

NCC Bank signs deal to tap BB's Tk 500cr start-up fund

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC has signed an agreement with Bangladesh Bank (BB) to participate in the central bank's Tk 500 crore Start-up Refinance Fund, which aims to support technology-driven, innovative and scalable start-up ventures across the country.

M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, and Nawshad Mustafa, director of the SME and Special Programmes Department of Bangladesh Bank, signed the agreement at the BB headquarters in Motijheel, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the deal, NCC Bank will disburse loans to eligible start-up entrepreneurs using refinance funds provided by Bangladesh Bank.

Nurun Nahar, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, attended the signing ceremony as the chief guest.

Husne Ara Shikha, executive director of the central bank; Md Habibur Rahman, deputy managing director; and Sharif Mohammad Mahsin, senior vice-president and head of the SME division of NCC Bank PLC, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Nawshad Mustafa, director of the SME and Special Programmes Department of Bangladesh Bank, and M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the BB headquarters in Motijheel, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NCC BANK

HSBC named Best Transaction Bank in Bangladesh by Euromoney

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) Bangladesh has been named the Best Transaction Bank in Bangladesh by Euromoney, an English-language monthly magazine focused on business and finance.

The recognition reflects HSBC's scale in supporting the nation's trade flows, as well as its strategic and sustained

"This award also motivates us to continue strengthening our capabilities and delivering solutions that support their growth with greater confidence and efficiency," he added.

A key differentiator behind the achievement has been HSBC's ability to link cross-border and domestic flows through a single integrated digital ecosystem. This includes TradePay for paperless, real-time trade loans and supplier payments,



investment in modernising core trade and cash management infrastructure for large corporates and cross-border supply chains, according to a press release.

Commenting on the achievement, Md Mahbub Ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, said, "This recognition reflects the trust our clients place in us and how far we have come in modernising trade and cash flows in Bangladesh.

"We are truly grateful to our clients, and we remain committed to working closely with them as they navigate an increasingly digital and connected landscape.

alongside automated supply chain and receivables finance solutions.

On the cash management side, the bank has strengthened integration with public and corporate treasuries, including the government's A-challan system, and launched APIs that allow clients to access real-time account information and initiate payments directly from ERP and TMS platforms.

Euromoney has also recognised the bank as the World's Best Trade Finance Bank and the Best Trade Finance Bank in Asia, North America, the Middle East and Singapore.

MetLife to insure Midland Bank employees, dependants

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC has signed an agreement with MetLife Bangladesh to provide insurance coverage for the bank's employees and their dependants.

Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and chief executive officer of Midland Bank PLC, and Ala Ahmad, chief executive officer of MetLife Bangladesh, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release. Zaman said the insurance benefit would enhance employees' sense of belonging and loyalty.

"The long anticipated group insurance facility will ensure affordable, quality treatment for our employees and their dependants, providing protection against unexpected medical costs and offering financial security and peace of mind," he added.

Ahmad said the partnership demonstrated the two organisations' shared vision of prioritising employee well-being through comprehensive insurance solutions.

Under the agreement, nearly 600 permanent employees of Midland Bank will be covered against accidents, disabilities and loss of life. Their dependants will also receive in-patient,




Ala Ahmad, chief executive officer of MetLife Bangladesh, and Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and chief executive officer of Midland Bank PLC, pose for a photograph at the signing ceremony at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

out-patient and maternity insurance coverage.

Md Zahid Hossain, deputy managing director of the bank; Nazmul Huda Sarkar, deputy managing director and chief technology officer; Javed Tarek Khan, head of the institutional banking division; and Khondkar Towfiq Hossain, head of the international division, attended the event.

Mohammad Kamruzzaman, chief corporate business officer of the life insurer; Tauhidul Alam, chief human resource officer; Monirul Islam, vice-president of corporate business; Shehenaz Akter, deputy manager of corporate business; and Mohammad Tipu Sultan, manager of corporate business, among others, were also present.



UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the office of the Registrar are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up 3 (Three) permanent posts of Lecturer in the Department of Japanese Studies, University of Dhaka. Besides 3 (Three) temporary Lecturers may be appointed if consequential vacancy arises (against post of Assistant Professor/leave vacancy). Pay scale of Tk. 22,000-53,060/- (National pay scale 2015).

Qualification: Candidates must have a first class/a minimum CGPA 3.50 out of 4.00 both in Bachelor and Master's degree in Japanese Studies / Japanese Language N2 level (from Social Science Faculty background) / Economics / Management/ Marketing with a first division/ a minimum GPA 4.25 out of 5.00 in SSC & HSC examinations. Requirements for either the SSC or HSC examinations may be relaxed for the candidates who have obtained the first position/the highest CGPA in both Bachelor and Master degrees. Candidates having a Ph.D. in the relevant field and research publication(s) in a quality journal may get preference. For internal candidates of the university the above requirements may be relaxed. **Candidates who have applied earlier for the post of Lecturer need not to apply again.** Relevant notes and conditions apply. (For details, see the Dhaka University Website).

Application Guideline: Eight copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, Mark sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 750/-(seven hundred fifty) only, payable to **the Registrar, University of Dhaka**, should reach him on or before **29/01/2026**. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

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Robi withdraws

FROM PAGE B1 Banglalink, the third-largest operator, and state-owned Teletalk have not applied to take part in the auction.

Sensing that only one operator could take part in the auction, the BTRC revised its rules, reducing the maximum spectrum acquisition limit for a single operator to 10 MHz from 15 MHz.

"We suspect that only one operator might participate in the auction. If there is a single bidder, that operator could acquire a significant amount of spectrum without competition," the BTRC chairman told The Daily Star on January 6.

"To preserve the interests of smaller operators and ensure fair competition, we have introduced this change," he added.

The complications surrounding the 700 MHz band are not limited to participation or pricing, as 20 MHz of the spectrum remains tied up in a long-running legal dispute.

In 2007, the BTRC allocated 12 MHz of the band to broadband service provider Always On Network Bangladesh Ltd before the frequency was approved for mobile services, leaving a significant portion currently unavailable for auction.

Meanwhile, the government has approved a 10 percent reduction in the base price of the 700 MHz band. The base price is now set at Tk 237 crore per MHz for a 15-year licence period, down from Tk 263 crore

per MHz.

Despite the cut, mobile operators say the spectrum remains expensive and above global benchmark rates.

Tanveer Mohammad, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone, said, "GP is committed to delivering the best possible experience to its customers. Low-band spectrum plays a vital role in improving network quality and coverage, which leads to overall customer satisfaction."

However, GP currently holds a limited amount of low-band spectrum considering its large subscriber base, he added.

"As our customers increasingly embrace a digital lifestyle, the necessity for more low-band spectrum becomes imperative. To meet their evolving needs and enhance their overall experience, we must prioritise securing additional low-band spectrum."

To address this challenge, GP explored options in the 850 MHz band in 2023 and completed a Proof of Concept in 2024. Unfortunately, external factors prevented further progress, Mohammad said.

"Subsequently, BTRC initiated the process of awarding spectrum in the 700 MHz band through an auction. Although the spectrum price remains high, GP has decided to secure spectrum in the 700 MHz band through this process, as delivering a better customer experience is our top priority."

Passport endorsement

FROM PAGE B1 fee capped at Tk 300 per passport, irrespective of the amount of foreign currency exchanged.

The BB has also instructed money changers to prominently display the endorsement fee at their business premises, issue written receipts to customers, and keep proper records of all such collections.

All other foreign exchange instructions will remain unchanged, BB said, adding that money changers must inform customers about the new directive.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রকল্প পরিচালক এর কার্যালয়
"বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে পূর্বাঞ্চলের রেলপথ রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও পুনর্বাসন" প্রকল্প
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিলিগুড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম

ই-জিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ

মোবাইলঃ +৮৮০০১৭১১-৫০৬১০১, ই-মেইলঃ pd.trep@railway.gov.bd

নং-৫৪.০১.১৫০০.১০৯.০৭.০৬৭.২৫ তারিখঃ ০৫.০১.২০২৬খ্রিঃ

প্রকল্প পরিচালক, "বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে পূর্বাঞ্চলের রেলপথ রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও পুনর্বাসন" প্রকল্প, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিলিগুড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) এ নিম্নে বর্ণিত সরবরাহ কাজের দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স নং	আইডি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরণ ও কাজ/ সরবরাহ কাজের নাম	দরপত্র/ দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১.	E-Tender/GD-1/2025-2026	1191055	Goods: Procurement of Rails	OTM, ICT	18-February-2025 at 12:30 Hrs.
২.	E-Tender/GD-2/2025-2026	1200707	Goods: Procurement of Sleepers & Fittings	OTM, ICT	18-February-2025 at 12:30 Hrs.

বিঃদ্রঃ

- সুদূরত্ব ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
- দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয় ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ প্রাপ্য অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

এস/২৬/(১৪৮)

০৫/০১/২০২৬
মোঃ তানভিরুল ইসলাম
প্রকল্প পরিচালক

GD-47

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা বিভাগ
বেসরকারি মাধ্যমিক-৩ শাখা
shed.gov.bd

নম্বরঃ ৩৭.০০.০০০০.০০০.০৭৪.০২.০০১৭.১৮ তারিখঃ

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ বেসরকারি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের (স্কুল ও কলেজ) জনবল কাঠামো ও এমপিও নীতিমালা-২০২৫ আলোকে ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরে নতুন শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান এমপিওভুক্তকরণের লক্ষ্যে আবেদন গ্রহণ

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বেসরকারি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান (স্কুল ও কলেজ) জনবল কাঠামো ও এমপিও নীতিমালা-২০২৫ এর আলোকে ২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরে শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান (স্কুল ও কলেজ) এমপিওভুক্ত করার লক্ষ্যে আগামী ১৪/০১/২০২৬ তারিখ হতে ২৫/০১/২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনলাইনে আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে।

০২। নিম্নবর্ণিত ওয়েবসাইটসমূহের মাধ্যমে Online MPO Application শিরোনামে প্রদর্শিত লিংক এর মাধ্যমে এমপিও ভুক্তির আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবেঃ

(ক) মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা বিভাগের ওয়েবসাইট (www.shed.gov.bd)

(খ) মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট (www.dshe.gov.bd) এবং

(গ) বাংলাদেশ শিক্ষাতথ্য ও পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো (ব্যানবেইস) এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.banbeis.gov.bd)

০৩। উল্লেখ্য যে, বেসরকারি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান এমপিওভুক্তির আবেদন সরাসরি, ই-মেইল কিংবা পত্রের মাধ্যমে মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা বিভাগ অথবা এর অধীনস্থ কোন দপ্তরে গ্রহণ করা হবে না। উপরোক্ত Online MPO Application শিরোনামে প্রদর্শিত লিংক সাথে সংযুক্ত নির্দেশিকা অনুসরণ করে আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। হার্ডকপি মাধ্যমে এ সংক্রান্ত কোন আবেদন মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা বিভাগ বা তার অধীন দপ্তরে দাখিল করা যাবে না।

০৪। নতুন শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান এমপিওভুক্তকরণের সকল কার্যক্রম ডিজিটাল পদ্ধতিতে সম্পন্ন করা হবে। এ পদ্ধতিতে বেসরকারি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান (স্কুল ও কলেজ) জনবল কাঠামো ও এমপিও নীতিমালা-২০২৫ অনুযায়ী নির্দিষ্ট মানদণ্ডের ভিত্তিতে যোগ্য শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের তালিকা প্রস্তুত করা হবে।

০৫। সরকার এতদবিষয়ে যে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

০৬। যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারি করা হলো।

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সাইয়েদ এ.জেড. মোরশেদ আলী
উপসচিব
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GD-57



PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Farmers urged to safeguard crops, livestock amid cold wave

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A cold wave sweeping through several districts and divisions across Bangladesh has put standing crops, horticulture, and livestock at significant risk, prompting authorities to issue urgent advisories for farmers in the worst-affected areas.

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department said the cold spell is moving over Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Kishoreganj, Manikganj, Narsingdi, Narayanganj, Netrokona, Moulvibazar, Laxmipur and Cumilla, as well as across the Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barishal divisions, and may persist in the coming days.

In response, the Bangladesh Agro-Meteorological Information Service issued urgent advisories to minimise damage to crops and farm assets during excessive cold and fog.

Farmers have been urged to provide light but regular irrigation to fruit trees, cover young plants with straw or polythene to block cold winds, and

protect livestock and poultry sheds with burlap or black cloth while keeping high-voltage bulbs lit to maintain warmth.

They have also been advised to take extra care of boro rice seedbeds during the cold spell. Nurseries should be covered with transparent polythene from 3pm to 10am, ensuring it does not touch the seedlings.

Dew should be removed every morning, and 3-5 centimetres of water kept in the seedbed at night and refreshed during the day.

Cold conditions can cause seedling burn. At an early stage, seedlings and soil should be sprayed with approved fungicides such as Emister Top or Septima.

Onion and garlic crops may face purple blotch and tip burn in foggy weather. Preventive sprays of Ridomil Gold or Mancozeb are advised.

Pulses, mustard and potato fields should also be monitored closely and treated with recommended fungicides at regular intervals to prevent disease outbreaks

Postpone NEIR

Mobile phone traders urge govt

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Mobile phone traders yesterday formed a human chain demanding the postponement of the implementation of the National Equipment Identity Register (NEIR) system and the release of colleagues arrested earlier over protests against the initiative.

The demonstration was held in front of the Bashundhara City Shopping Mall in Dhaka.

The traders also demanded the withdrawal of cases filed by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) against mobile phone traders, the release of those detained in connection with the vandalism at the BTRC office, a reduction of total taxes on mobile phone imports to 10-12 percent, permission to import used mobile phones, and simplification of the handset import process.

Earlier on Tuesday, traders staged a similar human chain in front of Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka.

E-VAT refund

FROM PAGE B1

"For example, if a business's VAT liability is Tk 20 but it pays Tk 30 as advance tax, the excess Tk 10 is refundable," he said.

Refunds can also result from double VAT deductions on the same service or when exporters pay VAT or advance tax on imported inputs despite exports being zero-rated.

While an online system could make the process easier, Barua said its effectiveness would ultimately depend on the integrity of those operating it.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an NBR official acknowledged that currently, VAT refunds

often take six to 12 months, even though annual refund applications typically amount to Tk 450 crore to Tk 500 crore on average.

Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the new system could reduce harassment if it functions as intended.

"If the refund process genuinely goes online, businesses will be encouraged to apply, and we will motivate others to do the same," he said, adding that he had never applied for a refund due to lengthy paperwork, multiple approvals and informal payments.

He also noted that although fully export-oriented factories are entitled to VAT refunds on gas and electricity bills, most avoid applying because the process is cumbersome. "Even when pursued, refunds can take four to five months, or even longer."

Syed Mushfequr Rahman, member of the NBR's VAT audit wing, said the law mandates refunds within 90 days. "While processing often takes seven to 10 days, it must not exceed three months," he said, adding that a 24-point checklist is verified before refunds are approved to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

CPA would strengthen

FROM PAGE B1

Yunus described the CPA as one of the most important agreements for Bangladesh and said it would "solidify" Bangladesh-EU relations.

Pampaloni said the head of the EU Election Observation Mission would arrive in Bangladesh later this week and is expected to hold a series of meetings with political leaders and relevant authorities.

Pampaloni stressed the importance of a peaceful

election, saying Bangladesh-EU relations could reach new heights following a successful democratic transition, ushering in a new era of engagement between Dhaka and the world's largest economic bloc.

Lutfey Siddiqi, special envoy of the chief adviser; Lamiya Morshed, SDG coordinator and senior secretary; and Michael Miller, the European Union ambassador to Bangladesh, were also present at the meeting.

Bangladesh resumes US corn imports

FROM PAGE B1
LONGER ROUTE BUT LOWER PRICE

According to a United States Department of Agriculture report, Bangladesh imported about 93 percent of its corn from Brazil in the 2024-25 marketing year, followed by 4 percent from Argentina and 2 percent from Pakistan.

Brazilian corn has long been preferred for its price competitiveness and yellowish colour, which feed producers believe improves the appearance of pellet feed, states the report.

Rakibur Rahman Tutul, managing director of corn importer Nahar Agro Group, said the company opted for US corn this year after finding it offered the best balance of price and quality through a bidding process.

He said Brazilian corn was priced at around \$250 per tonne, while US suppliers undercut that by \$3 to \$4 per tonne.

Although shipping from the US takes longer, around 46 days compared with about 30 days from Brazil or Argentina, the company determined it had sufficient inventory to absorb the delay, he added.

Tutul said such decisions depend heavily on supply-chain planning, noting that longer shipping routes are avoided when stock levels are tight.

He also noted that assurances from US agricultural representatives regarding logistical and quality support helped reduce risks.

While the decision also aligned with efforts to narrow Bangladesh's trade deficit with the US, Tutul stressed that cost savings remained the primary consideration.

Sourcing strategies, he said, change from year to year depending on crop quality, regional demand and price competitiveness.

Moshiur Rahman, managing director of Paragon Group, said the company sources raw materials from multiple countries, including Brazil, Argentina and the United States, depending on prevailing prices.

A price difference of \$4 to \$5 per tonne can translate into savings of \$400,000 to \$500,000 per shipment, he said. Paragon previously sourced from the US before shifting to Brazil and Argentina when

prices there fell, and has now returned to the US as prices became competitive again, he informed.

Rahman said sourcing decisions are reviewed monthly, and shipments may come from multiple origins within the same month. Regardless of supplier interest, he added, the company's priority is securing quality raw materials at the lowest possible price.

US Embassy Dhaka Agricultural Attaché Erin

\$23 billion in the primary textile sector. Combined, the two sectors contribute \$40 billion in exports.

BTMA leaders said Bangladesh imported \$2 billion worth of yarn from India in fiscal year 2025-26, with local mills consuming 1,600 tonnes daily. From April to October 2025, imports reached \$950 million.

They said Bangladesh has become the largest destination for Indian yarn exports, receiving 44 percent of the total, while Cambodia ranks second at 21 percent.

Covert visited the port yesterday to welcome the shipment alongside representatives of Nahar Agro Group, Paragon Group and Nourish Poultry and Hatchery Limited.

An official from United Grain Corporation, a major US grain exporter, said the company was honoured to be part of the first US corn shipment to Bangladesh in eight years and expressed optimism about supplying US grains to the country in the years ahead.

জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ, জয়পুরহাট
বাস নিলামে বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	০৬/২০২৫-২৬
০২	দরপত্র বিক্রয় এবং দাখিলের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ, জয়পুরহাট
০৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখ বেলা ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৪ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা, জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ, জয়পুরহাট।
নিলামকৃত পণ্যের বিবরণঃ		
	ক্র/নং	গাড়ির বিবরণ
০৫	০১	বাসঃ রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর- জয়পুরহাট-স-১১-০০০১, গুজুতকারকঃ টাটা মটরস লিমিটেড, যানবাহনঃ অসিনিবাস, তৈরীর সনঃ ২০০৬, চেসিস নং-38906555R11845, ইঞ্জিন নং-50M62443822, জ্বালানীঃ ডিজেল, সিলিভার সংখ্যা-০৬ টি

বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলীঃ

১। অগ্রাহী ক্রেতাপক্ষকে দরপত্রের সাথে আবেদনমূলক দর ১০% টাকা অধ্যক্ষ, জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ বরাবরে অগ্রাহী ব্যাংক পিএসসি, জয়পুরহাট ক্যাডেট কলেজ শাখা, জয়পুরহাট অনুকূল ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হবে।

২। সকল দরদাতাকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদন প্রাপ্তি ১০ দিনের মধ্যে সম্পূর্ণ টাকা পরিশোধ পূর্বক বাস ভেলিডারী দিতে হবে। অন্যথায় আবেদনমূলক বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে।

৩। অগ্রাহী নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারী কলেজে উপস্থিত হয়ে গাড়িটি সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন। পরবর্তীতে এ ব্যাপারে উত্থাপিত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

৪। কোনরূপ কারণ না দেখিয়ে যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কলেজ কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

৫। সকল দরদাতাকে চূড়ান্ত মূল্যের উপর সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক ভ্যাট ও আয়কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

আই এস পি আর/সেনা/১৭

অধ্যক্ষ
জয়পুরহাট গার্লস ক্যাডেট কলেজ

GD-45

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Principal's Office
Bangladesh Police Academy
Sardah, Rajshahi
www.bpa.police.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

Memo Noঃ BPA/Admin/230

Dateঃ 07-01-2026

For financial year 2025-2026, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

SL. No	Description	Tender ID	Procurement Method	Scheduled Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
1.	Mosur Dal	1208572	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
2.	Soyabean Oil	1208793	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
3.	Grinding Wheat (Gom Pesai)	1209020	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
4.	Fire wood (Jalani khat)	1209046	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
5.	Supply and crashing of Chickpeas (Chola) with delivery	1209050	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
6.	Wheat Bran (Gomer Vushi)	1209070	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
7.	Chashing Barley (Haller kora Zob)	1209071	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
8.	Bichali (Khor or dhaner shukna ongsho)	1209074	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00
9.	Soyabean Meal	1209075	OTM	08-Jan-2026 12:00	20-Jan-2026 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration on the e-GP system (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is mandatory.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch.

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

Mohammed Saiful Islam, Bpm, ppm (Bar)
SP (Admin & Logistics)
Bangladesh Police Academy
Sardah, Rajshahi
Telephone:02-588879129
Fax: 02-588879130
E-mail: bpa.spadmin.pe@police.gov.bd

০৭.০১.২৬

GD- 53

বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
website: www.ugc.gov.bd

Ref. No: 37.01.0000.000.114.07.0001.03

Date: 07/01/2026

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

SL No	Tender ID No	Reference No	Description of Goods/Works	Publishing Date	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
01	1207767	37.01.0000.000.114.07.0001.03	Supply and Installation of RFID Access Control System and Related Services to UGC Building.	08/01/2026 11:00	22/01/2026 12:00	22/01/2026 15:00	22/01/2026 15:00

These are 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 (<http://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 Branches.

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

For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01813574452).

(Md. Omar Faruque)
Director
ICT Division
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh

০৭.০১.২৬

GD-52

Economy might have regained pace in Dec: PMI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's economy might have regained pace in December, signalling a slightly faster pace of economic expansion, supported mainly by continued growth in agriculture, manufacturing and services, according to the Bangladesh Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

The December reading of PMI rose by 0.2 points month on month to 54.2 from 54 the previous month, said a press release by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI), and the Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB). In October, the PMI reading was 61.8.

The PMI is a forward-looking indicator used globally to gauge economic direction. A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 indicates contraction.

Agriculture posted its fourth consecutive month of expansion and at an accelerated rate, emerging as the strongest-performing sector, the release said.

"The latest PMI readings indicate a marginal expansion of the economy, driven by strong agricultural sector performance," said M Masrur Reaz, chairman and chief executive officer of PEB.

"The latest PMI readings indicate a marginal expansion of the economy, driven by strong agricultural sector performance," said M Masrur Reaz, chairman and chief executive officer of Policy Exchange Bangladesh

The latest survey showed stronger expansion in new business, overall activity, employment and input costs. However, order backlogs continued to contract, albeit reflecting demand pressures easing only gradually.

Manufacturing remained in expansion for the 16th straight month, though the pace slowed marginally.

Positive readings were recorded across most key indicators, including new orders, new exports, factory output, input purchases, imports, input prices, employment, and supplier deliveries.

The finished goods index returned to expansion, while order backlogs showed a slower rate of contraction, indicating some improvement in demand conditions.

In contrast, the construction sector slipped back into marginal contraction after three consecutive months of growth.

The new business index contracted at a faster rate, while construction activity and employment posted slower expansion. Input costs rose at a slightly quicker pace.

Order backlogs continued to contract for the fifth consecutive month, though the rate of contraction eased.

The services sector extended its expansion streak to 15 months, with growth marginally faster than in November. Employment and input costs remained in expansion territory.

However, contraction was recorded in new business, business activity and order backlogs, pointing to softer demand conditions in parts of the sector.



Months-long locomotive shortage disrupted Chattogram-Dhaka freight trains, creating a huge container backlog and raising costs for importers, but operations are now resuming with the backlog expected to clear soon.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Locomotive shortage disrupts Ctg-Dhaka rail freight

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Container transport between Chattogram port and the Kamalapur Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Dhaka has been severely disrupted over the past few months, mainly due to an acute shortage of locomotives at Bangladesh Railway, causing mounting difficulties for businesses.

Port officials said the problem has persisted for nearly a year but began to worsen in October, reaching a critical level in December.

Data from the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and Bangladesh Railway show that the railway operated an average of more than 112 container trains per month on the route from January to September, with the number peaking at around 140 trains in March and April.

In contrast, only 84 trains were operated in October, 95 in November and just 74 in December. This means that in December, only 37 trains ran from the Chittagong Goods Port Yard (CGPY) to Dhaka ICD, with an equal number operating in the reverse direction.

CPA Director (Operations) Md Omar Faruk said the port requires at least four pairs of container trains per day to transport around 200 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of import containers and ensure smooth clearance of ICD-bound cargo.

By that estimation, more than 200 trains are needed each month to keep

operations running normally.

Officials at Kamalapur ICD said no container-carrying trains operated for nine days in December as the railway failed to provide locomotives. During the month, only one pair of trains operated on nine days, two pairs on 11 days and three pairs on just two days.

The disruption created a massive backlog at Chattogram port's ICD, which is designated for storing Dhaka-

Officials at Kamalapur ICD said no container-carrying trains operated for nine days in December as the railway failed to provide locomotives

bound import containers. The yard has a capacity of 887 TEUs, but as of yesterday, the number of stored containers had risen to 1,658 TEUs, nearly double its capacity.

This has put severe strain on port operations and raised concerns among importers.

A CPA official said the port has been forced to store ICD-bound containers in areas reserved for export containers arriving from Dhaka ICD, as well as in other yards located farther away.

Sorting and retrieving containers from these distant locations takes additional time during train loading and significantly increases operational costs, the official added. Business operators

say they are bearing the brunt of the disruption.

Khairul Alam Suzan, former vice-president of the Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association (BAFFA), said ICD-bound containers unloaded from vessels four weeks ago were still waiting to be loaded onto trains due to the backlog.

Md Faruk Alam, general secretary of the Dhaka Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association, said at least 1,300 TEUs of ICD-bound import containers have been stuck at the port for around four weeks.

As a result, importers are incurring substantial demurrage charges for containers overstaying at port yards, he said.

Md Sabuktageen, general manager (Eastern Region) of Bangladesh Railway, said freight train operations had resumed in full swing from last week, with three to four pairs of container trains being operated daily over the past few days.

He said locomotives were diverted to operate additional passenger trains in December due to heavy travel pressure, making it difficult to allocate engines for freight services.

The backlog is expected to be cleared within the next 10 days if operations continue at the current pace, he added.

The Eastern Zone currently has 131 locomotives, although more than 20 are undergoing repairs, according to the railway official.

Bangladesh needs an economic nerve centre

MANWAR HOSSAIN

I have long believed Bangladesh has realised only a fraction of its potential. After more than three decades working across industries and engaging with government processes, one conclusion is hard to escape: fragmented governance, siloed decision-making and weak coordination among institutions are holding us back.

In 1961, South Korea created the Economic Planning Board to bring planning, budgeting, industrialisation and economic analysis under one command – the President's office. That same year, Singapore set up the Economic Development Board to align investors, infrastructure, skills and trade around a single industrial vision. These were not exercises in expanding bureaucracy. They were coordination authorities, economic nerve centres, that helped resource-constrained nations move with clarity and discipline.

Bangladesh does not need to copy these models. But it must learn from what worked.

Today, our economy is steered by powerful bodies: the National Board of Revenue, the Bangladesh Bank, Bida, the Securities and Exchange Commission, multiple ministries and scores of regulators, each with its own mandate and priorities. They rarely operate as one system with one shared vision. As a result, tax, investment, monetary, trade and industrial decisions are often taken in isolation and then collide in the real economy.

The costs are not theoretical. Take taxation in construction materials. The NBR may hesitate to withdraw VAT and taxes on cement used for brick making to protect short-term revenue targets. Yet lower taxes could make cement bricks competitive against environmentally harmful burnt bricks, improving public health and environmental outcomes.

What appears to be a revenue decision is also an industrial, environmental and health policy choice.

Economic policy is inherently interconnected. Construction alone illustrates this clearly. It links roughly 3,600 industries, from steel to microfinance. A narrow decision on steel taxes should not be judged only by immediate revenue effects. Lower input taxes can raise activity across the entire ecosystem, creating jobs and downstream tax collections that may outweigh the initial loss.

Many countries have used real estate investment-friendly frameworks to generate powerful multiplier effects. Bangladesh should assess it.

If we are serious about reaching developed economy status by 2041, we need a permanent platform where these interconnections are understood and acted upon together. What the country needs is a National Financial Strategy Cell, placed directly under the Prime Minister's Office, to function as an economic nerve centre.

This should not become another administrative layer. It must be a lean, data-driven coordination mechanism that aligns fiscal, monetary, trade, investment and industrial policy so that decisions reinforce each other. Its role should be to stress-test major proposals for cross-sector impact, flag contradictions early and present integrated options at the highest level.

Such a body should be empowered to convene regulators and relevant ministries, with credible private sector participation. The aim is not to replace existing institutions but to connect them. Private sector input matters because policy frictions often surface first on factory floors, at ports, in banks and in markets, long before they appear in official reports.

The payoff would be tangible. First, greater coherence, allowing revenue goals to be balanced with growth, jobs, competitiveness and environmental outcomes. Second, smarter incentives that support export upgrading and productivity without ad hoc distortions. Third, faster and more coordinated responses to crises, whether currency volatility, banking stress, supply disruptions or emerging global opportunities. We can no longer afford fragmented governance. When a minor fee change of just Tk 180 per truck can reportedly halt operations at Chattogram port for days, the deeper signal to investors is not the fee itself but the absence of predictability, consultation and coordination.

A tougher, faster and more complex world is approaching, but so are greater opportunities. Bangladesh has the potential and the entrepreneurial energy to seize them. What it needs now is one table where the right institutions sit together, one compass to align decisions and one mechanism that turns good intentions into coherent action.

The writer is the chairman of Anwar Group of Industries



US-Venezuela oil deal angers China, pushes prices down

REUTERS, Houston/Beijing

Global oil prices fell on Wednesday and China denounced the US as a bully after President Donald Trump's administration said it had persuaded Venezuela to divert supplies from Beijing and import up to \$2 billion worth of embargoed crude.

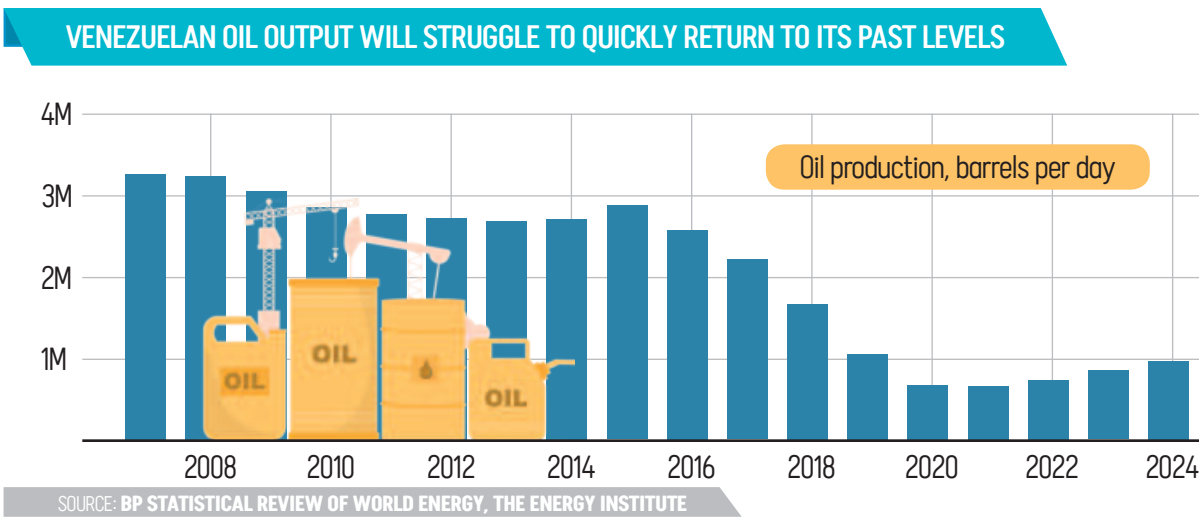
The deal was in line with Trump's stated aim of controlling the South American Opec member's vast oil reserves after deposing its leader Nicolas Maduro whom it had long cast as a drug-trafficking dictator in league with Washington's foes.

Maduro's Socialist Party allies remain in power in Venezuela, where interim President Delcy Rodriguez is treading a fine line between denouncing his "kidnapping" and kick-starting cooperation with the US under explicit threats from Trump.

TRUMP: OIL MONEY 'WILL BE CONTROLLED BY ME'

He said the US would refine and sell up to 50 million barrels of crude stuck in Venezuela under a US blockade as a first step in his plan to revive a sector long in decline despite sitting on the largest reserves in the world.

"This Oil will be sold at its Market



Price, and that money will be controlled by me, as President of the United States of America, to ensure it is used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the United States!" Trump posted on Tuesday.

Crude prices fell around 1.0 percent on world markets due to anticipated increased supplies.

The deal could initially require cargoes bound for Venezuela's top

buyer China to be rerouted as Caracas seeks to unload millions of barrels stranded in tankers and storage.

"The United States' brazen use of force against Venezuela and its demand for 'America First' when Venezuela disposes of its own oil resources are typical acts of bullying," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a press conference.

"These actions seriously violate international law, gravely infringe upon Venezuela's sovereignty, and severely damage the rights of the Venezuelan people."

China, Russia and leftist allies of Venezuela have all denounced the US raid to capture Maduro at the weekend, which was Washington's biggest such intervention in Latin America since the 1989 invasion of

Panama to topple Manuel Noriega.

Washington's allies are also deeply uneasy at the extraordinary precedent of seizing a foreign head-of-state, with Trump making a slew of threats of more action - from Mexico to Greenland - to further US interests.

DOZENS DIED DURING CAPTURE OF MADURO

Some details are still sketchy on just how US Special Forces swooped into Caracas by helicopter under darkness on Saturday, smashing Maduro's security cordon and seizing him at the door of a safe room, with no loss of US lives.

Venezuela has not confirmed its total losses, though the army posted a list of 23 of its dead and ally Cuba said 32 members of its military and intelligence services died. The US estimates about 75 fatalities, the Washington Post reported.

Maduro, 63, who had ruled Venezuela since the 2013 death of his predecessor and mentor Hugo Chavez, pleaded not guilty on Monday to narcotics charges in a Manhattan court where he was shackled at the ankles and wore orange and beige prison garb.

Trump appears to be calculating that it is better for stability in

Venezuela to work with Maduro's senior allies for now. He is stressing revival of the oil sector with the help of US firms as the priority, not the freeing of political prisoners or a new vote for a democratic transition.

VENEZUELAN OPPOSITION KEPT WAITING

Venezuela's main anti-Maduro figure Maria Corina Machado, who left in disguise to pick up the Nobel Peace Prize in October, wants to return home where she says the opposition would easily win a free vote.

But she is also taking care not to antagonise Trump, saying she would like to personally give him the Nobel prize which he had coveted and which she dedicated to him at the time. She says she is fully on board with his aspirations to make Venezuela a major ally of the US and the energy hub of the Americas.

Banned from running in a 2024 election, Machado's ally Edmundo Gonzalez won overwhelmingly, according to the opposition, the US and various election observers.

While working with Rodriguez and other top Venezuelan officials, the US has warned they must cooperate or risk sharing Maduro's fate.