

Int'l yarn and fabric show begins in Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The 25th Dhaka International Yarn & Fabric Show (DIFS) 2026 - Winter Edition began at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday.

The exhibition will remain open to registered visitors every day from 10:00am to 7:00pm.

Chen Bo, deputy secretary general and director of CCPIT-TEX (Sub-Council of the Textile Industry, China), inaugurated the four-day exhibition as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Jointly organised by CEMS Global USA and CCPIT-TEX, the exhibition brings together global yarn, fabric and textile manufacturers and suppliers, showcasing products and solutions across the textile value chain.

DIFS 2026 (Winter Edition) is part of the Textile Series of Exhibitions developed by CEMS Global and held in

major textile hubs, including Bangladesh, Brazil, Morocco, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS Global USA and Asia-Pacific, was present at the inauguration.

Bangladesh is one of the world's leading apparel exporters, with growing demand for quality yarns, fabrics and textile inputs. Over the years, DIFS has played a key role in connecting global suppliers with the country's garment manufacturing sector.

Among others, Song Yang, commercial counsellor of the Chinese embassy; Arifur Rahman Khan, additional secretary and director general (in-charge) of the Department of Textiles; Md Firoz Uddin, additional secretary of the Ministry of Industries; and Nafis-Ud-Doula, director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, attended the event.



Chen Bo, deputy secretary general and director of CCPIT-TEX (Sub-Council of the Textile Industry, China), inaugurates the 25th Dhaka International Yarn & Fabric Show (DIFS) 2026 - Winter Edition at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday. Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global USA and Asia-Pacific, was also present.

PHOTO: CEMS-GLOBAL

Shahjalal Islami Bank strikes remittance deal with Nagad



Md Motasem Billah, administrator of Nagad Limited, and Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, managing director of Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the remittance disbursement agreement at the bank's corporate head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK

Eastern Bank launches 'trade hub' at Chattogram EPZ

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has launched a dedicated "trade hub" at the Chattogram Export Processing Zone (CEPZ), Mirsharai in Chattogram recently to offer specialised trade-related banking services to clients operating in the area.

Designed to facilitate faster import- and export-related transactions, the trade hub aims to enhance efficiency and support businesses based in the Chattogram EPZ.

Riad Mahmud Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Eastern Bank PLC, inaugurated the trade hub as the chief

guest, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Chowdhury underscored the bank's role in supporting the country's industrial and export-oriented sectors, adding that the new facility would help strengthen partnerships with CEPZ-based enterprises and support their growth.

Sanjay Das, head of corporate business in Chattogram, and Shuvro Kanti Saha, head of Chattogram operations, along with other senior executives of the bank and representatives from various factories operating in the Chattogram EPZ, also participated in the programme.



Riad Mahmud Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Eastern Bank PLC, inaugurates the "trade hub" of the bank at Chattogram Export Processing Zone in Mirsharai recently.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

Shimanto Bank signs MoU with Trust And Pay

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shimanto Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Trust And Pay Limited (TAP), a mobile financial service (MFS) app launched by Trust Axiatra Digital Limited, a subsidiary of Trust Bank PLC.

Mohammad Azizul Hoque, managing director and chief

executive officer (current charge) of Shimanto Bank PLC, and SM Akram Sayeed, chief executive officer of Trust And Pay Limited, signed the MoU at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the MoU, Shimanto Bank customers will be able to transfer funds from their bank accounts to Trust And Pay (TAP) accounts and vice versa.

Md Sahidul Islam, head of business at Shimanto Bank; Manzur Maswood, head of information technology; Sharif Zahirul Islam, head of cards and alternative delivery channels (ADC); and AKM Ahsan Kabir, head of information technology at Trust Bank PLC, along with other senior officials from both institutions, were also present.



SM Akram Sayeed, chief executive officer of Trust And Pay Limited, and Mohammad Azizul Hoque, managing director and chief executive officer (current charge) of Shimanto Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: SHIMANTO BANK

BRAC Bank's CSR initiatives touch 1.72 lakh lives in 2025

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank PLC positively impacted 172,502 people across Bangladesh in 2025 through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, focusing on education, healthcare, disability inclusion, climate adaptation and humanitarian support, according to a press release.

Under the Aporajeyo TARA scholarship programme, 807 underprivileged female students continued higher education, while 348 aspiring women entrepreneurs received training through the Uddokta 101 initiative.

BRAC BANK

In Thakurgaon and Bogura, 44,545 underprivileged people benefited from free cataract surgeries, medicines and vision care. Additionally, 3,971 people received phaco surgeries, and 7,029 free kidney dialysis sessions were provided under the Sir Abed Kidney Dialysis Fund.

Commenting on the achievement, Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, managing director and CEO of BRAC Bank PLC, said the bank measures progress by the lives it transforms, with a focus on dignity, inclusion and lasting impact. To promote disability inclusion, 85 employees received specialised training, while 75 persons with disabilities were trained in IT and multimedia skills.

Another 810 individuals received limb and brace support, and 78 people with hearing and speech impairments were trained in sewing to support sustainable livelihoods.

Employment opportunities were also created through the Aporajeyo Ami Job Fair, where 46 persons with disabilities were recruited.

MetLife settles Tk 2,853cr claims in 2025

STAR BUSINESS DESK

MetLife Bangladesh settled insurance claims worth Tk 2,853 crore in 2025, maintaining one of the highest claim settlement ratios in the country's life insurance industry, according to a press release.

The amount includes payouts made to customers as insurance benefits, as well as claims related to loss of life and medical needs. During the year, the insurer posted a claims settlement ratio of 98 percent.



Of the total claims settled, Tk 313 crore was paid for health and medical claims, Tk 110 crore for death claims, and Tk 2,430 crore for maturity, partial maturity and other claims.

MetLife Bangladesh continues to settle the highest volume of claims among all life insurers in the country. The company paid Tk 2,895 crore in claims in 2024, Tk 2,981 crore in 2023 and Tk 2,548 crore in 2022.

Ala Ahmad, chief executive officer of MetLife Bangladesh, said the company's consistent performance reflects its strong financial position, operational excellence and transparency.

Guardian Life settles Tk 543cr claims in 2025

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Guardian Life Insurance Limited settled 225,254 insurance claims worth Tk 543.28 crore in 2025, underscoring its financial strength and commitment to policyholders.

Of the total payout, Tk 293.26 crore was disbursed against 113,199 death claims, offering crucial financial support to bereaved families. Health and medical claims amounted to Tk 217.69 crore across 105,524 cases, while Tk 32.33 crore was paid for policy maturities and other claims.

The figure marks a notable increase from 2024, when the life insurer settled more than 150,000 claims amounting to Tk 439 crore. In 2025, both the number of claims and the total settlement value rose sharply, reflecting higher claim volumes and payouts.

Commenting on the performance, Sheikh Rakibul Karim, chief executive officer of Guardian Life Insurance Limited, said, "Every claim we settle is a promise fulfilled. We remain committed to standing beside our customers when they need us most."



(MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES) DIRECTOR OF WORKS & CHIEF ENGINEER (ARMY)			
INVITATION FOR TENDERS			
Dated 20 January 2026			
Ref No 22 of 2025-2026/E-6	Ministry of Defence	Ministry of Defence	Ministry of Defence
1. Ministry/Division	Agency	Military Engineer Services	Military Engineer Services
2. Agency	Procuring Entity Name	DW & CE (Army) Dhaka Cantt	DW & CE (Army) Dhaka Cantt
3. Procuring Entity Name	Tender Name	Different B & R Works of Bangladesh Army for the financial year 2025-2026 (As per Ser No. 15)	Different B & R Works of Bangladesh Army for the financial year 2025-2026 (As per Ser No. 15)
4. Tender Name	Invitation for Tender No	22 of 2025-2026/E-6 Dated 20 January 2026	22 of 2025-2026/E-6 Dated 20 January 2026
5. Invitation for Tender No	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
6. Procurement Method	Source of Funds	GOB	GOB
7. Source of Funds	Tender Publication Date	29 January 2026	29 January 2026
8. Tender Publication Date	Tender Last Selling Date	25 February 2026 upto 1430 hours.	25 February 2026 upto 1430 hours.
9. Tender Last Selling Date	Tender Submission Date & Time	26 February 2026, 1200 hours.	26 February 2026, 1200 hours.
10. Tender Submission Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time	26 February 2026, 1230 hours.	26 February 2026, 1230 hours.
11. Tender Opening Date & Time	Name & Address of the office (s)	Selling Tender Documents	a. Tender Selling & Information Centre of DW&CE (A) at GE (A) Central, Dhaka Cantt. b. DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt
12. Name & Address of the office (s)	Receiving Tender Document	Receiving Tender Document	Tender Selling & Information Centre of DW&CE(A) at GE (A) Central, Dhaka Cantt.
13. Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Opening Tender Document	Opening Tender Document	Tender Selling & Information Centre of DW&CE (A) at GE (A) Central, Dhaka Cantt.
14. Eligibility of Tenderer	Description of works	For Serial No.15 (a to e): Contractors enlisted in MES Class 'A' For Serial No.15 (f): Contractors enlisted in MES Class 'A' & 'B' in other Govt/Semi-Govt/autonomous organizations in similar capacity having necessary security clearance from DGFI.	Location Price of Tender Document (Non refundable) Amount of Tender Document (Taka) (In the shape of Bank Draft/ Pay order/Bank Guarantee in favor of DW & CE (Army)) Time of Completion of Wks
15. Description of works	a	Ramu Cantt	Tk.29,000.00 Tk.60,95,000.00 17 (Seventeen) Months
	b	Sylhet Cantt	Tk.30,000.00 Tk.63,10,000.00 17 (Seventeen) Months
	c	Sylhet Cantt	Tk.34,000.00 Tk.73,60,000.00 17 (Seventeen) Months
	d	Jalalabad Cantt	Tk.24,000.00 Tk.50,90,000.00 17 (Seventeen) Months
	e	Momen Shahi Cantt	Tk.20,000.00 Tk.42,05,000.00 17 (Seventeen) Months
	f	Jashore Cantt	Tk.14,000.00 Tk.28,60,000.00 17 (Seventeen) Months
16. Contact details	Phone : 9832678, Mili: 2678, Fax : (02) 9833284 Web Site : www.army.mil.bd		
17. Special Instructions	a. Tenderer shall submit copy of letter of valid enlistment & security clearance with application when purchasing tender. b. Detailed requirements are mentioned in Tender Data sheet of Tender documents. c. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.		

DW & CE (Army)
Dhaka Cantt

GD-210

Gold smashes all records, surges to Tk 269,788

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Amid record highs in the global market, gold prices soared to a new peak of Tk 269,788 per bori in the local market, breaking all previous records.

Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajus) announced the new rate yesterday, made effective the same day.

The price has increased by 2.80 percent or Tk 7,348 per bori (11.664 grammes) from the previous rate of Tk 262,440.

In the announcement, Bajus said prices of pure gold have increased in the market.

Gold prices shot to record levels above \$5,200 in the international market yesterday, as investors sought a safe haven amid global political tensions.

Businesspeople said the country's retail gold market has remained volatile in recent months, influenced by fluctuations in global gold prices, steadily rising costs of pure gold, and ongoing economic uncertainty.

Gold first crossed Tk 50,000 per bori in January 2018. Five years later, in July 2023, it surpassed Tk 100,000.

Prices climbed to Tk 150,000 per bori in February 2025 and later surged past the Tk 200,000 mark within the same year.



An employee of a jewellery shop shows gold ornaments to customers in Rajshahi city. The price of the precious metal surged to a record Tk 269,788 per bori yesterday, tracking record highs in the global market.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Economy stabilising

FROM PAGE B1
Mahmud criticised the hidden costs of stabilisation, including bank recapitalisation using printed money, calling them "invisible but long-lasting consequences" of previous economic mismanagement.

On governance, he remarked, "This is an exceptional government -- neither fully political nor an NGO model. It came out of a mass uprising and is trying to uphold constitutionalism. We've never seen this kind of government before."

The businessman pointed out that while Bangladesh has adopted some of the IMF's recommendations, key structural reforms remain pending.

He highlighted inefficiencies and harassment in the business environment. "Even after paying taxes and submitting documents, importers face delays due to unnecessary bureaucracy and interference. These are micro-level operational issues that need urgent simplification," he urged.

On the energy crisis, Chowdhury said, "There's no LNG, no LPG, no infrastructure. The interim government has not engaged with the private sector or given clear policy directions. When the next government takes power, how will it manage this?"

Tofazzal Hossain, Chairman of NLICL, called for ethical reform and integrity in Bangladesh's financial sector, warning against politically motivated bank licensing and poor governance.

Shamsul Huq Zahid, editor of The Financial Express, said the interim government inherited a fragile, near-collapsing economy which it managed to stabilise -- but true recovery remains distant.

He pointed to persistent high inflation, low private investment, and weak job creation, and cautioned that the next elected government will face these issues as legacy burdens.

"The new government may struggle in its first two to three years before achieving stability and growth," Zahid estimated.

Doulot Akter Mala, president of ERF, chaired the event, and Abul Kashem, general secretary of ERF, moderated the event. Among others, Syed Abdul Monem, acting managing director of BRAC Bank, and M Kamal Uddin Jasim, additional managing director (AMD) of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, also spoke at the event.

Young innovators

FROM PAGE B1
United International University (UIU) represented the journey from Earth to outer space by showcasing a Mars rover designed to work in a simulated Martian environment. Built to withstand Mars-like weather, the rover can perform pick-and-drop tasks and take part in rescue missions.

Beyond the innovation stalls, the expo attracted large crowds to commercial booths selling laptops, computers, cameras, CCTV systems, smart gadgets, televisions, and smartphones.

Shakib Arif, founder of TechTime, said, "Customers were enjoying up to 25 percent off official iPhones, drawing an overwhelming response."

MD Jannatul Naim, marketing lead at DX Group, reported strong sales thanks to heavy discounts on smartphones and televisions.

Foreign loan inflows

FROM PAGE B1
the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division under the planning ministry.

Expenditure on projects tied to foreign loans also fell sharply in absolute terms amid political uncertainty.

Earlier this month, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) recommended giving top priority to implementing all foreign-funded ADP projects, citing the current state of the country's foreign exchange reserves.

ERD data showed that commitments of financing from international and bilateral lenders declined

Dollar struggles to recover from losses

AFP, Hong Kong

The dollar struggled to bounce back Wednesday following another sell-off fuelled by Donald Trump's suggestion he was happy with the currency's recent decline, while tech firms helped most Asian equity markets extend their rally.

Traders are also keeping an eye on the Federal Reserve's latest meeting, hoping for some guidance on its plans for interest rates amid uncertainty over the US president's policies following his latest tariff threats.

The greenback has retreated across the board this week following reports that the

New York Fed had checked in with traders about the yen's exchange rate, which fuelled talk that US and Japanese officials were prepared to stage a joint intervention.

That led to speculation the White House was prepared to let the dollar weaken, and Trump did little to dismiss that when asked Tuesday if he was worried about the decline.

"No, I think it's great," he told reporters in Iowa as the unit hit its weakest level against the euro in four-and-a-half years and a two-and-a-half-month low against the yen. "Look at the business we're doing. The dollar's doing great."

Abolish minimum tax

FROM PAGE B1

It also called for dropping the requirement for taxpayers to reconcile declared wealth with lifestyle expenditures, which the report said added administrative complexity without significantly boosting revenue.

It also advocated for a comprehensive re-evaluation of tax

exemptions granted to firms through statutory regulatory orders (SROs), arguing that many incentives lack transparency, are weakly monitored, and often fail to deliver the intended investment or employment outcomes.

Zaidi Sattar said, "Over the last decade, our revenue collection methods have become extremely complex. It is difficult to expand the scope of revenue collection without reforming these processes."

"If these are reformed quickly, it will have a far-reaching positive impact on the economy," he added.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said the report would serve as a guideline.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Jail Super
Bhola District Jail, Bhola.

Memo No. 58.04.7200.100.04.021.26-456

Date : 28.01.2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following Re-tender is invited in the national e-GP portal:

Sl	Tender ID No.	Tender/Proposal Package Name	Tender Document Publishing, Last Selling & Opening Date & Time
01.	1220276	Procurement of Dietary Articles Schedule-ka- Package No-1 for the Period of January /2026 to June/2026	Publishing : 27 January 2026 Time 13:30 Last Selling : 08 February 2026 Time 10:00 Opening : 08 February 2026 Time 11:00
02.	1220277	Procurement of Dietary Articles Schedule-ka- Package No-2 for the Period of January /2026 to June/2026	Publishing : 27 January 2026 Time 13:30 Last Selling : 08 February 2026 Time 10:00 Opening : 08 February 2026 Time 11:10
03.	1220278	Procurement of Dietary Articles Schedule-ka- Package No-3 for the Period of January /2026 to June/2026	Publishing : 27 January 2026 Time 13:30 Last Selling : 08 February 2026 Time 10:00 Opening : 08 February 2026 Time 11:20

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 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)

Shahriar Kumar Mazumder
BJ-02720100279
Jail Super
Bhola District Jail, Bhola

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
District Primary Education Office
Faridpur

www.dpe.faridpur.gov.bd

Date: 25 January 2026

Invitation for Re-Tender (OTM)

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

Tender ID & method	Description of procurement	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing/opening date & time
1216674 OTM	Furniture supply of 169 pair high-low benches, 133 Nos. table, 114 Nos. chair and 16 Nos. Rakes for selected 36 Nos. Govt Primary Schools of Charbhadrasan, Faridpur Sadar, Modhukhali, Sadarpur, Boalmari, Bhanga, Nagarkanda, Alfadanga and Saltha upazila of Faridpur district under Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP 4).	16-February-2026, 17:00	17-February-2026, 14:00

These are online tenders where only e-Tender shall be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal. No offline or hard copies shall 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 Portal. The Procurement Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Md. Mohiuddin
District Primary Education Officer
Faridpur
E-mail: dpeofarid@gmail.com

Govt orders

FROM PAGE B1
system, enabling secure and efficient ownership transfers without physical certificates.

Established in 2000 with support from the Asian Development Bank and funding from major financial institutions, the company remains unlisted after 25 years.

The meeting also discussed transforming Central Counterparty Bangladesh Ltd (CCBL) into a subsidiary of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Deliberations focused on how the institution could move forward while

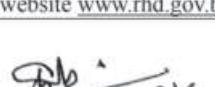
keeping its shareholding unchanged, reducing the size of its board, and strengthening coordination with DSE management.

Measures to develop the bond market were also discussed.

When asked whether there had been any discussion on merging the country's two stock exchanges, the official said that no such discussion took place.

Representatives from the DSE, Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), CDBL and CCBL attended the meeting.

1	Lease Quotation Notice No.	Lease-03/2025-2026/JRD
2	Name of Quotation	Lease for Toll Collection from Shatpakkha Ferry at 3rd km of Shatpakkha-Nalcity Road (Z-8709) during 03 (three) financial years under Jhalakati Road Division.
3	Lease implementation period	3 (three) financial years (1095 days)
4	Price of lease quotation schedule	Tk 1,000.00 (one thousand) per set.
5	Security money	10% of Quoted Rate. (including VAT and Tax) (In favour of Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jhalakati in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft.)
Quotation last selling date	18/02/2026 up to office hour (4:00pm)	
Tender closing date and time	19/02/2026 at 12:00pm	
6	Eligibility of lease quotationer	All interested Persons/Firms regardless of whether enlisted or not with the employer may submit Quotation provide that they are otherwise qualified who can fulfill the qualification criteria stipulated in the Quotation's document.
7	Selling quotation document	Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/DC Office, Jhalakati EE (RHD), Road Division-Jhalakati/Barisal/ Bhola/ Pirojpur/Planning Division-1, Sarak Bhabon, Dhaka/SDE (RHD) Road Sub-Division, Jhalakati.
8	Receiving quotation document	EE (RHD), Road Division, Jhalakati. SE (RHD), Barisal Road Circle, Barisal. DC Office, Jhalakati
9	Quotation opening place, date & time	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jhalakati, 19/02/2026 at 2:00pm
a	The concern authority reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Quotations.	
b	If it is not possible to receive/open the Quotation the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time and same venue.	
c	The Quotationer will quote the rate in figures & words.	
d	This Quotation Notice will also be seen at RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd .	


Shahriar Sharif Khan
ID No. 602247
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Jhalakati

