

# Rising US fuel prices risk sparking domestic wildfire for Trump

AFP, Washington

Sean Robinson, a 54-year-old schoolteacher in the US capital Washington, did not realize how high gas prices had gotten until he arrived at the pump on Friday.

"That is a sizeable jump," he told AFP, pointing to a neon sign showing \$3.27 for a gallon of regular gasoline.

Robinson is among US consumers feeling the sting of a cost surge sparked by the US-Israel war on Iran, which sent oil prices soaring as Tehran effectively blocked the Strait of Hormuz after being attacked.

But the price hike comes at a politically sensitive time for President Donald Trump as midterm elections approach, hitting voters hard.

Expensive gasoline could also prompt the independent central bank to put the brakes on the world's largest economy as it battles stubborn inflation.

Since last week, US average domestic fuel prices have risen 11 percent, according to the AAA's fuel price gauge.

It is the kind of move that Robinson said will have him cutting down on all but the essentials.

"It just determines what I'm going to do on a day-to-day basis," he said. "Pretty much start thinking about (watching) Netflix, staying in the house instead of burning gas."

Others at the gas station agreed. "It impacts all areas of life," said Toloria Washington, 39. "We are in a state of survival mode."

Washington, who works in finance, said fuel expenses are non-negotiable for her. With prices rising at the pump, she had to make cuts elsewhere.

That, she said, is a problem for people already battered by years of high prices post-pandemic. "That's the key thing, it's tapping into everybody's basics," she added. "It's the basics. Daily survival of food, water, housing."

US inflation hit a peak of 9.1 percent during the pandemic. While it has cooled



The photo shows a sign displaying prices for gasoline at a station in Chicago, Illinois on March 2. US consumers are feeling the sting of a cost surge sparked by the US-Israel war on Iran, which sent oil prices soaring. PHOTO: AFP

since then, analysts warn of risks of another pick-up.

"Inflation showed signs of accelerating prior to the jump in energy prices," said KPMG chief economist Diane Swonk.

"That has left consumers in a sour mood," she added.

Swonk warned that rising fuel prices added "insult to injury" for low-income Americans, who are already seeing higher healthcare costs and a tightening of welfare benefits under Trump.

Trump, who has bragged about oil prices falling during his term, sought to address the political fallout on Friday, telling CNN he expected prices to come down quickly.

His Republican party holds only a slim majority in both the House and Senate.

With midterm elections due in November, he will be hoping that voters do not let tightening household budgets weaken his political position.

Trump could see further complications if inflation from gasoline price hikes pushes the Fed to respond by keeping interest rates at a higher level.

The central bank has a dual mandate of maintaining stable prices and maximum employment, but has one main tool to do so - adjusting interest rates.

Raising them generally cools economic activity and reduces inflation while lowering them can spur activity, boosting

the weakening employment market.

The prospect of more inflation due to oil prices raises the specter of what some analysts call a nightmare scenario.

"This could not come at a worse time for the Federal Reserve," said KPMG's Swonk. "It now has a dueling mandate with the risk that inflation not only lingers but accelerates."

Fed policymakers remain cautious.

Addressing higher domestic energy prices on Friday, Federal Reserve governor Christopher Waller told Bloomberg TV he considered them "unlikely to cause sustained inflation." But this is scant consolation for many Americans hit by even a temporary bout of price increases.

# US states sue to challenge Trump's new 10% tariff

AFP, Washington

A group of US states said Thursday that they had filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump's new tariffs on imports, imposed after the Supreme Court struck down his global duties last month.

In their lawsuit, attorneys general from New York, California, Oregon and other states argued that Trump had "once again exercised tariff authority that he does not have" in rolling out a 10-percent levy after his earlier duties were ruled illegal.

"Because these tariffs are unlawful, this court should declare that they are not in force" and order that refunds be made, the group of 24 states said in its filing to the US Court of International Trade.

Trump's new tariffs last only for 150 days, unless they are extended by Congress, but he has already threatened to raise the rate to 15 percent and his administration is pursuing more lasting action.

For now, the states charged that Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 did not authorize Trump's "immense and ever-changing" duties.

For one, the law was designed to allow limited tariffs to address issues like a significant "balance of payments" deficit, the group said - a situation the group says the United States is not facing.

The law also requires that new tariffs should not be applied discriminatorily, something the filing says Trump is doing.

"The new tariffs exempt many goods from Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua," New York Attorney General Letitia James's office said in a statement.

"They also include 84 pages of specific product exceptions," the statement said.

"Once again, President Trump is ignoring the law and the Constitution to effectively raise taxes on consumers and small businesses," James said.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a separate statement that the state had "challenged the illegal imposition of tariffs time and time again because this question matters enormously for Californians who are already struggling with rising costs."

The Supreme Court's ruling does not affect Trump's sector-specific tariffs, but it has opened the door to a rush for refunds as importers try to get back lost revenues.



Lubna Yasmin, chief consultant of Meena IVF & Fertility Care Limited, and Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at Prime Aspire in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

## Prime Bank clients to enjoy healthcare benefits at Meena IVF

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed a strategic agreement with Meena IVF & Fertility Care Limited to offer healthcare benefits to its customers and employees.

Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability of Prime Bank PLC, and Lubna Yasmin, chief consultant of Meena IVF & Fertility Care Limited, signed the agreement at Prime Aspire in

Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the partnership, Prime Bank Neera customers and employees will enjoy attractive discounts on a wide range of services provided by Meena IVF & Fertility Care Limited, one of the country's leading fertility and reproductive healthcare providers.

The collaboration reflects Prime Bank's continued commitment to delivering meaningful privileges

and comprehensive lifestyle benefits to its customers and employees while reinforcing its dedication to supporting quality healthcare services in Bangladesh, the release added.

Hossain Mohammad Zakaria, head of customer proposition of the bank, and Mehmd Hasan Joy, senior manager of operations at the healthcare provider, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.

## MFS emerges

FROM PAGE B1

bKash alone handled Tk 20,000 crore in remittances last year. While the growth was substantial, the amount of remittance sent using MFS was only 5 percent of the total.

Industry stakeholders said MFS operators do not directly collect remittances from Bangladeshi migrants working abroad. Migrant workers themselves decide whether they want to send money to MFS accounts or take the more traditional route of sending remittances through bank accounts.

MFS is gaining popularity fast as it is more convenient and offers instant delivery to remote, rural areas. Another perk is that money can be sent to multiple MFS accounts instead of just one bank account, so remitters can transfer funds to a number of people without any hassle.

In the case of MFS, the ticket size is small. When one has to send a large amount of money, bank accounts are preferred. Additionally, there is

a 2.5 percent government incentive on remittances. If a migrant worker sends Tk 1,000 as remittance, the recipient will receive Tk 1,025.

Promotional campaigns by MFS providers in Bangladesh's migrant belts abroad have supported the growth.

Ali Ahmed, chief commercial officer of bKash, said that currently, expatriates can send remittances directly to their loved ones' bKash accounts through 135 international money transfer operators (MITOs) from over 170 countries, which get settled at 27 commercial banks in Bangladesh.

"This commitment to delivery has made bKash a preferred platform, resulting in the highest inward remittance flows among MFS channels in 2025," he said.

"This momentum has also inspired more global money transfer companies to collaborate with us, offering exclusive Eid incentives for expatriates to further encourage the

use of formal banking channels."

A total of 41 lakh bKash accounts received these remittances, almost double that of the previous year.

While the BB data does not account for remittances sent through Nagad, Muhammad Zahidul Islam, head of Media and Communication of the platform, said they witnessed "tremendous growth" recently.

"Overall, remittance growth at Nagad exceeded 28 percent last year compared to the previous year, and the numbers continue to rise steadily," he said.

Nagad has modernised the remittance receiving process, Islam noted, which enabled Bangladeshi expatriates to send their hard-earned money to their loved ones from anywhere in the world.

"Through our campaigns, we are also actively promoting remittances via legal channels, and these initiatives are delivering positive results, as reflected in the growing figures," he added.

**Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Project Director**  
"Developing a cost-effective and sustainable erosion protection strategy for medium and small rivers of Bangladesh and upgrading the research facilities of the River Research Institute" Project  
River Research Institute, 72 Green Road, Dhaka  
Phone: +880-2-58155538 Fax: 0631-63065 Web Site: www.rri.gov.bd

---

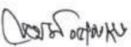
Memo No.-RRI/SMR Project/2026/08 Date: 07/03/2026

### CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Invitation Tender Notice No.: RRI/SMR Project/G-06/28 Dated 04/03/2026 invited in the national e-GP portal (ID No. 1239980) and published in the National and Local News Papers have been amended in the invitation of Tender (IFT) notice as below.

Package Name	Old Value	New Value
Package No-G-06: Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Training of 3D Laser Scanner and Handheld Global positioning System (GPS)	In IFT Notice "Eligibility of Tenderer" item 5. "Tenderer must have minimum 01 (one) contract of supply of 3D Laser Scanner/Lidar Laser Scanner/ Topographic Survey Instruments to Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous organizations of minimum Tk. 116.2 (One Crore sixteen Lakh Twenty Thousand) lakh within last 05 (five) years with successfully completion certificates supported by NOA.	In IFT Notice "Eligibility of Tenderer" item 5. "Tenderer must have minimum 01 (one) contract of supply of 3D Laser Scanner/Lidar Laser Scanner/ Topographic Survey Instruments to Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous organizations of minimum Tk. 145.6 (One Crore forty-five Lakh sixty Thousand) lakh within last 05 (five) years with successfully completion certificates supported by NOA.
	In IFT Notice "Eligibility of Tenderer" item 6. "The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit line, net of other contractual commitment of the Tender shall be Tk. 149.40 (One Crore forty-nine lakh forty thousand) lakh with any government schedule bank"	In IFT Notice "Eligibility of Tenderer" item 6. "The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit line, net of other contractual commitment of the Tender shall be Tk. 163.80 (One Crore sixty-three lakh eighty thousand) lakh with any government schedule bank"
	In IFT Notice "Tender/ Proposal Security (Amount in BDT) 448200	In IFT Notice "Tender/ Proposal Security (Amount in BDT) 491400

This corrigendum will be the part of the Tender document. All other terms and conditions and requirements will remain unchanged.

  
**Mohammad Khorshed Alam**  
Principal  
Sher-e-Bangla Regional Cooperative Institute  
Kashipur, Barishal

  
**(Dr. Moniruzzaman Khan Eusufzai)**  
Chief Scientific Officer & Project Director  
pd\_smrproject@rri.gov.bd

GD-514

**Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Principal**  
Sher-e-Bangla Regional Cooperative Institute  
Kashipur, Barishal

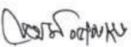
Reference No. 4761.0000.491.000.07.0004.20.217 Date: 05 March 2026

### e-Gp Re-Tender Notice 01/2025-2026 (OTM)

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

Sl No.	e-GP Re-Tender ID	Package No.	Description of goods	Last selling date and time	Closing and opening date and time
1	1222302 (Tender ID: 1237626)	2025-26_GR1	Computer and Display Monitor	24/03/2026 14:30	25/03/2026 13:00

This is online tender, where only e-GP Re-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-GP Re-Tenders, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-GP Re-Tenders documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. 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)).

  
**Mohammad Khorshed Alam**  
Principal  
Sher-e-Bangla Regional Cooperative Institute  
Kashipur, Barishal

GD-510