisation to form the FBCCI election commission," he said.

"Secondly, the membership fee was set at Tk 20,000 for two-year renewal with the FBCCI. This was also challenged in court but later withdrawn," he added, noting that the FBCCI now has no legal obligation to hold the election.

Explaining the new election rules, Rahman said, "The FBCCI president, one senior vice-president, and two vice-presidents will be directly elected instead of being nominated by the nominated and elected directors."

"The number of directorial posts has also been reduced. Under the new rules, 14 directors will be nominated from key business chambers and trade associations -- seven from chambers and seven from association groups, including one female from each group."

"Another 30 directors will be elected directly -- 15 from the chamber group and 15 from the association group," he added.

Previously, of the 80 director posts, 34 were nominated -- 17 from the chamber group and 17 from the association group -- while the remaining 46 were elected, with 23 from each group.

Current FBCCI Administrator Md Abdur Rahim Khan told The Daily Star, "Work has begun to update the organisation's rules, and I am hopeful to hold the election on time."

Tk 25,790cr: Union Bank

FROM PAGE B1

With a paid-up capital of Tk 1,036 crore, nearly half of which came from general investors, the bank's financial structure has now collapsed beyond repair. Until 2023, its deposit base stood at Tk 22,558 crore, much of which is now under threat.

The impact on ordinary depositors has been severe. Iqbal Hossain, a small shopkeeper in Chattogram, saved Tk 2,000 a month in a deposit scheme for four years, hoping to use the funds to expand his cow farming business.

When the scheme matured in June, he was unable to withdraw his money in full. "They allowed me to take out Tk 1,000 per day, and even that stopped after 13 days," he said.

He now waits for clarity under a government-ordered merger process, which is expected to allow depositors to withdraw up to Tk 2 lakh.

Union Bank came under the control of S Alam Group in 2013. In 2020, Saiful Alam's son, Ahsanul Alam, became the bank's chairman,

making him the youngest to hold such a position in the sector. Before that, he served as vice-chairman and headed the bank's executive committee.

After the change in government, Bangladesh Bank ordered forensic audits, supported by the Asian Development Bank, into several banks suspected of deep irregularities. Review by the reputed British accounting firm KPMG uncovered extreme mismanagement at Union Bank, including an NPL ratio of 97.8 percent as of September 2024.

Later, invoking the Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025, the central bank moved to merge Union Bank with four other distressed lenders. An administrator has been appointed to oversee the process.

The banking regulator said shareholders of the banks selected for merger will receive no compensation. Trading in the banks' shares has been suspended on the DSE. Before the suspension, shares of Union Bank last traded at Tk 1.5.

Institute of Business Administration



ADMISSION NOTICE

TRAINING ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Program Schedule

This is an eight-week program. Classes will take place during Saturday morning (9:30 AM to 12:45 PM) only. Classes will start from Saturday, December 20, 2025.

Admission Procedure

Eligible candidates are invited to submit their applications through <https://mdp.iba-dh.edu/EBD>.

The last date of application is Monday, December 08, 2025.

Only shortlisted applicants will be called for the assessment test on a rolling basis.

Certification

Participants will engage in interactive workshops, case studies, and mentorship sessions led by seasoned industry practitioners and academic experts, fostering a practical learning environment. At the end of successful completion of the course, participants will be awarded certificates to be issued by the institute.

Course Fee