

BTRC pledges easier import, faster vendor enlistment for mobile handset traders

A meeting was held between the Mobile Business Community Bangladesh and the BTRC yesterday

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has assured mobile handset traders of streamlined processes for handset imports and vendor enlistment, following a meeting with representatives of the Mobile Business Community Bangladesh (MBCB) yesterday.

According to a BTRC press release, the discussion was held at the commission's office, where both sides reviewed the existing procedures for mobile phone import approvals and vendor enlistment certificates.

This development comes amid ongoing protests by unofficial mobile handset traders against the planned enforcement of the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR), which is set to block unauthorised devices from December 16 this year.

The protesting traders have demanded a delay in implementing NEIR, a reduction in taxes, and simplification of the import process.

The meeting focused on simplifying documentation requirements while preventing the entry of clone, copy, used, and refurbished devices into the local



Customers browse mobile phones at a shop on Sadar Road in Barishal.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

market. The commission said it will provide vendor enlistment certificates within a shorter timeframe and with fewer documents than before.

In an effort to curb the inflow of unauthorised devices, BTRC stated that import approval will be granted not only on the basis of certification from the original manufacturer but also

upon submission of an attestation from any authorised distributor, even in the absence of a formal contract.

This measure aims to support legitimate traders who often face delays due to stringent documentation requirements, the release added.

During the meeting, BTRC called on the MBCB to submit a clear written proposal detailing ways to further simplify the

import process while ensuring that clone, copy, used, and refurbished handsets do not enter the country.

Responding to a request from the trader community, BTRC agreed to facilitate the regularisation of all unsold mobile handsets currently in the country's market.

Traders have been asked to submit relevant information in the prescribed format by December 15 this year, after which the commission will take necessary steps.

The BTRC reaffirmed that all legally imported mobile phones will receive full cooperation from the regulator, in line with the "Guidelines for the Use, Marketing and Listing of Wireless Equipment 2024."

After the meeting with BTRC officials, MBCB leaders said they were informed that representatives of several government ministries would sit for a discussion tomorrow.

The leaders urged handset sellers to remain calm until the outcome of that meeting is known.

Earlier, both the BTRC and the telecom ministry had written to the government recommending that import duties on mobile handsets be reduced by nearly half.

Bangladesh's debt repayments jump

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the IMF in 2024 to downgrade Bangladesh's risk rating from "low" to "moderate".

According to the WB report, Bangladesh's total foreign debt stood at \$104 billion in 2024, up from \$26 billion in 2010. By the end of last year, the country spent 16 percent of its export earnings on debt repayment alone.

This surge also comes at a time when the National Board of Revenue (NBR), which is responsible for collecting 90 percent of the country's revenue, has consistently fallen short of reaching its target for the 13th year as of fiscal year 2024-25.

Speaking at an event in Dhaka on Monday, economist Prof Mustafizur Rahman said if the trend continues, Bangladesh is poised to fall into a "debt trap".

Falling into a debt trap would mean the government will have to repay loans by taking loans, he added.

At the same event, NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan said, "We have already fallen into a debt trap; unless we acknowledge this truth, it will not be possible to move forward."

However, economist Hussain believes Bangladesh is not yet in a severe debt crisis but warned that the pace at which loans and repayments are rising could push the country into a riskier position sooner than expected.

He attributed part of the problem

to what he called "irresponsible borrowing".

The economist noted that foreign loans should be backed by well-prepared projects and clear repayment plans, but that has not always been the case. "If you take a project at a cost of Tk 500 instead of its real cost of Tk 100 and launder the excess money, then how will you repay the loans?"

However, Bangladesh's debt position is still stronger than that of Pakistan and Sri Lanka, both of which have seen much larger mismatches between external debt and export income.

Pakistan's external debt is 315 percent of its exports; Sri Lanka's is 280 percent and Nepal's is 234 percent. India's is 82 percent, while Vietnam's is just 31 percent. The South Asian average stands at 93 percent, World Bank data show.

Hussain said Bangladesh should treat the rising ratio as an early warning that it could move towards the same difficulties faced by some neighbouring countries.

In this situation, he recommended that the government reschedule foreign funded projects that are already underway but unlikely to generate enough revenue to repay the loans tied to them.

For projects that have been approved but have not yet begun, he said the disbursement should

be reviewed and, if necessary, restructured or repurposed.

"Potential new borrowing should be analysed rigorously so that wastage cannot happen," he added.

The WB report also highlighted a wider global trend. Between 2022 and 2024, developing countries collectively paid \$741 billion more in loan repayments and interest than they received in new financing. This was the biggest net outflow related to debt in more than half a century.

By 2024, the total foreign debt of low and middle-income countries reached a record \$8.9 trillion. Of this, \$1.2 trillion was owed by the 78 most vulnerable countries that qualify for low-cost loans and grants from the WB's International Development Association.

These record-high burdens, the report noted, came at a time when global interest rates are at their highest levels since just before the 2008-09 financial crisis.

Govt approves

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MW project in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar, to Confidence Power Bogra Unit 2 at Tk 9.86 per kilowatt-hour; and a 100 MW project in Ramu awarded to a joint venture of China Northeast Electric Power Engineering & Services and BM Star Trade at Tk 7.96 per kilowatt-hour.

A 50 MW project in Jaldhaka, Nilphamari, went to Concord Pragatik Consortium at Tk 10.07 per kilowatt-hour, and another 50 MW project in Bibiyana, Sylhet, was awarded to Paramount Holdings and Paramount Textile at Tk 9.91 per kilowatt-hour.

Bagerhat, Mongla, will host a 100 MW solar plant given to Confidence Power Bogra Unit-2 and Asian Entech Power Corporation at Tk 9.86 per kilowatt-hour, while a 70 MW project in Hemayetur, Pabna, went to Paramount Holdings and Paramount Textile at Tk 9.63 per kilowatt-hour.

Additionally, the pre-approved tariff for a 210 MW combined cycle power plant in Mymensingh was revised downward from Tk 6.35 per kilowatt-hour to Tk 5.34 per kilowatt-hour.

The committee also approved the import of 50,000 tonnes of rice from India-based Nutriagro Overseas at \$351.49 per tonne, and a cargo LNG import at \$10.37 per MMBTU from TotalEnergies Gas & Power, United Kingdom.

The DAE estimates last season's harvest at over 39 lakh tonnes, enough to meet domestic demand. However, it projects that an additional 6.7 lakh tonnes of imports will be needed to offset post-harvest losses.

At the retail level, local onions sold for Tk 120-Tk 130 per kg and Indian varieties for Tk 125-Tk 135 per kg.

Omar Faruk, owner of Era Trading in Khatunganj, said, "The port city needs around 30 truckloads of

onions daily, but only 5-7 trucks are entering the market now. It may take another two to three weeks for newly harvested onions to arrive, so prices have not stabilised yet."

He added that only three truckloads of Indian onions entered Chattogram in the past two days.

Ahsan Uddin, a retailer at Kazir Dewri market, said, "Supply is much lower than demand, so prices remain high. Retailers are also buying smaller quantities, in hopes of prices falling at any time."

"Reduced purchasing volumes, along with rising transport and handling costs, have kept prices elevated. Although Indian onions have entered Khatunganj, many retail markets, including mine, have not received any yet due to limited supply," he added.

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GOVT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, RANGPUR

ee.eed.rang/2025-26/1197

Date: 09.12.2025

e-GP (IFT) 48/6821 TMED LTM

e-Tender has been published through National e-GP system portal for the procurement of following works:

Tender ID	Name of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1141108	Manufacturing and Supply new furniture at Osmanpur BU Fazil Madrasa, Badarganj, Rangpur.	23.12.2025 15.00	24.12.2025 12.00
1141110	Manufacturing and Supply new furniture at Dhantola Bazar Dakhil Madrasa, Gangachara, Rangpur.	23.12.2025 15.00	24.12.2025 12.00
1141111	Manufacturing and Supply new furniture at Baruahat Keramotia Kamil Madrasa, Kaunia, Rangpur.	23.12.2025 15.00	24.12.2025 12.00
1141112	Manufacturing and Supply new furniture at Haragach Dhumer Per Alim Madrasa, Kaunia, Rangpur.	23.12.2025 15.00	24.12.2025 12.00
1141113	Manufacturing and Supply new furniture at Mirzapur Kaderia Fazil Madrasa, Mithapukur, Rangpur.	23.12.2025 15.00	24.12.2025 12.00
1141798	Manufacturing and Supply new furniture at Boirati Rahmania BL, Dakhil Madrasa, Mithapukur, Rangpur.	23.12.2025 15.00	24.12.2025 12.00
1141832	Manufacturing and Supply new furniture at Dr MR Mohila Technical and BM College, Mithapukur, Rangpur.	23.12.2025 15.00	24.12.2025 12.00

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. The Tender who have registered in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is eligible to participate in this tender. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-2698

(Md Mehedi Iqbal)
Executive Engineer

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
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Dated: 02.12.2025

Midland Bank donates Tk 10 lakh for Korail fire victims

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC yesterday donated Tk 10 lakh to Sajida Foundation, a charitable organisation, to support relief efforts for victims of the Korail slum fire.

Of the total amount, Tk 5 lakh was provided from the bank's Islami Banking Fund under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, while the remaining Tk 5 lakh was contributed by Midland Bank family members.

Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank PLC, handed over the cheques to Muhymin Chowdhury, director of impact investments and partnerships at Sajida Foundation, at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.



PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

BB buys \$2.5b

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Foreign exchange reserves began to recover in March this year, and the pace of depreciation of the taka slowed. The central bank then resumed buying dollars.

In May this year, the BB shifted to a floating exchange rate to meet conditions linked to the ongoing \$5.5 billion loan package by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The move came a year after the banking regulator introduced a crawling peg that allowed the exchange rate to move within a band.

Central bank officials said that even with a market-based rate, they would step in if the dollar rose above Tk 123 or fell below Tk 121 to keep the band intact.

Corrigendum-1

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal for the following works:

Tender ID	Periodic Maintenance Programme by Repairing and providing DBS Wearing Course and other ancillary works at Ch.32+665 (Motkhola) to 45+114 (Katiadi) of Itakhola-Motkhola-Kotiadi Road (R-211) under Kishoreganj Road Division, Kishoreganj during the year 2025-2026.
1176105	

Corrigendum / Amendment No: 1

Field Name	Old Value	New Value
Document last selling date & time	21/12/2025 17:00	04/01/2026 17:00
Opening Date & Time	22/12/2025 12:00	05/01/2026 12:00
Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	22/12/2025 11:30	05/01/2026 11:30
Closing Date & Time	22/12/2025 12:00	05/01/2026 12:00
TDS/PDS	Stated in ITT Clause 5.13	Stated in ITT Clause 5.13
A. General	Stated in ITT Clause 8.2	Stated in ITT Clause 8.2
TDS/PDS	Stated in ITT Clause 13.1(a)	Stated in ITT Clause 13.1(a)
B. e-Tender Document (e-TD)	Stated in ITT Clause 13.1(b)	Stated in ITT Clause 14.1(b)
TDS/PDS	Stated in ITT Clause 14.1(d)	Stated in ITT Clause 14.1(d)
C. Qualification Criteria (Experience Criteria-General experience)	Stated in ITT Clause 15.1	Stated in ITT Clause 15.1
TDS/PDS	Stated in ITT Clause 16.1	Stated in ITT Clause 16.1
C. Qualification Criteria (Financial Criteria- Average annual construction turnover)	St	