

Expand climate risk insurance for vulnerable communities: experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should remove barriers and formulate the necessary policies to introduce climate risk insurance (CRI) products, encouraging private insurance companies to enter the market, experts urged yesterday.

The recommendations came at an event titled "From Risk to Resilience: Institutionalising Climate Risk Insurance into Bangladesh's Social Protection and Disaster Management Systems," jointly organised by the World Food Programme, Oxfam, and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Experts also suggested the government consider value-added tax exemptions for micro-insurance, revise commission ceilings, and develop a targeted premium subsidy framework based on vulnerability and climate exposure.

Prof Suborna Barua, chairman of the Department of International Business at the University of Dhaka, said, "Opening reinsurance markets to more private or foreign firms will give insurance companies greater choice, improve service quality, reduce costs, and boost efficiency, including for CRI."

He added, "The government should formally recognise climate and disaster risk insurance in national plans and policies and provide fiscal incentives such as VAT exemptions. Better coordination between ministries is also needed to accelerate the adoption of CRI."

Bangladesh is one of the world's most climate-exposed countries, regularly facing floods, cyclones, storm surges, and unpredictable rainfall that threaten livelihoods, food security, and rural incomes. For millions of smallholder farmers and vulnerable households, a single climate event can destroy a season's income, pushing them further into debt and poverty.

Maribeth Black, head of vulnerability analysis and monitoring at the World Food Programme, said, "WFP is working closely



Experts are seen at a roundtable discussion on institutionalising climate risk insurance in Bangladesh, jointly organised by the World Food Programme, Oxfam, and The Daily Star, at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

with Bangladesh to design and test climate insurance products and to review existing policies and legislation to integrate CRI guidelines into future response mechanisms."

Tarik Ur Rahman, consultant at Green Delta Insurance, said, "With rising climate risks, GDI's proven, scalable, tech-driven, and farmer-centric model is ready for national and global replication, giving vulnerable communities the confidence to face an uncertain future."

Mohammad Emran Hasan, head of climate justice and natural resource rights at Oxfam Bangladesh, stressed, "The government and private actors must carefully introduce new insurance products into the market."

Imanun Nabi Khan, assistant country representative of FAO Bangladesh, noted, "Loss and damage are inevitable and must be accurately measured. During last year's floods, even households receiving remittances lacked basic resources and could not communicate

with family abroad. This shows that money alone is not enough—precise data and technologies are essential."

Md Najmul Alam, deputy secretary to the Ministry of Planning, said, "Bangladesh is one of the world's most climate-exposed countries."

He urged development partners to work with the government to help cover part of farmers' insurance premiums, noting that the government already provides extensive subsidies.

M Aslam Alam, chairman of the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority, said, "The current insurance law does not cover parametric insurance, but the proposed amendment to the Insurance Act includes it. Once approved, this will remove the legal barrier."

Muhammad Tanjim Ferdous, in charge of NGO and foreign missions at The Daily Star, moderated the event.

Inequality to deepen further

FROM PAGE B1

It warns that the trend is now accelerating as economic pressures mount.

Bangladesh's upward movement on the Gini scale suggests that the benefits of growth are increasingly concentrated among higher-income households.

Since 2016, consumption growth has become less pro-poor, with gains concentrated among middle- and upper-income groups while the poorest households have benefited least.

The World Bank estimates that nearly 20 lakh additional people will fall into poverty in 2025, pushing the national poverty rate above 21 percent. Since 2022, around 60 lakh people have fallen into poverty, with the poverty gap projected to widen by two points by the end of this year, signalling deeper deprivation among the poor.

Impacts have been uneven: since 2022, households with high-skilled workers, those in quality jobs, and remittance recipients have largely been insulated from the downturn, in some cases maintaining or even improving their welfare.

"This divergence in household welfare is anticipated to increase inequality by

nearly 2 Gini points by 2025," said the WB report.

However, the assessment also highlights improvements in educational equity. The influence of inherited circumstances, such as gender, place of birth, and ethnicity, on years of formal education has declined sharply, from explaining 50 percent of inequality among those born in the early 1960s to 20 percent among those born in the 1990s.

This progress is largely due to the expansion of primary education, which has reached most children regardless of background, and gender- and geography-based disparities have nearly disappeared. Similarly, the gap has been shrinking over generations, showing convergence for those born in the late 1970s and for younger cohorts.

The report cautions, however, that gains in secondary education have been less egalitarian. While enrolment has increased at all levels due to policies implemented since the 2000s, inherited circumstances continue to influence access to upper secondary education, meaning inequality remains more pronounced beyond the primary level.

Staff of five merging banks

FROM PAGE B1

A recent Bangladesh Bank statement showed that the five banks are paying staff salaries from depositors' funds.

For instance, First Security Islami Bank recorded a negative operating income of Tk 4,308 crore, while salary and allowance expenses stood at Tk 652 crore as of December last year.

This indicates that staff salaries were being drawn from depositors' funds.

The bank posted a net loss of Tk 5,450.15 crore last year, while total operating expenses were Tk 1,051.61 crore.

On August 26, the central bank wrote

to the bank's chairman, stating that a BB inspection had found "serious governance failure."

Earlier this month, Bangladesh Bank granted initial approval and issued a letter of intent to the government for the formation of Sammito Islami Bank PLC, a new state-owned bank created through the merger of the five troubled shariah-based banks.

Since the installation of the interim government last year, Bangladesh Bank has so far extended around Tk 35,300 crore as liquidity support to those five banks, but the lenders are yet to repay the fund to the banking watchdog.

Rupali Bank PLC

Procurement Division, Head Office, Dhaka - 1000

Invitation for New Enlistment & Renewal

RUPALI BANK PLC					
1. Ministry/Division	Rupali Bank PLC, Procurement Division				
2. Procuring Entity Name	Rupali Bank PLC, Procurement Division, Head Office, Dhaka				
3. Procuring Entity District	All over Bangladesh				
4. Invitation for	Category for Renewal of Enlistment: 01) Civil & Electrical Works 02) Mechanical & Electro-mechanical 03) ICT Items 04) Internet & Data Connectivity Service Provider 05) Furniture & Fixture supply, Installation & Repairing 06) Sign Board supply, Installation & Repairing 07) Table Stationeries, Crockeries, Towel, Jainamaz, Paper, Toner cartridge etc 08) Printing Stationery 09) Rubber & Revolving Stamp/Token/Crest/Name Plate/Honor Board 10) Tires & Batteries of Motor Vehicle 11) Motor Vehicle Repairing Category for New Enlistment: 12) Fire Safety 13) Social Purchasing				
5. Invitation Ref No	RBPLC/Procurement/2025/2047				
6. Date of Invitation	26.11.2025				
KEY INFORMATION					
7. Procurement Method	Limited Tendering Method (LTM)				
FUNDING FORMATION					
8. Budget and source of Funds	Own Fund				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
9. Application Closing Date and Time	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> </tr> <tr> <td>09.12.2025</td> <td>4:00 PM</td> </tr> </table>	Date	Time	09.12.2025	4:00 PM
Date	Time				
09.12.2025	4:00 PM				
10. Name & Address of the Office(s)	Rupali Bank PLC, Procurement Division, Head office, Dhaka Eunos Trade Centre (Level -14), 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000				
- Application Form Availability	From Date: 27.11.2025 to Date: 10.12.2025, Time: 10.00AM - 3.00PM				
- Receiving Application Form	From Date: 27.11.2025 to Date: 10.12.2025, Time: 10.00AM - 4.00PM				
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT					
11. Eligibility of Applicant	a. Must have valid & updated Trade License; b. Must have e-TIN Certificate; c. Must have updated Income Tax Certificate; d. Must have valid VAT Registration Certificate; e. Other documents or qualifications mentioned in Application Form; f. Any firm/company or owner of the firm/company debarred or blacklist by Banks, Financial Institutions, Govt. Organization, Semi Govt. Organization & Autonomous Organization is not eligible for the Enlistment; g. Applicants in other categories cannot apply in the "Social Purchasing" category; h. Only the following applicants are eligible to apply for the "Social Purchasing" category: i. Micro and small enterprise: Any person or organization that has been awarded a contract for a maximum aggregate value of 1 (one) crore taka, regardless of the type of procurement, under PPR rules, within 3 (three) years from the date of invitation to enlistment. ii. Women-owned enterprise: All those sole proprietorships in which the owner is a woman. iii. New enterprise: All individuals or organizations that have obtained their first business registration within 2 (two) years prior to the date of invitation to enlistment.				
12. Price of Application Form (Non-refundable)	Interested new applicants & existing enlisted applicants have to apply their official letter-head pad along with a Pay-order/Demand Draft Tk. 1,000.00 (One Thousand Only) issued from any schedule bank of Bangladesh in favor of "Rupali Bank PLC, Head Office, Dhaka" to collect each application form of enlistment.				
13. New Enlistment/Renewal Fee (Non-refundable)	After the evaluation of enlistment only eligible organization shall be noticed to submit New Enlistment/Renewal Fee in the form of a Pay-order/Demand Draft issued from any branch of Rupali Bank PLC in favor of "Rupali Bank PLC, Head Office, Dhaka" are as follows- a. New Enlistment Fee Tk. 5,000.00 (Five Thousand) only; b. Renewal Fee Tk. 2,000.00 (Two Thousand) only; c. If the organization is sole proprietorships in which the owner is a woman- i. New Enlistment Fee will be Tk. 3,000.00 (Three Thousand) only; ii. Renewal fee will be Tk. 1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred) only.				
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
14. Name of Official Inviting Application	MOHAMMED SHAJAHAN CHOUDHURY				
15. Designation of Official Inviting Application	General Manager				
16. Address of Official Inviting Application	Rupali Bank PLC, Procurement Division, Head office, Dhaka Eunos Trade Centre (Level -14), 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000				
17. Contact details of Official Inviting	+880247121284, +8801557054720				
18. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Applications.					

(MOHAMMED SHAJAHAN CHOUDHURY)
General Manager

GD-2567

Bangladesh yet to benefit

FROM PAGE B1

The report compares Bangladesh's GI performance with countries like India and Italy. Italy's GI sector contributes over \$19 billion to its economy annually, supported by strong legal frameworks, producer associations, and global market strategies.

India, meanwhile, has moved swiftly to register and protect shared cultural products, sometimes beating Bangladesh to key filings.

In a recent example, India secured GI registration for the "Tangail Sari of Bengal" before Bangladesh, complicating future branding and export efforts. Other shared heritage items, including Jamdani and Sundarbans' Honey, face similar risks.

Md Saiful Islam, chairman of BSCIC, said that although the Jamdani sari has received a GI certificate, the manufacturers have not approached the local office to take the initiative further.

"Achieving the certificate is not the end — it requires active efforts to use it as a brand," he said, adding, "The manufacturers should be proactive in engaging with us for the next steps."

Unfortunately, BSCIC officials do not receive cooperation from the Jamdani craftsmen due to a lack of awareness, he added.

Chandra Shekhar Saha, president of the Bangladesh Jatiya Karushipia Parishad and a Jamdani expert, said

that while GI registration is a step forward, key steps like creating an official logo or trademark remain unaddressed.

"I'm not aware of any framework for how a logo would be used or maintained," he said. He added that beyond the GI announcement, there has been little follow-up.

On counterfeits, Saha said machine-made imitations are widespread and hard to regulate under current laws. "Imitations aren't new — China and others have replicated fabrics for years. We're surrounded by them," he said.

Begum said there is a need for dedicated display centres, stronger producer networks, and coordinated public-private efforts. "A clear roadmap must be included in the national GI policy, with time-bound implementation targets," she added.

The BUILD study recommends formulating a comprehensive National GI Policy under the Ministry of Industries. This policy should include time-bound targets for export promotion, capacity building, community mobilisation, and diplomatic coordination on shared heritage.

It also urges the government to fast-track the long-pending GI Tag system, implement product traceability, and move from direct cash incentives to branding subsidies and production-linked incentives for GI producers.

UN panel queries

FROM PAGE B1

Earlier, on November 10, a team led by Roland Mollerus, acting director of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, met with business leaders, independent economists, senior government officials, and labour union representatives.

They discussed the country's macroeconomic stability, while business leaders urged a deferment of graduation by at least

six years, citing insufficient readiness.

Despite these calls, the interim government has repeatedly affirmed its intention to maintain the graduation timeline. The independent UN commission is preparing a report on the visit, which will be submitted to the UN CDP soon.

The UN panel is scheduled to review both Bangladesh's 2025 annual report and the commission's findings in February before finalising decisions on the country's LDC graduation or any possible deferment.

ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড

Eastern Refinery Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

e-Tender Notice No. ER/TN/e-GP/C-09/2025-2026

Open Tendering Method (OTM)

e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of work as stated below:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Package No. & Description	Tender publication date and time	Tender last selling/downloading date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time
1	1181885	ER/C-15/2025-2026 Sinking and installation of 14"x8" diameter MS Deep Tube Well at ERL Tank Farm Area (at the South Area of Tank-T6109 Dyke)	25 November, 2025 15:06 Hrs	08 December, 2025 16:00 Hrs	09 December, 2025 15:00 Hrs

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

GD-2565

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Education Engineering Department, Kishoreganj

e-Mail: ee_kis@eedmoe.gov.bd

Memo No. 37.07.4800.001.07.013.25-606 Date: 26-11-2025

Tender Notice

LTM

e-Tender is invited the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of Works as stated below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Work/Description of Package	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender Security Submission (Last Date & Time)	Tender Closing/Opening (Date & Time)
1	1179055	Repair & Renovation Works of Madhakhola Kamil Madrasa at Hossainpur, Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00
2	1179056	Repair & Renovation Works of Mongalbaria Kamil Madrasa at Pakundia, Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00
3	1179057	Repair & Renovation Works of Kagarchar Hossainia M.U Girls Dakhil Madrasa at Pakundia, Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00
4	1179058	Repair & Renovation Works of Chilakara Rashidia Girls Dakhil Madrasa at Pakundia, Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00
5	1179059	Repair & Renovation Works of Mongalbaria Girls Dakhil Madrasa at Pakundia, Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00
6	1179060	Repair & Renovation Works of Chouganga Senior Madrasa at Itna, Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00
7	1179061	Repair & Renovation Works of Austagram Hossainia Fazil Madrasa at Austagram, Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00
8	1179062	Repair & Renovation Works of Fekamar F.U Girls Dakhil Madrasa at Katiadi, Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00
9	1179063	Repair & Renovation Works of Moshua Dakhil Madrasa at Katiadi, Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00
10	1147220	Modernization at principle room and construction of single toilet room works at Kishoreganj govt.women college.sadar,Kishoreganj.	14/12/2025 at 16.00	15/12/2025 at 14.00	15/12/2025 at 16.00

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

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Ariful Islam Khan
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Kishoreganj

GD-2562