

BTRC cancels certificates of 22 SMS service companies

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The telecom regulator has cancelled the enlistment certificates of 22 companies that were authorised to provide application-to-person (A2P) SMS aggregation services in Bangladesh, citing non-renewal of licences and regulatory non-compliance.

In an official notice issued recently, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) said the affected firms had either expressed unwillingness to renew their enlistment, failed to apply for renewal within the stipulated timeframe, or were found to have ownership links with entities holding other telecom licences, which violates existing guidelines for domestic A2P service providers.

A2P SMS aggregators act as intermediaries between businesses,

government agencies, and mobile network operators.

They enable bulk messaging services such as one-time passwords (OTPs), banking alerts, promotional messages, delivery notifications, public service announcements, and other automated communications sent from applications to mobile subscribers.

BTRC warned that any activities conducted under the cancelled certificates would be considered illegal and punishable under the Bangladesh Telecommunication Act, 2001.

The companies have been instructed to surrender their original certificates and settle any outstanding dues within 30 days.

They will also remain liable for any additional financial obligations identified through future audits, according to the BTRC notice.

BATBC offers 30% dividend, lowest in 10 years

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Ltd (BATBC) has announced a 30 percent cash dividend for its shareholders for 2025, which, according to data available on the Dhaka bourse, is the lowest dividend in about a decade.

A sharp decline in profit pushed the multinational cigarette producer to declare such a low dividend through a board meeting yesterday.

The 100 percent cash dividend the company declared in 2023 was previously the lowest, as it usually provides between 400 percent and 600 percent cash dividend, according to company data available since 2015 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website.

As per a disclosure by the company, its earnings per share plunged by around 67 percent year on year to Tk 10.81, compared to Tk 32.42 the previous year.

However, the company did not provide any reason for such a drop in profit.

Along with profit, its net asset value per share also fell to Tk 102 from Tk 106.8 the previous year.

India seeks to deepen trade ties

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During the meeting, the two sides discussed several trade-related issues and explored a roadmap for future cooperation.

According to state-owned news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Mukhtadir described India as a major economic partner with a GDP exceeding \$4 trillion.

He added that bilateral trade currently totals about \$11 billion, with Bangladesh importing roughly \$9.5 billion and exporting \$1.5 billion worth of goods.

While talking to journalists, Mukhtadir said the government is closely monitoring the situation in the Strait of Hormuz.

He said that while the strait is a crucial global

trade route, there is no immediate threat to the supply of essential commodities or fuel.

The Strait of Hormuz is vital, as around one-fifth of global maritime trade passes through it, the minister said.

"If the strait were to remain closed for an extended period, it would have a major impact on global shipping. However, it is too early to be overly alarmed. The situation may be resolved within a few days."

He added that the government has applied for a deferment of Bangladesh's graduation from the group of Least Developed Countries, which will be assessed by the United Nations.

Govt deploys 475 mobile veterinary

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Kamal also said that so far, 135 wet markets have been constructed and handed over.

In addition, modern slaughterhouses are under construction in 13 district towns, which will further strengthen the safe and hygienic meat supply chain, he said.

Food, Fisheries and Livestock and Agriculture Minister Mohammad Amin Ur Rashid said an agriculture card will soon be introduced to address the current lack of accurate and coordinated data on farmers. This card will provide authentic information to improve service delivery.

Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, state minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Agriculture and Food, emphasised that the government has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen and sustain the agriculture-based economy.

Under the prime minister's leadership, multiple plans are already underway to ensure overall sectoral progress, he said.

To support small farmers, the government has waived Tk 10,000 crore in agricultural loans, easing financial burdens and encouraging increased production, he added.

Canada, India strike deal on rare earth

AFP, New Delhi

India and Canada on Monday reached a string of agreements, including on critical mineral cooperation and a "landmark" uranium supply deal for nuclear power, the countries' leaders said in New Delhi.

The pacts, which also covered technology and promoting the use of renewable energy, were announced after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney hailed a fresh start in the relationship between their nations.

"Our ties have seen a new energy, mutual trust, and positivity," Modi said.

Ties effectively collapsed in 2023 after Ottawa accused New Delhi of orchestrating a deadly campaign against Sikh activists in Canada, accusations India rejected.

Carney's visit -- his first to India since taking office last year -- is not only aimed to reset strained ties, but also to push efforts to diversify trade beyond the United States.

Exports drop

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Masrur Reaz, chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, also warned that the conflict may affect shipments to Western countries, including the two prime destinations -- Europe and the US.

He explained that conflict near the Suez Canal, a vital shipping artery between Asia and the West, could force vessels to reroute via Africa's Cape of Good Hope, adding nearly 5,000 kilometres to journeys.

This would significantly increase shipping costs and maritime insurance premiums, he added.

"This will affect the country's competitiveness in the global supply chain," Reaz said.

However, BGMEA chief Khan confirmed that so far, no exporters have reported stuck shipments due to the war.

Despite the overall decline, several sectors showed resilience. EPB data shows that pharmaceuticals, home textiles, leather and leather goods, and frozen fish all posted positive growth during July-February.

Bad loans fall



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four factors drove the decline in non-performing loans at the end of December.

Many banks partially wrote off large volumes of bad loans, with some writing off between Tk 300 crore and Tk 1,500 crore.

The second factor was the BB policy support, Arefin said. "Policy support played a role but was not the main driver."

"Only about 42 percent of the policy support was implemented. In other words, if policy support worth Tk 100 was approved, only around 42 percent was actually executed," said the ABB chairman.

He labelled recovery drives by banks in December last year as the third factor, which he said helped banks claw back a large chunk of loans.

Besides, he said some loans could not be classified as default due to court stay orders, which also contributed to the decline.

At the end of December last year, bad loans at state-owned banks stood at Tk 1,46,107.59 crore, or 44.44 percent of their total disbursed amounts, according to BB data.

Bangladesh resilient

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Md Mahbul ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, noted that initiatives such as the bank's CFO Connect platform aim to help finance professionals exchange insights and better navigate an evolving global economic landscape.

With the formation of the new government following a largely

peaceful election, the government now holds a clear political mandate and legitimacy to pursue reforms and provide the stability the population has been seeking.

Facing an extensive agenda, the new administration must demonstrate commitment to its promises and address the aspirations of Bangladesh's young generation.

"The reset begins," he added.

Private commercial banks recorded Tk 3,89,579 crore in non-performing loans, equivalent to 28.25 percent of disbursed loans. Foreign banks held Tk 2,983.77 crore, or 4.51 percent, according to BB data.

Specialised banks reported Tk 18,546.47 crore, or 39.74 percent, in bad loans. Moimul Islam, former professor of economics at University of Chittagong, said rescheduling loans on overly easy terms is not a lasting solution for reducing bad loans.

The economist said that while such measures may temporarily reduce reported figures, they do not actually solve the underlying problem.

"Strict measures must be taken against defaulters. Separate tribunals should be formed for the top 10 defaulters of each bank in order to recover their defaulted amounts," he suggested.

After the rescheduling and restructuring, the banking sector now faces a provision shortfall of Tk 1,91,441 crore.

In 1999, bad loans in the banking sector stood at a record 41.1 percent. The ratio gradually declined and reached 6.1 percent in 2011.

Governor orders fast-track recovery

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appointed the BB governor as chairman of the task force. Its members include representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Financial Institutions Division, Law and Justice Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The task force also

includes the Criminal Investigation Department of Bangladesh Police, the Attorney General's Office, the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate and the Central Intelligence Cell of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit.

It has taken steps to recover allegedly laundered money linked to 10 major

business groups and family members of the ousted prime minister, Sheikh Hasina.

In August last year, the NBR said it had identified assets worth nearly Tk 40,000 crore in five countries. Based on its internal estimates, the total amount involved, including tax and penalties, is about Tk 16,000 crore, according to the NBR.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Memo No.: 35.01.5874.187.07.5-214.26-355

Date: 01/03/2026

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) For

Conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Flood Modelling of Rajnagar - Kulaura - Juri - Baralekha - Beanibazar - Sheola - Charkhai (R-281) road under Moulvibazar Road Division during the year 2025-26.

1.	Ministry Division	: Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Road Transport & Highway Division
2.	Agency	: Roads and Highways Department
3.	Procuring Entity	: Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Moulvibazar.
4.	Procuring Entity District	: Moulvibazar
5.	Eol for Selection of Consulting Firms	: Conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Flood Modelling of Rajnagar - Kulaura - Juri - Baralekha - Beanibazar - Sheola - Charkhai (R-281) road under Moulvibazar Road Division during the year 2025-26.
6.	EOI Ref No.	: EOI-02/SE/MRC/2025-2026
7.	Date	: 01/03/2026
8.	Procurement Method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
9.	Source of Fund	: GoB (Revenue)
10.	EOI Closing/Submission Date & Time	: With all supporting documents, the EOI must be delivered at or before 12.00 pm on 15/03/2026 in sealed envelopes.
11.	EOI Submission Place	: Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Moulvibazar.
12.	Brief Description of Assignment and Project	: Conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Flood Modelling: R-281 Ch: 00+000 to 57+501
13.	EOI Evaluation Criteria	: The Eol will be evaluated based on the following (along with certified English Transcript if not in English): a) Registration of the Firm; b) Legal Entitlements of the Firm (Trade License, TIN, VAT Registration, etc.). c) Company Profile: Management, Personnel and Performance (limited to 3 pages). d) Summary of Permanent Professional Staff with key qualifications (qualification and experience). e) Average Annual Turnover in the last 3 (three) years (Audited Financial Statement for the last 3 (three) years). f) General and Overall Experience of the firm(s) (limited to 7 pages) and g) Experience in Similar nature (EIA/Flood Modelling) of service over the last 10 years (limited to 7 pages).
14.	Other Details	: Submission of Eol should be done in closed envelop bearing the name and address of the applicant, Eol no. & date and addressing to the Eol issuing Authority in 2(Two) copies; 01(One) marked as "ORIGINAL" and the other as "COPY" in separate envelope. Both the "ORIGINAL" and "COPY", shall have to cover within a single envelope.
15.	Association with other Firms	: Not Applicable
16.	Name of Official Inviting Eol	: Ahsan Uddin Ahmed (ID No. 601944)
17.	Designation of Official Inviting Eol	: Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Moulvibazar.
18.	Address of Official Inviting Eol	: Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Moulvibazar.
19.	Contract details of official inviting EOI	: Tel. No. 02-41110074 Fax No. 02-41110408 E-mail: serhdmoulvibazar@gmail.com

The client shall not responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation on delivery of the Eol. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI's without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Ahsan Uddin Ahmed)
ID No.601944

Superintending Engineer, RHD
Road Circle, Moulvibazar

GD-454



Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.

(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশস্ত্রী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No. 28.16.9100.034.70.028.26

Dated: 28-February-2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of the work	Tender last selling and closing date & time
01.	e-Tender Id: 1234746 Package No. e-GP-POD-028 Date of publishing: 26-February-2026	"Construction, Modification and Cleaning, Painting, Operating & Maintenance of Gas Valves of Valve stations/Pits & valve Pit Covers at different places under Jalalabad Gas Franchise Area."	Last selling: 11-Mar' 2026, 14:30 Closing date & time: 11-Mar' 2026, 15:30 Opening date & time: 11-Mar' 2026, 15:30

The interested persons/firms may visit the website <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender. 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/e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-457