

No approval given for artificial, indoor hilsa farming

Says fisheries ministry

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The interim government has not approved any individual or organisation to farm hilsa using the recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) or any other artificial or indoor methods, the fisheries ministry said in a statement yesterday.

The ministry stressed that any research, experimental projects, or technological initiatives involving hilsa must follow existing laws and regulations, serve national interests, and obtain prior approval from the relevant government authorities.

Recently, reports about indoor or artificial-environment hilsa farming appeared in newspapers, online news platforms, and social media. In response, the ministry reviewed the matter carefully.

Hilsa is a vital GI (Geographical Indication) product of Bangladesh and is closely linked with the country's rivers and coastal ecosystems, food security, cultural heritage, and the livelihoods of countless fishermen and communities who depend on fisheries, the ministry said.

Since hilsa production depends on

natural breeding cycles and river-based ecosystems, any initiatives in this area are highly sensitive and require strict policy oversight, it added.

Habiganj Agro Limited, a sister concern of PRAN-RFL Group, recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Denmark's Assentoft Aqua to establish an indoor, fully controlled intensive fish farming facility in Bangladesh using RAS technology.

This technology treats and reuses water through filtration, allowing high-density fish production with minimal environmental impact.

Eleash Mridha, managing director of PRAN Group, told The Daily Star that the company's formal agreement is only for the production of sea bass (koral fish). "We have not signed any contract for the commercial production of hilsa," he said.

He added that while the company had shown initial interest in researching hilsa after visiting the Hilsa Fish Research Institute in Chandpur, any such work would need government approval.

"Our main project remains focused on sea bass and is progressing as planned," he said.

Bankers must stay professional under pressure

Says finance adviser

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed has urged bankers to uphold professionalism even in the face of political and bureaucratic pressure.

He called on bankers to finance small and medium enterprises, generate employment, maintain transparency, and strictly follow financial and audit norms.

He was speaking at the annual conference of state-run Sonali Bank, held at the International Convention City Bashundhara yesterday. Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Ahsan H Mansur was also present at the event.

Ahmed praised Sonali Bank's financial strength, governance, accountability, and professionalism. At the same time, he stressed the need for greater responsibility and professional conduct in addressing the current challenges facing the banking sector.

BB Governor Mansur urged bankers to take a balanced approach to lending by being cautious yet bold.

He stressed the importance of reducing capital and provisioning shortfalls, improving profitability, and eventually being able to pay dividends to the government.

Sonali Bank Chairman Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury presided over the conference, while senior officials from the Ministry of Finance and Sonali Bank were also present.

Light engineering

FROM PAGE B1

"We still have time. We must strengthen the capacity of institutions responsible for implementing government policies, while entrepreneurs need to further enhance management efficiency, innovation and research," he said.

Khan also urged stakeholders not to focus solely on exports but to give equal importance to domestic demand. Referring to domestic purchasing power, he said that at least 25 percent of Bangladesh's population has a considerable purchasing power, showing a sizeable domestic market.

Hosna Ferdous Sumi, an official at the World Bank, said the domestic market – valued at about \$8 billion – offers significant opportunities, but product quality remains the biggest challenge in both local and export markets.

The light engineering sector employs around 300,000 workers across

nearly 50,000 enterprises and contributes about three percent to national GDP, said Abdur Razzaque, president of the Bangladesh Engineering Industry Owners Association (BEIOA).

Exports from the sector currently stand at \$795 million but could reach \$12.56 billion by 2030 with appropriate policy support, investment and technological advancement, he said.

Razzaque added that proper implementation of the recently formulated Light Engineering Industry Development Policy, particularly its time-bound action plans, could play a crucial role in export diversification.

Describing the expo as more than a display event, he said it serves as an effective sourcing and networking platform, connecting manufacturers, buyers, suppliers, investors and policymakers, and facilitating technology transfer, business deals and

access to global markets.

He also outlined key policy proposals, including the establishment of dedicated light engineering zones; support for technology transfer and research; reduced duties on raw material imports; simplified patent and design protection; training programmes for women and youth; cash incentives; and preferential access to bank financing.

Organised by BEIOA, the expo will continue until February 4 and remain open daily from 11:00am to 7:00pm, showcasing the latest technologies, components, machinery and innovative products from the country's light engineering sector.

Abdur Rashid, senior vice president of BEIOA, and Raju Ahmed, vice president, along with other central directors, representatives from the EC4J project and officials from the Ministry of Commerce, were also present at the inauguration event.

Stabilisation

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commissioner, an additional secretary from the Financial Institutions Division, the president of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, the president of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies, and a managing director of a stock exchange. The fund's chief executive officer will act as the member secretary.

The fund will act as a custodian for investors, returning money upon

proper claims. It will also support financial literacy initiatives and conduct research to raise awareness among investors.

Its financial statements must follow International Financial Reporting Standards, and audits must be completed within 90 days after the end of each financial year.

Under the draft ordinance, any cash dividend announced by a company but unclaimed for more than three years must be transferred to the CMSF.

Election rush

FROM PAGE B1

national election to participate in the fanfare of the polls."

US Bangla operates an average of 60 domestic flights daily across six routes to and from Dhaka.

Air Astra, the newest entrant to the market, has also felt the uptick, though its deputy general manager, Mozammel Haque Bhuiya, reckons the boost will not exceed 5 percent.

The airline runs 22 flights a day to Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Sylhet and Saidpur.

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

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নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর নোয়াখালী
পানি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ নোয়াখালী,
সোনাপুর, নোয়াখালী-৩৮০২
ফোনঃ ০২-৩৩৪৪৯১১৪৩

Memo No. EE/NOA/WD/IT-5/1760 Date: 02/02/2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM) No. 09

The e-Tender Notice for procurement of following works and physical services is published in e-GP website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl No.	ID No.	Package No. & Description	Location of the works	Tender of document last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
1	1221772	Algi-Bamni and Jalia Khal Re-exca-03 Re-excavation of Algi Khal to Bamni River from Km 3.300 to Km 7.800 = 4.500 Km. & Jaliar Khal from Km. 0.00 to Km. 6.00=6.00 Km. in C/W "Bamni River Basin flood management and drainage system improvement of Noakhali District" project at Upazilla: Compiangonj, District: Noakhali under Noakhali Water Development Division, BWDB, Noakhali.	Noakhali district	2-Feb-2026 20:00	25-Feb-2026 12:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory. For more details contact to e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (15675).

পরিঃ ১২২/২০২৬-২০২৬
৪"X৬

S. M. Refat Jamil
Executive Engineer
Noakhali WD Division
BWDB, Noakhali

GD-247

West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited
(ওয়েস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড)
(বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী এর দপ্তর, সাতক্ষীরা বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ ও জোপাডিসকোলিং, সাতক্ষীরা
Telephone: 02477741308, E-mail: xen.satkira@wzpdcl.gov.bd

Ref No. 27.22.8782.503.52.001.26.1486 Date: 01.02.2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, Satkhira Electric Supply, WZPDCL, Satkhira for the execution of following works, which is available at the National e-GP System Portal website (www.eprocure.gov.bd) from 01.02.2026; time: 16.00 hrs.

Sl	Tender ID	Invitation Reference	Name of works
01	1220056	27.22.8782.503.52.0 01.26.1470 Date: 26.01.2026	Renovation of 11/4 and 4 KV Line of Bypass (bypass Highway Road), Old Satkhira (Khulna Road), Kukhrali (Ghudder Dangi) and Textile (Karagar and Busstand) Feeder under Satkhira Electric Supply, WZPDCL, Satkhira

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd).

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

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) www.wzpdcl.org.bd, e-mail: wz.satkira@gmail.com, Tel: 024777-41308 Mob: 01700709808.

Md. Shoyab Hossain
Executive Engineer

GD-244

গাজী ওয়্যারস লিমিটেড
GAZI WIRES LIMITED
(AN ENTERPRISE OF BSEC UNDER MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES)
28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chandgaon, Chattogram-4212
www.gaziwires.gov.bd, email: gaziwiresltd@gmail.com

: International RE-Tender Notice (ICT):

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation (BSEC).
3	Procuring Entity Name	Managing Director, Gazi Wires Limited (GWL), 28 BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh. E-mail: gaziwiresltd@gmail.com
4	Invitation for	Procurement of 32 M.T Wire Enamel Insulating Varnish, (PVF 22%)
5	Invitation Ref. No.	GW/PUR/028(A)/OTM(ICT)/2025-2026, Dated: 01.02.2026.
6	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (ICT) (One Stage Two Envelop System)
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Gazi Wires Limited's Own Fund.
8	Tender Publication Date	Tender Last Selling Date 03.02.2026 Tender Closing Date & Time 03.03.2026 11.30 AM Tender Opening Date & Time 03.03.2026 11.45 AM
9	Name & Address of the officer(s)	Address
(a)	Selling Tender Document	1) Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, BSEC Bhaban, 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka- 1215, Bangladesh. 2) Cash Section, Gazi Wires Limited, 28 BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.
(b)	Receiving and Opening of Tender Document	At the office time of Gazi Wires Ltd., 28-BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.
10	Price of Tender Document (Each)	BDT. 3,000.00.
11	Eligibility of Tenderer	Mentioned in the Tender Documents.
Brief Description of tender:		
12	Tender Package No.	Description of tender Tender Security Amount (USD/Taka) USD= 3,265.00 Equivalent BDT. 4,00,942.00
13	Delivery Period/ Shipment Schedule	Shipment will be made at buyer direction (LC by LC).
14	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.

Head of Commercial Department
For-Managing Director
Mobile: 01972-482522

GD- 256

Stock market

FROM PAGE B1

Division (FID) ordered firmly that concerned ministries bring them to the market.

"The BSEC has done all they could. The next steps will have to be taken by the concerned ministries. But that's where the progress stalled," he said.

Another of the CA's directives was to offer incentives to bring well-performing local companies into the market. No such incentive was also seen from the National Board of Revenue or any other authorities.

The BSEC has done its part in amending IPO rules so that good companies can get a fair price from investors.

Another order was to include foreign experts in the market reform activities. No such steps were taken.

Authorities were directed to take measures to encourage large borrowers to raise capital from the stock market by issuing equity and bonds. No progress was seen there either.

Following the CA's directive, the BSEC has taken several strict punitive measures against those involved in corruption and market manipulation.

Saiful Islam, president of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Brokers Association of Bangladesh, said that in realistic terms, no decision has been implemented in the last nine months despite the order coming from the head of the government, especially regarding the listing of state-run companies and multinational companies.

"It is extremely frustrating for us."

He noted that the lack of implementation of those directives was a regulatory failure.

"The interim government's tenure was a golden opportunity to implement these decisions on the listing of state-run

firms for the betterment of the capital market. During any political government, such measures are difficult to implement, mainly due to non-cooperation from the bureaucracy," he said.

"Adding at least 4-5 state-run companies within this period would have been a boost for the market," he added.

Abul Kalam said the BSEC, Financial Institution Division and Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, a special assistant to the chief adviser, tried their best to implement the directives. A joint committee was formed, and it submitted a report to the government, outlining the necessary measures to be taken to incentivise the well-performing local companies. The Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor has said in a meeting that the government will push forward those measures.

The BB and BSEC are taking steps to make the bond market vibrant, the BSEC spokesperson added. However, such measures cannot be completed overnight, and a guideline to implement the measures was made.

Regarding the matter of appointing a foreign expert, he said, "A directive came from the higher-ups that the inclusion of a foreign expert would be time-consuming."

In light of the situation, the responsibility was given to an academican who has foreign expertise as well as local experience.

"What else can the BSEC do?" the spokesperson said, stressing that the BSEC and the FID have taken all possible necessary steps.

While the BSEC has been diligent in following its part of the directives, the completion of the measures halted due to bureaucracy in the concerned ministries, causing stock investors to lose hope in any further progress.

Exports hold steady

FROM PAGE B1

During the July January period, frozen food exports rose 4.94 percent to \$297.56 million, while home textile shipments grew 3.26 percent to \$509.97 million.

Jute and jute goods exports increased 1.97 percent to \$493.85 million, and leather and leather goods exports rose 5.71 percent to \$707.24 million. Ceramics exports fell 20.91 percent to \$17.63 million, and non-leather footwear shipments declined 2.06 percent to \$311.53 million.

Cotton products also saw a drop, falling 17.28

percent to \$305.57 million over the same period, EPB data showed.

Md Abul Hossain, chairman of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA), said the jute sector had been performing well because local millers can export more finished goods than raw jute.

"The value of finished goods is higher than raw jute, and the rate of value addition is also higher," he said.

Hossain urged the government to continue the ban on raw jute exports, which was imposed in September last year.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিভাগীয় ভূ-সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা

ভূ-সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা এর আওতাধীন ঢাকা বিমান বন্দর, কুলাউড়া, শায়েস্তাবাদ, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া, আতপাঙ্গ ও ভৈরব বাজার রেলওয়ে স্টেশন এলাকার পাড়ি পার্শ্ব এরিয়া দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে মাসুল আদায়ের নিমিত্ত ১ (এক) বন্দের মেয়াদে লাইসেন্স প্রদান।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ভূ-সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা এর আওতাধীন ঢাকা বিমান বন্দর, কুলাউড়া, শায়েস্তাবাদ, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া, আতপাঙ্গ ও ভৈরব বাজার রেলওয়ে স্টেশন এলাকার দিঘাঘুকে বর্ণিত পাড়ি পার্শ্ব এরিয়াসমূহ দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে মাসুল আদায়ের নিমিত্ত ১ (এক) বন্দের মেয়াদে লাইসেন্স প্রদানের জন্য (দখল হস্তান্তরের তারিখ হতে) লাইসেন্স গ্রহণে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তিদের নিম্নলিখিত শীলমোহেরদ্বারা দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রতিটি দরপত্র দলিল নম্বর ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অক্ষেরতমোগ্য) মূল্যে বিভাগীয় ভূ-সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা/চট্টগ্রাম, প্রধান ভূ-সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা (পূর্ব) বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম, উপ-পরিচালক (ভূ-সম্পত্তি), মহাপরিচালকের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, কোলকাতা, ঢাকা হতে (যে দপ্তরের অন্য যেটি প্রযোজ্য) জন/সদস্য এবং নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে উক্ত অফিসসমূহে বক্ত দরপত্র বাস্তবে দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন দরপত্র বিক্রয় করা হবে না। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে অনুযায়ী আগ্রহী দরপত্রদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। রেলওয়ে কর্তৃক কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

তফসিল

ক্রম	পাড়ি পার্শ্ব এর বিবরণ	অনুমোদিত নকশা নং ও তারিখ	ভূমির পরিমাণ (বর্গফুট)	০১ (এক) বন্দের মেয়াদে সরকারি দর/হার (সেপ্টেম্বর এলাকার বাণিজ্যিক হারের ভিত্তিতে)	দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র বাস্তবায়নের তারিখ ও সময়
১	ঢাকা বিমানবন্দর রেলওয়ে স্টেশন এর পাড়ি পার্শ্ব এরিয়া।	ডিইও/ঢাকা- ০৬/২৬ তারিখঃ ২২/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ	৬৯৬৬	২০,৮৯,৮০০/-	১৫/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ (১ম বার) ২২/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ (২য় বার) ০১/০৩/২৬খ্রিঃ (৩য় বার) অফিস জমাকালীন সরবরাহ (১ম টেন্ডারে নিষ্পত্তি হলে ২য় ও ৩য় টেন্ডার অনুষ্ঠিত হবে না)	১৭/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ (১ম বার) ২৪/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ (২য় বার) ০৩/০৩/২০২৬খ্রিঃ (৩য় বার) দুপুর ০২.০০ ঘটিকা	১৮/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ (১ম বার) ২৫/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ (২য় বার) ০৪/০৩/২০২৬খ্রিঃ (৩য় বার) দুপুর ০২.০০ ঘটিকা
২	কুলাউড়া রেলওয়ে স্টেশন এর পাড়ি পার্শ্ব এরিয়া।	ডিইও/ঢাকা- ০৩/২৬ তারিখঃ ২২/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ	৫০৫৬	৫,০৫,৬০০/-	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ
৩	শায়েস্তাবাদ রেলওয়ে স্টেশন এর পাড়ি পার্শ্ব এরিয়া।	ডিইও/ঢাকা- ০২/২৬ তারিখঃ ২২/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ	১২০০০	৯,৬০,০০০/-	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ
৪	ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া রেলওয়ে স্টেশন এর পাড়ি পার্শ্ব এরিয়া।	ডিইও/ঢাকা- ০৪/২৬ তারিখঃ ২২/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ	৪০০০	৪,০০,০০০/-	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ
৫	আতপাঙ্গ রেলওয়ে স্টেশন এর পাড়ি পার্শ্ব এরিয়া।	ডিইও/ঢাকা- ০৫/২৬ তারিখঃ ২২/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ	৬১৬০	৬,১৬,০০০/-	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ
৬	ভৈরব বাজার রেলওয়ে স্টেশন এর পাড়ি পার্শ্ব এরিয়া।	ডিইও/ঢাকা- ০১/২৬ তারিখঃ ২২/০২/২৬খ্রিঃ	২৮৫০	৫,৭০,০০০/-	ঐ	ঐ	ঐ

এস (২৬)(১৭১)

শিল্প কুমার সাহা
উপসচিব
বিভাগীয় ভূ-সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা
মোবাইলঃ ০১৭১১৬৯১৬১১
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জিডি-২৫১