

Govt launches shared GPU cloud to boost AI, research

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh has launched its first government-run, shareable cloud computing facility powered by high performance graphics processing units (GPUs), aiming to accelerate higher education, research, and machine learning-based skill development.

GPUs are specialised processors designed to handle massive parallel calculations and are particularly efficient for artificial intelligence and deep learning tasks, compared with traditional central processing units used in most computers.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser at the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology, said the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) has integrated more than 20 NVIDIA Volta Architecture Tensor Core GPUs into a cloud resource management platform and made the facility operational.

He described it as the first such shared cloud facility in the public sector.

According to the post, the infrastructure will be maintained by the National Data Center team of the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC).

The platform is expected to support a wide range of high performance computing (HPC) activities, including machine learning-based dataset training, threat intelligence analysis and geoscience modelling.

Based on specifications, one GPU can deliver computing power equivalent to around 45 CPUs, giving the platform a combined capability of more than 900 CPU-equivalent computations, the post said.

Overall, the shared cloud is capable of offering up to 2,240 teraFLOPS of deep learning capacity.

A teraFLOPS is a unit that measures computing speed and refers to one trillion floating-point calculations per second, commonly used to describe AI and supercomputing performance.

SAFA Int'l Conference in Dhaka on Jan 17

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) will organise a daylong SAFA International Conference 2026, where a number of foreign delegates are expected to join, including the president of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the apex body of all accountants in the world.

The conference will be held on January 17 at Le Méridien Dhaka, ICAB President NKA Mobin said at a press briefing at the CA Bhaban yesterday.

He said the future of accountancy lies in the strategic integration of ethical artificial intelligence and sustainability reporting.

Today's technology is not merely supporting development; it is shaping Bangladesh's economic future and a rapidly evolving professional landscape, he said.

The next-generation accountant must therefore master dual competencies—governing algorithmic ethics and validating non-financial impact—to build stakeholder trust and steer capital toward sustainable growth, he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD)
Health Services Division
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
www.cmsd.gov.bd

Corrigendum of IFT

Invitation for Tender (IFT) No. CMSD/GR-2515/ICT/2025-2026/Proc-D-5/29, date: 07-12-2025, was published in The Jugantor and The Daily Star on 08-12-2025. The relevant portion of the IFT and the Tender Document regarding the **Procurement of "Anti-Retroviral Drugs"** is hereby amended as under:

Section	Existing entries	Amended entries
Tender last selling date and time	21/01/2026 up to 10:00am	27/01/2026 up to 5:00pm
Tender closing & opening date and time	21-01-2026 at 11:00am	28-01-2026 at 11:00am

All other terms and conditions of the IFT and relevant portion of the Tender document will remain unchanged.

Mohd. Nayeb Ali
Joint Secretary
Director, CMSD, Tejgaon, Dhaka
Tel: 02 222244087

GD-105

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7500.000.07.007.25.141

Dated: 13/01/2026

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works) e-Tender Notice No. 56/2025-26

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement method	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Last date & time of tender security submission	Closing date & time
1	1209254	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/SAD/RHB/24-25/W-1965 (a) Maintenance of Baikunthapur Bazar-Nitanandapur Road (Ch. 00m-900m), ID No. 47587543(475875044) (b) Maintenance of Mriddarh- Dr. Hat-Wapda Beri-Dakkhin Nazipur GPS Road (Mukia Madrasa Beriband - Dakkhin Habib Ullar Bari Road (Ch. 870m-2740m) under Sadar Upazila, District: Noakhali, ID No. 47580493 (c) Construction of RCC Box Culvert on 1x2.5m x 2.50 Bazar-Baikunthapur Nitanandapur Road Ch. 195m	28-01-2026 17:00	29-01-2026 13:00	29-01-2026 14:00
2	1209255	LTM	IRIDPNFL/NOA/KAB/RHB/24-25/W-1986 (a) Maintenance of Noor Sonapur Kaderbox Pole-Noor Sonapur GPS (Badru Haider Chowdhury) road (Ch. 00m-700m), ID No. 475904096 (b) Maintenance of Kabirhat-Kalirhat-Munshirhat Road (Ch.00m-3150m) under Kabirhat Upazila, District: Noakhali, ID No. 475904072	28-01-2026 17:00	29-01-2026 13:00	29-01-2026 14:00

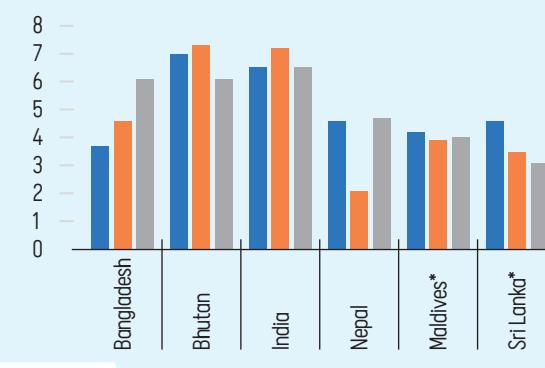
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sheikh Mahfuzul Hossain
Executive Engineer
LGED, Noakhali
Phone: 02334433826
E-mail: xen.noakhali@lged.gov.bd

GD-102

SOUTH ASIAN GROWTH FORECASTS

(In %)*Calender year FY25e FY26 FY27f



SOURCE: WB

World Bank cuts Bangladesh growth

FROM PAGE B1

In South Asia, growth is expected to moderate to 6.2 percent in 2026 before rising to 6.5 percent in 2027, with economies excluding India projected to grow 5 percent next year and 5.6 percent in 2027, aided in part by a recovery in Bangladesh.

“However, the pace of job creation in the region will likely remain subdued,” it noted.

“Risks to the outlook are

tilted to the downside and include further increases in trade restrictions and global trade policy uncertainty, a tightening of financial conditions amid banking sector vulnerabilities, increased social unrest, and extreme weather events,” it added.

Upside potential includes progress in bilateral trade talks, faster technology-led investment, particularly in India, and more stable political environments.

NBR flags gold supply

FROM PAGE B1

importers are required to pay a duty of Tk 20,000 per gold bar, Khan said.

The remarks by the NBR chief come at a time when gold is selling at record high prices of around Tk 234,680 per bhorti -- the highest in Bangladesh -- driven by a surge in the international market.

Bajus President Enamul Haque Khan said the cumbersome import system has pushed up gold prices in the domestic market.

As a result, gold in Bangladesh costs at least Tk 30,000 more per bhorti than in neighbouring India, Singapore, and Dubai, forcing many traders to rely on illegal sources, he said.

Bajus leaders alleged irregularities in the

issuance of import licences, saying that although 18 licences were issued earlier, at least 10 recipients were not genuine traders, while many established jewellers were excluded.

“Licences were given to people who are not involved in the jewellery trade, even to cricketers, while real businessmen were deprived,” said Samit Ghosh Apu, former vice president of Bajus.

They also complained that banks are reluctant to provide loans to jewellery businesses, discouraging formal operations.

Bajus placed a five-point demand, including widening the scope of gold imports, simplifying the import process, and adjusting value-added tax rates in line with neighbouring countries.

Ramadan

FROM PAGE B1

Many, including 143 carrying government-imported fertiliser, were allocated 20-25 days ago and remain stuck. About 300 vessels are still navigating the waterways.

Delays at unloading points are compounded by labour shortages and a lack of storage bags, especially for fertiliser. “The main reason for the crisis is the arrival of a large number of mother vessels at the same time ahead of Ramadan,” Ahmed said.

Previously, BWTCC supervised 1,400 lighter vessels moving imported cargo from the outer anchorage to 59 destinations across the country.

Parvez Ahmed, a leader of the Inland Vessels Owners Association of Chattogram, said over 300 vessels shifted to Mongla, Payra, and Indian coastal routes in the past year due to higher rates and declining trade in Chattogram.

Oil pauses gains

REUTERS, Singapore

Oil slipped after four days of increases on Wednesday as Venezuela resumed exports and US crude and product inventories rose, though fears of Iranian supply disruptions due to deadly civil unrest loomed over the market.

Brent futures were trading down 38 cents, or 0.6 percent, at \$65.09 a barrel at 0720 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude was also down 38 cents, or 0.6 percent, at \$60.77 a barrel.

Oil slipped after four days of increases on Wednesday as Venezuela resumed exports and US crude and product inventories rose, though fears of Iranian supply disruptions due to deadly civil unrest loomed over the market.

Brent futures were trading down 38 cents, or 0.6 percent, at \$65.09 a barrel at 0720 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude was also down 38 cents, or 0.6 percent, at \$60.77 a barrel.

Commercial courts introduced

FROM PAGE B1

“In many cases, especially in disputes involving long-term agreements with the government, foreign investors face delays and uncertainty. Often, we have had to resort to arbitration in Singapore, as domestic options were either not available or not trusted.”

Chowdhury pointed to sectors such as energy, where disputes often arise when contracts signed earlier no longer favour the government, leading to prolonged legal battles.

This uncertainty, she said, has discouraged investment in the past.

If disputes can now be settled within the country through commercial courts, it will build confidence. We also have several pending tax-related cases. If those can be resolved quickly, that is a big plus,” she added.

Under the ordinance, commercial disputes must be filed within 30 days, while proceedings are expected to be completed within 90 days. Chowdhury said the timelines are encouraging, but it all depends on how well this system is executed.

Ashik Chowdhury, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), said legal complexity and delays have repeatedly been identified as major obstacles for investors.

“Our legal system has consistently been flagged in global rankings, such as the World Bank's Doing Business Index, as overly complex,” he said. “This has created a challenging environment for investors, especially foreign ones, who often face

lengthy delays and legal uncertainties.”

He said the introduction of commercial courts could help reduce uncertainty and create a more business-friendly environment, provided the system is properly set up and resourced.

“This could open the door for creating a more investment-conducive environment for both foreign and local investors,” he added. “Because, unfortunately, we have seen that almost every dispute eventually ends up in court. In many cases, the legal process is used as a tool to slow down or obstruct business operations.”

Nihad Kabir, former president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), said commercial disputes often take years to resolve in regular civil courts.

“These time-bound proceedings will be a game-changer for commercial litigation in Bangladesh,” said Kabir, who has practised commercial law for 35 years.

She said a quicker resolution could reduce the time required to settle high-value disputes, but noted that outcomes would depend on whether courts receive adequate infrastructure and skilled personnel.

“I hope these will be made available,” she added.

The ordinance requires that commercial disputes arising from business contracts, partnerships, distribution, franchising, licensing and joint ventures be heard exclusively by commercial courts with trained judges and dedicated facilities.

Courts must resolve cases within 30 days of filing. Proceedings may be extended by another 30 days only on justifiable grounds.

Written judgments must be delivered within 90 days after hearings conclude.

To reduce formal litigation, the law introduces mandatory pre-suit mediation, requiring parties to attempt settlement through alternative dispute resolution before approaching the court. It also provides for digital case management, strict procedural timelines and the authority to strike out non-maintainable suits at an early stage.

The Supreme Court will publish monthly data on filings, disposals and pending cases in commercial courts and the High Court Division. The information will be made available on the Supreme Court website.

The mediation processes will allow some disputes to be resolved without placing additional strain on the commercial courts, which is appreciable, said Syed Akhtar Mahmood, a former global lead of the World Bank Group's regulatory reforms and public-private dialogue.

Besides, the Supreme Court will publish case statistics regularly. That will enable us to monitor whether the legislative changes are making a difference on the ground, he added.

Mahmood said, “We often do reforms without putting in place systems to monitor results. This appears to be an exception, and that is good.”

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Kazipur, Sirajgonj
www.lged.gov.bd

Dated: 14-01-2026

Invitation for Tenders (Works) e-Tender Notice No. 02/2025-26

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (
---------	-------------	---------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------