

## BB doubles money changers' licence renewal fee

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank has doubled the annual licence renewal fee for money changers, raising it to Tk 10,000 from Tk 5,000.

The central bank issued a circular in this regard saying that earlier licensed money changers were required to pay Tk 5,000 as a non-refundable renewal fee each year.

According to the latest instruction, the revised fee will come into effect from January 15 this year. Other terms and conditions related to the renewal of money changers' licences will remain unchanged.

The central bank has instructed authorities concerned to bring the contents of the circular to the notice of all relevant stakeholders.

Money changers play a key role in handling retail foreign exchange transactions, particularly for travellers and remittance recipients, and are regulated by Bangladesh Bank under the Foreign Exchange Regulation framework.

# Jobs emerge as top voter concern ahead of polls

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Employment remains one of the foremost concerns for people in Bangladesh, with rising expectations that political parties will present clear and actionable plans ahead of the upcoming national election.

The issue was discussed at a dialogue jointly organised by Democracy International and The Business Standard in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

Policy-makers, political party representatives, business leaders and labour experts exchanged views on employment challenges and policy responses.

A November 2025 Democracy International poll found 40.4 percent of respondents felt that there was no improvement over the past year, citing reduced income (27.4 percent) and rising commodity prices (17 percent) as key reasons. The survey also showed 37.2 percent believed political parties overlooked youth concerns.

Catherine Cecil, chief of party for Democracy International in Bangladesh, said employment has long remained a top priority for Bangladeshis, particularly young people.

Fahim Mashroor, founder of Bdjobs, said Bangladesh's unemployment challenge should be seen in a global context but warned that unemployment among the educated has sharply increased from 4.9 percent in 2010 to 12 percent in 2022, while



Catherine Cecil, chief of party at Democracy International in Bangladesh, attends a dialogue on youth and employment jointly organised by Democracy International and The Business Standard in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

unemployment among the uneducated has declined.

Dilruba S Khan, group HR director at AkijBashir Group, highlighted a labour market disconnect: industries report shortages while jobseekers cite lack of opportunities. She stressed the need for skill based education, curriculum reform, and productivity enhancement.

Marina Sultana of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit said 1.1-1.2 million young people migrate abroad annually, many returning due to skill mismatches and limited opportunities. She called for market-oriented training and better regulation of recruitment agencies.

Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and

Exporters Association, warned that factories face closures due to policy and banking challenges, urging reforms to protect jobs.

Political representatives also shared plans.

Saiyed Abdullah, a policy team member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), emphasised skill development, IT sector growth and youth loans.

Hafizur Rahman, a member of the National Election Management Committee of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, prioritised large-scale skill training, youth loans and tax reforms.

Ariful Islam Adeeb, senior joint convener of the National Citizen Party (NCP), highlighted merit-based recruitment and employment in agriculture and IT.

## Iqtiaruddin made BFIU head

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Iqtiaruddin Md Mamun, a commissioner of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), has been appointed head of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) on a contractual basis.



Iqtiaruddin M Mamun

The appointment was made under Section 24 of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 (amended in 2015), and Rule 22 of the Money Laundering Prevention Rules, 2019, according to an official order issued by the Financial Institutions Division yesterday.

Mamun has been appointed as a full-time official with the rank and status of deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank for a two-year term, effective from the date of his joining.

As a condition of the appointment, he will have to sever all professional affiliations with other institutions and organisations during his tenure at the central bank.

The terms and conditions of the contractual appointment will be determined through a formal agreement, the order said.

In September last year, the government formed a five-member selection committee, headed by Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur, to recommend the next chief officer of the BFIU.

The formation of the committee followed the government's decision to terminate the appointment of AFM Shahinul Islam, the former head of the BFIU, based on the findings of a probe panel formed to investigate the authenticity of a controversial image or video involving Islam.

## From 10%

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gain, placement of deposits at unusually high interest rates, withdrawals from frozen accounts and misappropriation of advertising funds.

A central bank investigation found that for more than 40 months since 2020, Iqbal and his family members received Tk 10.31 crore as rent for the 20th and 21st floors of Iqbal Centre in Banani, despite the bank neither renting nor using those floors.

Premier Bank head office is located at Iqbal Centre, a building owned by Iqbal and his family members. Central bank officials described the arrangement as a clear violation of banking rules.

A former member of parliament, Iqbal is also chairman of Premier Group of Companies Ltd.

A BFIU investigation found that some bank officials, including former managing director M Reazul Karim, helped launder Tk 3.44 crore and assisted the former chairman and his family in transferring foreign currency abroad through credit card misuse.

The BFIU also found that Iqbal and four family members used Premier Bank credit cards to buy properties and conduct

foreign transactions beyond permissible limits.

The ACC filed five cases against 15 people, including former chairman Hefjul Bari Mohammad or HBM Iqbal, his two sons, senior bank officials, board members and the managing director of an advertising agency, over the alleged embezzlement of Tk 8.17 crore in the name of advertising promotion.

Asked about the irregularities, Rahman said, "I do not want to comment on this matter. The ACC is working on it."

After the change of government, Iqbal fled the country. There are allegations that he later issued threats to the current chairman and other officials.

Asked about the head office, Rahman said, "The rent for this office is very high. We are looking for offices elsewhere at a lower rent. We will soon move the office out of Iqbal Centre."

A forensic audit is currently underway at the bank. Managing Director Mohammad Abu Zafar has been sent on leave, while Manzur Mofiz, former managing director of One Bank, has been appointed additional managing director and given responsibility as acting managing director.

## Labour rights group

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who take charge of the state after the upcoming election have the primary duty to implement this manifesto," he said.

BNP Standing Committee Member Abdul Moyeen Khan described workers as the "true architects of the nation".

"Although these rights are already guaranteed by the constitution, why is it still necessary for us to discuss and demand them?" he asked, pointing to the widespread gap between law and practice.

He also talked about the financial feasibility of implementing these rights. "We talk about workers' rights, benefits, and a better life. But we do not provide a clear answer to where the resources to implement these demands will come from. Without resource creation, resource distribution is not possible," he said.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair said, "We must protect the rights and dignity of workers to move the nation forward. They are often used as stepping stones to power and then forgotten."

"Our focus should be on the politics of work, not the

politics of cards. We do not want to hand out charity; we want to provide work and skills," he said, citing migrant workers as an example.

"If we enhance their skills, remittances could rise from \$30 billion to \$50-\$60 billion, yet state support is limited. We must prioritise projects that value workers' labour and ensure they live with dignity, rather than focusing only on mega-projects," Zubair said.

Biplobi Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Haque said workers' rights are not a matter of charity, they are a crucial issue. The next government must take responsibility for including them in their manifestos.

Ariful Islam Adeeb, senior joint convener of the National Citizen Party (NCP), said the alliance's manifesto closely aligns with the National Labour Commission and his party's own proposals.

"We want a permanent labour commission. Our party will ensure that workers receive full assistance if they need help with cases in the labour court," he said.

Ali Ashraf Akond of Islami Andolon Bangladesh said the government must prioritise social protection

for workers.

Abdur Rahman, president of Sramik Odhikar Parishad, called on the industrial police to treat workers humanely when they assert legal rights.

Taslima Akhter, president of the Bangladesh Garment Sramik Samhati, urged steps to uphold workers' dignity and fair wages in the national curriculum.

Among others, Abdullah Al Kafi Ratan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bazlul Rashid Firoz, general secretary of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, and Max Tunon, ILO country director in Bangladesh, also spoke at the event.

## DSEX reshuffle lays bare

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Analysts say the rush into non-performing stocks is driven more by speculation than fundamentals.

Many of these Z-category stocks trade actively on persistent rumours of future gains, often without verifiable evidence. Their relatively small paid-up capital also makes them easier to manipulate, as modest trading volumes can sharply move prices.

Saiful Islam, president of the DSE Brokers Association (DBA), said the trend reflected "blatantly illogical" investor behaviour.

"It indicates our investors take decisions on their own without relying on professionals. The market also lacks educated, professional brokers. It's

been a dry market for a long time," he said.

Saiful added that the removal of a company like Unilever sends a "ruinous message to foreign investors" and called for the DSEX inclusion criteria to be reconsidered.

The trading pattern has also been reinforced by the absence of foreign and institutional investors. "Foreign and institutional investors are not active in the market, which has allowed small investors to drive up the prices of certain companies," said Iftekhar Alam, president of the Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association.

BEXIMCO AND FLOOR PRICE DEBATE

Among those excluded from the index is Beximco

Ltd, a large cap stock that remains subject to a regulatory floor price — a minimum level below which its shares cannot fall.

At present, only Islami Bank and Beximco continue to enjoy such protection. Market analysts say Beximco's share price could decline sharply if the floor is lifted, particularly amid concerns over ownership and governance.

Regulators had previously hesitated to remove Beximco's floor price because of the company's heavy weight in the index, which could have dragged the market lower.

With Beximco now removed from the DSEX, that constraint has eased, increasing the likelihood that the floor price could be withdrawn.

## BB tipped as regulator

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other shareholders, and the managing director as a board member.

The review committee recommended a new structure with four borrower-shareholder directors, three from other shareholders, two independent directors nominated by the licensing authority, and a non-voting managing director.

The Bangladesh Bank

will also have the authority to remove directors or reconstruct the entire board — powers not included in the original draft.

Another key change concerns liquidation. Liquidation of microcredit banks will now follow the provisions of the Bank Company Act, reversing the draft's proposal that excluded them from this law.

The review comes following debates over

licensing authority, profit motives, and other governance issues, prompting the government to form an eleven-member technical review committee led by Sayed Kutub, additional secretary of the FID.

The original draft had envisioned microcredit banks combining the outreach of microfinance organisations with commercial banking

services, offering products ranging from savings accounts to agricultural loans without requiring collateral.

It proposed that microfinance banks would operate as social institutions, prioritising support for new entrepreneurs and providing loans either in cash or other forms for a wide range of economic activities.

**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
**Bangladesh Power Development Board**

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### e-Tender Notice

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

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
01.	1211478	PG-25 Fy-25/26	27.11.0000.3 04.26.123.26 Date: 12/01/2026	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 170 kWp Grid Tied Rooftop Solar PV Net Metering System at Ghorashal Training Center, Palash, BPDB, Narshingdi, Bangladesh on turnkey basis.	27-Jan-2026 13:00	27-Jan-2026 14:00	27-Jan-2026 14:00

This is 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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).  
For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১৭৩(১)/২২/০১/২৬

**Md. Nannu Miah**  
ID No. 1-01304  
Director  
Directorate of Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

GD-93

## Khaleda Zia played pioneering role

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and attracted combined investments of \$75 billion — \$23 billion in primary textiles and \$52 billion in garments.

At the event, Salim Rahman, acting president of BGMEA, said Khaleda Zia played a crucial role during the phase-out of the World Trade Organization's Multifibre Arrangement in 2004, which ended the quota system on garment exports. She formed the National Coordination Committee and took critical steps to help the industry adjust to the new global trading environment.

"She facilitated ease of doing business, reduced costs, and provided stipends for female

education. These decisions brought significant societal changes," he added.

The event also featured a video documentary highlighting Khaleda Zia's contributions to reviving the economy, promoting democracy, empowering women, and developing the garment sector.

BGMEA Senior Vice-President Inamul Haq Khan and former president Quazi Moniruzzaman also spoke at the programme.

During Khaleda Zia's tenure, Bangladesh was ranked the 11th fastest-growing country globally in 2005, and an estimated 1.8 crore people were lifted above the poverty line, BGMEA leaders said, adding that her VAT reforms were widely recognised.

## BB eases rules

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Banks may also facilitate bill discounting through offshore banking units of scheduled banks in Bangladesh, subject to compliance with prevailing foreign exchange regulations

and prudential credit norms.

The move is expected to provide greater flexibility to LPG importers, helping them better manage cash flows amid rising import costs and tight liquidity conditions.

**Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)**  
BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100

### Tender Corrigendum Notice

The following amendments have been made in the Tender document of the Invitation for International Tender Ref. No. BPC SPM O&M 02/2025, Dated: 19/12/2025 for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Services and Marine Services for the BPC Installation "Single Point Mooring (SPM) with Double Pipeline System, Bangladesh":

SN	Amendment Subject	Original		1st Corrigendum	
17	Tender last selling date	29-01-2026		16-02-2026	
18	Tender closing date & time	Date	Time	Date	Time
		01-02-2026	12:00pm	17-02-2026	12:00pm
19	Tender opening date & time	01-02-2026	12:15pm	17-02-2026	12:15pm

This Corrigendum Notice will be an integral part of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of the Tender will remain unchanged.

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