

NBR invites applications for C&F agent licences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has invited applications for Customs Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) agent licences under the newly enacted Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agent Licensing Rules, 2026.

In a press release, the NBR said interested individuals must apply in the prescribed "Form-K" to the licensing authority of the relevant customs station by 4pm on March 31, 2026.

Applications must be submitted along with all required documents and the original copy of a bank draft or pay order.

The new rules have been formulated under Section 243 of the Customs Act, 2023, replacing the earlier Customs Agent Licensing Rules, 2020.

Required documents include national ID copies, an updated trade licence, proof of income tax return submission, VAT registration (if applicable), academic certificates, photographs, and relevant ownership or rental documents for office premises.

A non-refundable application fee of Tk 5,000 must be paid in favour of the director general of the Customs, Excise and VAT Training Academy in Chattogram.

Eligible candidates will sit for written and viva examinations conducted by the academy, with schedules and results to be published on its website.

China-based firm to invest \$19.6m in Uttara EPZ

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Tianford Bangladesh Textile Co Ltd, a China (Hong Kong)-based firm, is set to establish a readymade garment (RMG) manufacturing unit inside Nilphamari's Uttara Export Processing Zone (EPZ) with an investment of \$19.59 million.

The company signed a land lease agreement with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) yesterday at the Bepza Complex in Dhaka, according to a press release.

The project is expected to create employment opportunities for 3,254 Bangladeshi nationals.

On 24,000 square metres of land, the company will manufacture 7 million pieces of woven and knit garments annually, including bottoms, shirts, jeans, jackets, and

sweaters.

The products will be exported to major global markets, including the USA, Canada, Japan, China, Australia, Brazil, the UK, and the EU.

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Md Tanvir Hossain, executive director for investment promotion of Bepza, and Ge Zhenyu, nominee director of Tianford Bangladesh Textile, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

Bepza Executive Chairman Major General Mohammad Moazzem Hossain, who witnessed the signing, said the

new government has assumed office with a strong focus on promoting investment.

He reaffirmed Bepza's commitment to providing modern, investor-oriented services and encouraged the firm to source quality raw materials locally to strengthen domestic industries.

Ge Zhenyu expressed confidence in Bangladesh as an attractive destination for global investors. He informed that factory construction will commence in April this year, with exports expected to begin next year.

From Bepza, Md Imtiaz Hossain, member (engineering); ANM Foyzul Haque, member (finance); Md Tanvir Hossain, executive director (investment promotion); and Mohammad Anamul Haque, project director, were also present at the signing ceremony.

Agriculture minister stresses organic farming in char areas

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Agriculture Minister Mohammad Amin Ur Rashid said organic farming must be introduced in the country's char areas to utilise the soil's fertility and boost exports.

He added that soil quality across vast char regions remains naturally fertile, creating ideal conditions for cultivating organic crops for international markets.

Speaking at a view-exchange meeting at the ministry yesterday, he stressed that prioritising agricultural development in these areas is essential if Bangladesh is to expand agricultural exports on an industrial scale.

Highlighting the broader economic impact, the minister said a strong agricultural sector is fundamental to building a strong national economy.

He added that the government plans a comprehensive overhaul of the sector, including reducing excessive fertiliser use, restoring soil health, and excavating irrigation canals to improve water management.

Small US firms wary but hopeful on tariff upheaval

AFP, Washington

Small American businesses warned Friday that a tougher trade landscape was here to stay, as the Supreme Court's rejection of sweeping tariffs was quickly followed by President Donald Trump's pledge to impose new duties.

"It's certainly not the end of the difficult trade environment that we're trying to deal with," said Ben Knepler, co-founder of outdoor chair maker True Places.

He was forced to radically scale back his Pennsylvania-based business last year after Trump imposed new tariffs on virtually all trading partners.

The high court's decision on Friday that these country-specific tariffs were illegal brought limited comfort.

"Even with this ruling, there's too much uncertainty for us to be able to restart production for the US," he told AFP.

Knepler had shifted his supply chain out of China to Cambodia at heavy cost after Trump's trade war with Beijing during his first presidency.

But Trump's new 19-percent tariff on Cambodia imports last year forced

him to halt manufacturing. He is now working on selling the remainder of his inventory rather than continuing production while he plans his next steps.

But he said: "It does give us a little bit of hope that at least there's some kind of check on what was previously unlimited power outside of Congress."

Josh Staph, chief executive of Ohio-based Duncan Toys Company, urged a "more surgical approach to tariffs" after Trump announced his plan to impose new and sweeping 10-percent duties on imports.

Duncan Toys has been producing yo-yos, flying discs and model gliders in China, and Washington's escalating tariffs with Beijing last year similarly forced him to pause imports.

He was "cautiously optimistic" over the Supreme Court ruling.

But he said he "knows the administration is committed to imposing these tariffs, despite their impact on US toy companies and consumers."

Boyd Stephenson, who runs retailer Game Kastle in Maryland, told AFP he was "very excited to hear that the tariffs have been struck down."

Jamaat MP Arman

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In it, Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem wrote: "You are well aware that the said meeting was a desire of mine, and I sought your kind support for my keen interest in obtaining a licence and establishing a digital bank to march with the global financial sector through the use of emerging technologies, digital innovation and platforms."

"This dream and determination are inherited by me with the mission to provide inclusive, digital and ever-growing, impactful financial services to the people of my country. In pursuit of this vision, some potential foreign delegates have already associated with me and are interested in investing in such a business."

He added that he had learned during the meeting about "Nagad Digital Financial Service", now under the direct administration of the BB, because of alleged irregularities during the previous government. The company is expected to be transferred to new ownership and management following due diligence.

"It will be a great honour and opportunity for me to take up such an alternative," the letter said, adding that after discussions with his foreign investors, they were ready to move to the next stage.

That would involve a forensic audit to obtain a clear and comprehensive picture of the company's financial, operational and business position, including strengths, weaknesses and risks.

"Therefore, I anticipate

your utmost support in arranging the necessary measures with Nagad Digital Financial Service and allowing us to conduct a forensic audit to understand the actual situation of this financial service, in order to work out the best possible plan to manage the business and arrange future necessary investment."

Contacted, BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur said the central bank had received various proposals regarding Nagad, but none it considered serious so far.

He said the interim government had intended to return Nagad to the private sector. What the new government chooses to do will be its decision.

"Nagad is not our institution; we are only managing it. It is now owned by the government. Therefore, the government must take the decision."

Nagad entered the market in 2019, presenting itself as the financial arm of the Bangladesh Post Office. It continues to operate under a temporary licence from the central bank.

After the interim government took office, the BB appointed an administrator at Nagad in August 2024, citing irregularities in its operations and transactions.

A forensic auditor appointed by the central bank, followed by an investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), found preliminary evidence of corruption and money laundering amounting to Tk 2,300 crore under the previous management.

BB eases down payment rules

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In January last year, the central bank formed a five-member committee, led by the executive director of the Department of Offsite Supervision, to provide necessary policy support for restructuring or rescheduling corporate borrowers who defaulted due to factors beyond their control.

The committee's process of holding tripartite meetings with borrowing institutions or groups and financing institutions concluded on September 30 last year.

On September 16, the BB issued a unified special loan rescheduling policy to maintain economic growth and assist borrowers who

had defaulted due to circumstances beyond their control.

About 300 companies, including top defaulter conglomerates, applied to the BB for loan rescheduling or restructuring facilities totalling around Tk 2 lakh crore in the first nine months of last year.

Syed Mahabub Rahman, managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd, said the flexibility by the BB may help sick industries recover and return to business in this tough time. The economy is going through stress, he said.

However, bankers cautioned that wilful defaulters may take advantage of the policy

support extended to enable sick and affected firms to return to business. As the provision has become general, there is a risk that wilful defaulters and those who did not qualify earlier will receive the support.

Anis A Khan, a former chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB), said this would give breathing space to affected businesses to restore their production and services to normal levels after the formation of an elected government.

"It is imperative that businesses take this opportunity to rebuild their frayed infrastructure," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering
Joypurhat District, Joypurhat
www.dphe.joypurhat.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender Notice

1	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division
2	Implementing agency	Department of Public Health Engineering
3	Project/ program name	Rural Sanitation Project
4	e-Tender ID	1230929
5	Description of work: Construction of 20 Nos. Community toilet at different upazila (Sadar+Panchbibi+Kali+Khetlal+Akkelpur) in Joypurhat District under Rural Sanitation Project during the FY 2025-2026.	
6	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Mst. Ummay Roman Khan Jony, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Joypurhat District.
7	This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP Portal and no offline or hard copy will be accepted. Interested persons/ firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd	

Mst. Ummay Roman Khan Jony
Executive Engineer
DPHE, Joypurhat District

GD-361

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board

Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Bidar Bhaban, (12th Floor)
1 No. Abul Goni Road, Dhaka
www.bpdb.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	ID No. Tender	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
1.	1234029	GR-25 FY 25-26	27.11.000 0.304.26. 417.26 dated: 22/02/2026	Procurement of Heat Exchanger plates for lube oil system and vacuum pump of steam turbine unit of Bholra 225 MW CCPP	11-03-2026 18:00	12-03-2026 14:00	12-03-2026 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). For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01755575443).

বিদ্যুৎ/সি.এ. ৭৬৮(২)/২২/০২/২৬

Md. Nannu Miah
ID No. 1-01304
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka
E-mail: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

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Govt to hold talks

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agreements negotiated by President Trump will remain in effect," the USTR said.

The American Apparel and Footwear Association, in a separate statement issued on February 20, struck a different note, welcoming the court's ruling and calling for swift refunds of tariffs it described as unlawfully collected.

"We are confident

in Customs and Border Protection's (CPB) ability to move quickly and provide clear guidance to American businesses on how to obtain refunds for tariffs that were unlawfully collected," said Steve Lamar, the association's president and chief executive.

"CBP's recently modernised, fully electronic refund process should help to expedite this effort," he added.

HSBC named

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Widely regarded as one of the most comprehensive benchmarking exercises in international banking, the Euromoney Trade Finance Survey captures feedback from more than 12,700 trade finance specialists and corporate treasurers across 96 countries.

In terms of performance, HSBC delivered its strongest regional results

to date, securing the top position in 16 of the 18 Asia-Pacific markets in which it operates.

The 2026 results further underscore HSBC's standing as a trusted trade finance partner, recognised for its deep market expertise, extensive global network, and innovative solutions that enable clients to manage increasingly complex trade flows with confidence.

UN panel begins

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have urged for more time to take extensive preparations for a smooth graduation.

Currently, Bangladesh enjoys zero-duty access for 73 percent of its exports as part of LDC provisions. After LDC graduation, this preferential market access will be lost, and

Bangladesh may lose 14 percent of its exports or \$8.0 billion worth of business in a year, different studies have suggested.

Nepal and Lao PDR are also scheduled to graduate along with Bangladesh this year, but they have not applied for deferment.

E IN C'S BRANCH, WORKS DIRECTORATE, DHAKA CANTONMENT

Notice no. 400/Ad/62/E-4/08 Dated: 17 February 2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS
MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

1.	Sponsoring Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs			
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services			
3.	Procuring Entity Name	E in C			
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
5.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
6.	Budget and source of Funds	GOB			
7.	Development Partners (if applicable)	None			
8.	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	Conservation of old Dhaka Central Jail history, historical buildings & Development of surroundings area (1 st Revised)			
9.	Selling of tender will commence from	24 February 2026 (During Office hour).			
10.	Selling of tender will Close on	16 March 2026 (During Office hour).			
11.	Last date & time of submission of Tender	18 March 2026 at 1200 hours.			
12.	Date & time of opening of Tender	18 March 2026 at 1230 hours.			
13.	Name & Address of the Office(s)				
	Selling Tender Document	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka & AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment			
	Receiving Tender Document	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka			
	Opening Tender Document	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka			
14.	Eligibility of Tenderer	a. MES enlisted contractors Class 'A'/'B' for lot no. 15(a). b. On receipt of DGF1 clearance with others Govt. Department (equivalent classes) contractors may also apply for tender. c. Contractors having experience in similar works with enlistment in other Govt., Semi Government & Autonomous Organization may also apply. d. Having experience of similar work mentioned in lot no. 15(a) amounting Tk. 6,00,00,000.00 for each lot in one/two tender during last 05 (Five) years.			
15.	Brief Description of Works				
Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Price of Tender Document (Non-Refundable)	Tender Security in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay order in favour of AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt. (Taka)	Completion Time in weeks/ Months
1	2	3	4	5	6
a.	Provision of Fire fighting system including ancillary works at Zone-A for Conservation of Old Dhaka Central Jail History, Historical Buildings and Development of Surroundings area, Dhaka.	Old Dhaka Central Jail	9,000.00	20,00,000.00	06 (Six) Months
16.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works			
17.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works			
18.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Army Headquarters, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. Web address : www.army.mil.bd			
19.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel No. 9832870	Fax No. 9832882	e-mail- wksdte@army.mil.bd	
20.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders				

আই এস পি আর/সেনা/১৬৫

XEN/E/M
For Director of Works
Works Directorate
Engineer in Chief's Branch
Dhaka Cantonment
Tel: Mili: 8711111 Ext: 2886
Civil: 9833886

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