

# 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 bhoori 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 bhoori (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 bhoori in January 2018. Five years later, in July 2023, it surpassed Tk 100,000.

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



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

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 bhoori yesterday, tracking record highs in the global market.

# BSC receives new bulk vessel Banglar Nobojatra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) officially received the delivery of its newly purchased bulk vessel MV Banglar Nobojatra on Tuesday.

Last year, BSC purchased two bulk carriers with its own funds for the first time. Banglar Nobojatra is the second and final vessel to be delivered.

The official delivery of the ship, previously named XCL Lion, was completed on January 27 at the London office of Stephenson Harwood LLP, the legal representative of the ship's US-based supplier firm Hellenic Dry Bulk Ventures LLC, according to a press release.

BSC Managing Director Commodore Mahmudul Malek, along with representatives from the shipping ministry and senior officials of the BSC, were physically present at a ceremony to receive the vessel. Senior BSC officials and crew members joined the event virtually from Nanyang Shipyard in China.

As per the purchase agreement, the vessel's physical delivery is scheduled to be completed today (January 29) at Jingjiang Nanyang Shipbuilding Co Ltd in China.

# Economy stabilising

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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."

He stressed that without major investment in education and skills, the country risks wasting its demographic dividend. He also highlighted progress in public procurement reforms and solar power integration, but cautioned that corruption and inefficiency must be addressed for reforms to succeed.

Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of East Coast Group, stressed the need for broader engagement in economic policymaking, including participation from all political parties and the private sector, to ensure future

macroeconomic stability in Bangladesh.

He said discussions around macroeconomic challenges should involve political leaders from across the spectrum. "They must be aware of the current state of the economy and what challenges await in the future," he noted.

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

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He added that increased government support and investment could help such innovations grow and succeed.

**B A N G L A D E S H VENTURES INTO SPACE**

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.

The project has already won several competitions, including third place at a NASA contest in 2024.

"If we get government funding, we can showcase

our technology globally," said Ashik Al Islam Arpon, UIU's project coordinator. "Bangladesh's entry into aerospace technology may be small, but it is definitely a beginning."

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

Shakib Arafat, 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.

AFP, Hong Kong

The dollar struggled to bounce back Wednesday following another selloff 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-half-month low against the yen. "Look at the business we're doing. The dollar's doing great."

# Abolish minimum tax

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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 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.

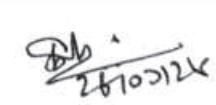
Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said the report would serve as a guideline.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Jhalakati Road Division, Jhalakati  
E-mail: [eejha@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eejha@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.4240.432.04.001.25-181 Dated: 28/01/2026

**Invitation of RHD Quotation for Ferry Toll Collection (3rd Call)**

1	Lease Quotation Notice No.	Lease-03/2025-2026/JRD
2	Name of Quotation	Lease for Toll Collection from Shatpakia Ferry at 3rd km of Shatpakia-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
17	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 <a href="http://www.rhd.gov.bd">www.rhd.gov.bd</a> .

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

GD-216

# Allow banks

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They also sought stronger cooperation from land registry offices to ensure the swift transfer of mortgaged assets.

The association further suggested simplifying proceedings under the Money Loan Court Act. Its recommendations included limiting court adjournments, speeding up the enforcement of arrest warrants, restricting long-term instalment facilities and establishing dedicated loan recovery courts in districts with a high concentration of default cases.

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

To prevent new defaults, ABB proposed creating a central database of mortgaged land and valuation information under the BB. The system would allow lenders to verify collateral more efficiently and reduce risks at the lending stage.

The letter, signed by ABB Chairman and City Bank Managing Director Masrur Arefin, said the association hopes the central bank would move quickly to implement the proposals and help restore discipline and confidence in the banking sector.

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.

**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 No	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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

  
**Shamul Kumar Mazumder**  
BJ- 02720100279  
Jail Super  
Bhola District Jail, Bhola

GD-214

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
District Primary Education Office  
Faridpur  
[www.dpe.faridpur.gov.bd](http://www.dpe.faridpur.gov.bd)


Memo No. DPEO/Faridpur/e-GP/GPS/119 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 Charbhadrason, 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](mailto:dpeofarid@gmail.com)

GD-211