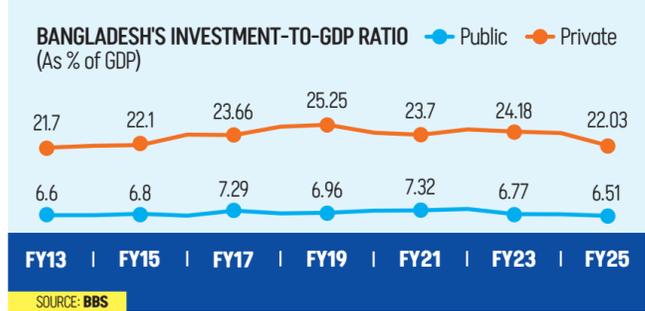


Star BUSINESS



Private investment hits 11-year low

Economists say decline threatens jobs and long-term economic growth prospects



SOHEL PARVEZ

Bangladesh's private investment fell for the third consecutive year, reaching 22.03 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the fiscal year 2024-25, the lowest level in 11 years, amid a weak investment climate and macroeconomic stress.

Public investment as a share of GDP, a measure of the final value of goods and services produced in the economy over a period, also declined for the third year due to slow implementation of the Annual Development Programme

(ADP).

It stood at 6.51 percent of GDP in FY25, the lowest since at least FY13, down from 6.74 percent a year earlier, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

Economists say that the falling investment trend indicates the creation of fewer jobs than required, especially for the growing number of young workers entering the labour market each year.

According to them, the investment decline also threatens future growth.

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End LNG reliance or face debt trap: CPD

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The new government must end its policy of overemphasising liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports or risk repeating a damaging cycle of financial debt while falling behind on energy transition goals, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) warned yesterday.

"Bangladesh should gradually shift priority from LNG import to domestic gas exploration to successfully drill 150 gas wells," CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem said at a briefing on the social and economic policies expected of the new government, held at the think tank's Dhaka office.

He also called on the BNP-led government to withdraw any value added tax (VAT) on LNG imports in the next budget.

Criticising the BNP's election manifesto for

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Extortion, gridlock hurting trade, investment

Business leaders call for improving law and order

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Business leaders and government officials at an event yesterday stressed the urgent need to improve the law-and-order situation and strengthen market management, warning that business confidence and sustainable economic growth will remain elusive unless immediate and effective measures are taken.

Speakers at the view-exchange

meeting organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), titled "Necessity of Maintaining an Improved Law & Order Situation to Facilitate the Ease of Doing Business," said a stable security environment is vital for trade and investment.

They cited extortion, traffic congestion and weak market oversight as key challenges that are raising the cost of conducting business.

"There is no alternative to properly coordinating supply and demand in market management," said A HM Ahsan, chairman of the Bangladesh Competition Commission.

He emphasised the importance of accurate data on the use and distribution of essential goods, adding that a business-friendly environment reduces institutional costs for entrepreneurs and positively

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