

Emergency cabinet committee needed for macro risks: PRI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should form an emergency-level cabinet committee to closely monitor the country's macroeconomic situation, as pressure is building across several key sectors, said Sadiq Ahmed, vice chairman of the Policy Research Institute (PRI) of Bangladesh.

"There is no room for complacency. The government must respond with urgency," he said at an event in Dhaka yesterday.

Speaking at the "Monthly Macroeconomic Insights" programme organised by PRI in partnership with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ahmed warned that the country's macroeconomic stability could face new shocks due to rising global energy prices.

"An emergency-level cabinet committee should be formed to monitor the macroeconomic situation from all directions, especially given the severe fiscal constraints, turmoil in the banking sector, and pressures in the external sector," he said.

Ahmed said global energy prices have risen sharply in recent days, with oil prices climbing to more than \$90 per barrel from about \$65 earlier.

Liquefied natural gas prices have also jumped by about 70 percent, while shipping costs are rising as well, he added.

Even if the war in Iran ends within a few days, the energy sector will still face a major cost shock, said Sadiq Ahmed, vice-chairman of PRI

Bangladesh currently has limited arrangements to import liquefied natural gas beyond its deal with Qatar, Ahmed said. Importing LNG from the United States could be an option, but it would take time and cost more.

"The immediate impact is that the country's energy balance will come under pressure very quickly," he said.

Even if the war in Iran ends within a few days, the energy sector will still face a major cost shock, Ahmed said. The sector is already under strain, with arrears to independent power producers standing at about \$700 million, which could further pressure the country's balance of payments.

Given these challenges, the government must address the short-term economic risks on an emergency basis, he added.

"Long-term policy debates and political discussions can come later. The immediate priority should be managing the crisis to prevent deeper economic troubles," Ahmed said.

FISCAL CONSTRAINTS AND STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

Ahmed also raised concerns about the government's fiscal space to implement new initiatives.

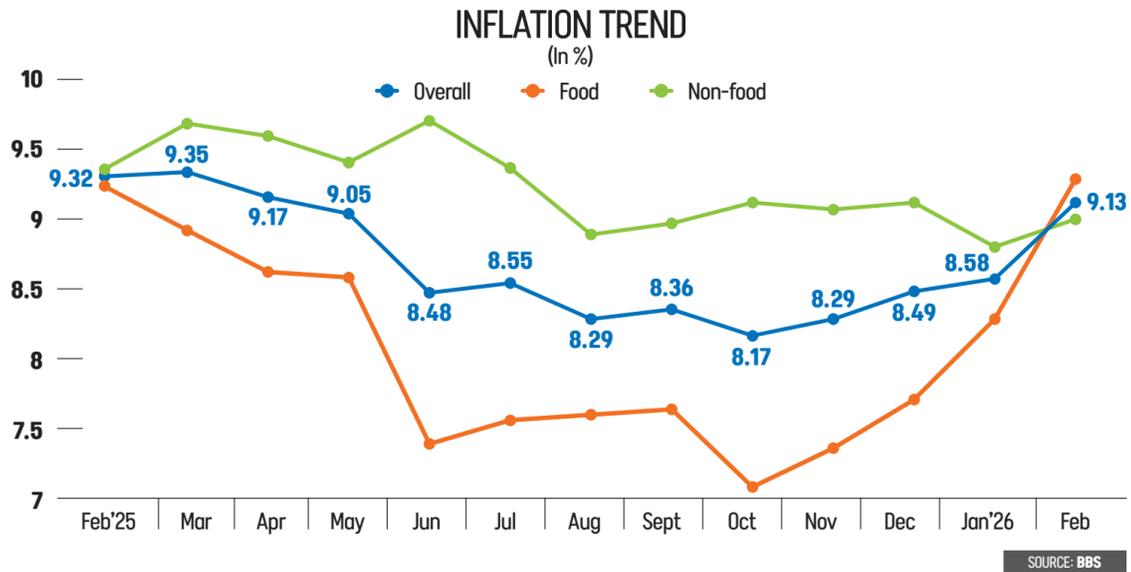
Programmes such as the farmers' card and family card show that many people have been left out of development, he said. However, expanding jobs, health services, education, and social safety nets will require significant fiscal resources.

He said the government is already borrowing to cover routine expenditures, including salaries, interest payments, and subsidies, raising questions about how additional programmes will be financed.

Ahmed added that the country must revive economic growth and increase spending on health. **READ MORE ON B3**

Inflation hits 10-month high in February, crosses 9%

Supply gaps, Ramadan demand and poll-related spending drove the spike, economists say



MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Overall inflation rose to its highest level in ten months in February, climbing to 9.13 percent from 8.58 percent in January, according to data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

Economists say rising food prices ahead of Ramadan and election-related spending added to demand pressures, pushing the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a measure of the prices of a basket of goods and services, above 9 percent for the first time since May last year.

February also marks the fourth consecutive monthly increase since inflation touched a 39-month low of 8.17 percent in October.

Food inflation bore the brunt of the rise, jumping to 9.30 percent in February from 8.29 percent the previous month. Non-food inflation also edged higher, reaching 9.01 percent from 8.81 percent, reflecting continued pressure in housing, transport and healthcare.

Bangladesh has been struggling with persistent inflation for more than three years. The burden falls hardest on the poor and low-income households, who spend a disproportionate share of their earnings on food and have the least capacity to absorb price shocks.

Inflation moderated slightly in recent months, but the 12-month annual average rate remained above 8.5 percent in January even though Bangladesh Bank maintains a hawkish monetary policy stance aimed at curbing demand-driven price increases and

stabilising the economy.

As part of its tightening measures, the central bank has kept the policy rate at 10 percent for nearly one and a half years.

In its latest monthly economic updates, the General Economic Division under the Planning Commission said the recent trend indicates continued pressure from food prices within the overall inflation framework.

Sectoral contribution analysis shows that food remains the largest contributor to headline inflation in January.

Food accounted for 43.06 percent of overall inflation in January, up from 40 percent in December. Fish and dry fish remained the highest contributors, although their share decreased from 43.34 percent to 32.27 percent, it said.

ELECTION SPENDING, SUPPLY PRESSURE

Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, pointed to a convergence of February-specific factors. "We cannot look at this solely through the lens of monetary policy."

Noting that urban food inflation rose the most, he explained, "part of this increase seems linked to election-related demand".

Campaign spending, providing snacks at tea stalls or serving biryani, boosts the food component and contributes to higher prices, he said.

On the supply side, he noted, "A major disruption at the ports in February increased

inflation expectations and hoarding tendencies."

The economist also explained that combined with the lean season for food production -- the peak winter season has ended, but the spring harvest has not yet arrived -- this created a double burden on food prices.

Hussain went on to point out that non-food inflation also rose, particularly in the miscellaneous category, which went from 21 to 24 percent. Understanding this category is key, as it recorded the highest inflation.

CONTRACTIONARY POLICY ESSENTIAL: ECONOMISTS

Regarding monetary policy, Hussain said, "Without the contractionary stance, the situation would have been even worse. The new governor had discussed reducing the policy rate, but that option has been postponed in light of recent challenges."

With the Middle East conflict between Iran and US-Israel now threatening fuel and import costs, he warned the outlook was worsening.

"Now, with the war adding further pressure, it's like rubbing salt on the wound. Inflation, growth, and employment are all under strain, and the situation ahead does not look positive from any perspective," he said.

Ashikur Rahman, principal economist of the Policy Research Institute, also agrees that the central bank's monetary policy stance is the right way to handle the situation. **READ MORE ON B3**

Not everyone should get bank loans: PM's adviser

Govt plans to shift the economy to an investment-driven structure

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In order to ensure increased participation of citizens in the private sector and cut dependence on bank loans, conditions may be imposed to compel firms to raise capital from public, said Prof Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, the prime minister's adviser to the ministries of finance and planning.

The government may decide to finance infrastructure development by raising funds from the capital market, he said yesterday at a seminar organised by the Capital Market Journalists' Forum (CMJF) on the challenges and necessary actions for the stock market under the new government, held at FARS Hotel & Resorts.

Raising funds from the capital market would ensure participation of ordinary people in both the public and private sectors, he said, reiterating BNP's manifesto commitment regarding the capital market, which was to move from a loan-dependent economy to an ownership-based economy.

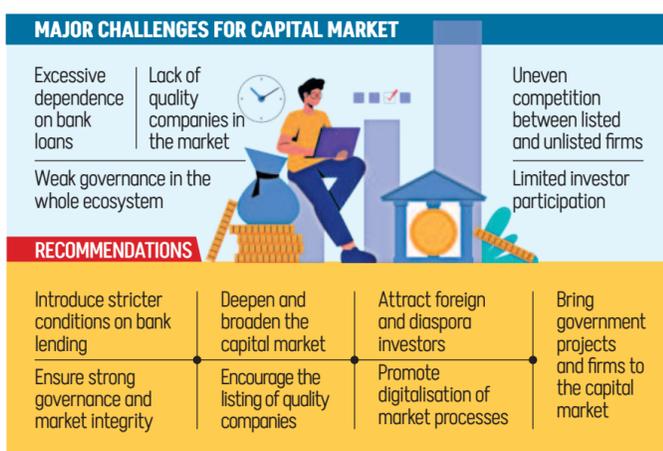
The next national budget will include reform measures in this regard, he said.

To transform the economy, it will be shifted from a consumption-driven and loan-dependent model to an investment-driven one, because the economy can never become sustainable without an investment-based structure, he said.

The capital market can play a major role in reducing loan dependency. However, the capital market currently accounts for only 12 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), which is quite low compared to regional peers, Titumir noted.

The new government intends to focus on improving this situation by making the capital market both deeper and broader.

"Our goal is to move from a frontier



market to an emerging market," he said.

Titumir added that the high incidence of default loans is partly due to the mismatch between short-term deposits and long-term lending. If banks accept deposits for short periods, they cannot sustainably provide long-term loans.

"Therefore, it must be determined which institutions will receive bank loans, for how long, and in what amount, and which institutions will be required to raise capital from the capital market."

Not everyone should remain dependent on banks, he said.

The government also has several economic institutions and may, in the future, raise funds for development expenditure by issuing bonds or shares.

"Why should we buy aircraft using taxpayers' money?" he asked.

Titumir also said that Bangladesh

should have an Islamic stock exchange, where investors from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Gulf countries could come and trade. The government is considering creating an investment gateway so that expatriate Bangladeshis can also participate in such investments.

He also emphasised taking steps to ensure transparency and accountability in the work of auditors, credit rating agencies, and other market-based regulatory institutions.

"The success of a capital market regulator should not be judged solely on index performance. Rather, its key performance indicator (KPI) should be the development of the market," said Khondoker Rashed Maqsood, chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC). **READ MORE ON B3**

Banks to make provisions for potential bad loans from 2028

BB gives directive

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Banks will have to keep provisions for potential losses before loans turn bad, from January 2028, according to a directive given by Bangladesh Bank (BB), which aims to enable lenders to detect the risk of credit deterioration in advance and enhance transparency in financial reporting.

To identify potential loan losses, banks will be required to classify loans based on a global standard -- the International Financial Reporting Standard 9 (IFRS 9). It specifies how an entity should classify and measure financial assets, financial liabilities and some contracts to buy or sell non-financial items.

In a circular yesterday, BB introduced guidelines for the loan loss framework based on IFRS 9.

Under the guidelines, banks will be required to apply the IFRS 9-based Expected Credit Loss (ECL) model to funded and non-funded credit facilities from January 1, 2028. The system will later be extended to other financial instruments from January 1, 2029.

Under the new framework, loans will be classified into three stages based on changes in credit risk: performing loans (Stage 1), loans with a significant increase in risk (Stage 2), and credit-impaired loans (Stage 3).

Provisions will be calculated based on either 12-month or lifetime expected credit losses, depending on the stage. A provision against loans is an expense set aside by banks from their earnings to cover anticipated losses from unpaid or defaulted loans.

The new rules will also extend provisioning requirements to off-balance sheet exposures such as loan commitments, bank guarantees and unused credit lines, enabling banks to assess risks more comprehensively.

Currently, banks follow a rule-based loan classification and provisioning system, which relies on the "incurred-loss" approach -- where provisions are typically made after loans show clear signs of deterioration. **READ MORE ON B3**

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Dhaka, Delhi agree to resolve LoC project issues

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh and India have agreed to resolve problems surrounding projects financed under India's line of credit (LoC) assistance, following talks between Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma and Bangladesh Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in Dhaka yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Khosru said they also discussed the progress of LoC-supported projects. "Hopefully, the projects will see further progress in the coming days."

Verma described the meeting as "very positive and productive", saying discussions focused on strengthening financial sector cooperation, expanding economic relations and other issues of mutual interest between the two countries.

Both countries remain satisfied with the progress of the ongoing projects, he said.

"Some initial challenges have emerged in a few large projects, but efforts are being made to resolve them," he said.

The talks come against the backdrop of sluggish disbursement under the three LoC agreements signed since 2010.

Of a total commitment spanning 42 projects, only \$1.88 billion was disbursed by June 2024 against cumulative LoC deals worth over \$7 billion, while Bangladesh repaid \$254 million.

The first LoC, worth \$862 million for 15 projects, was signed in 2010. The second, worth \$2 billion for 12 projects, was signed in March 2016. The third credit deal, amounting to \$4.5 billion, was signed for 15 projects in October 2017. **READ MORE ON B2**

Eastern Bank provides Tk 30 lakh financial aid to Eye Trust Hospital

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has renewed its partnership with Bangladesh Eye Trust Hospital (BETH) to continue supporting quality eye care services for marginalised communities across the country.

Under the initiative, the bank will fund comprehensive eye care support, including eye screenings, cataract surgeries, transportation and meals for underprivileged patients at BETH's office on Satmosjid Road in Dhaka.

Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external affairs at Eastern Bank PLC, handed over a cheque worth Tk 30 lakh to Niaz Abdur Rahman, managing director of Bangladesh Eye Trust Hospital, at a ceremony held at the bank's head office in the capital recently, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Karim said, "BETH continues to play an instrumental

role in delivering humanitarian eye care services across the country free of cost. EBL is proud to support BETH through our CSR initiatives to ensure comprehensive eye care for disadvantaged communities."

Rahman remarked, "Our mission is to ensure that no one is deprived of the gift of sight due to financial hardship. With EBL's continued support, we are able to extend quality eye care services to thousands of underprivileged patients, restoring not only vision but also dignity and hope."

Mahziba Rahman Chowdhury, consultant ophthalmologist of the hospital; M Kamrul Islam Shanzed, general manager; Maj (ret'd) Md Abdus Salam, head of administration at the bank; and Md Maskur Reza, head of business information systems, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Niaz Abdur Rahman, managing director of Bangladesh Eye Trust Hospital, receives a financial aid of Tk 30 lakh from Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external affairs at Eastern Bank PLC, at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: EBL



Amara Hasan Abed, managing director of BRAC Enterprises, inaugurates Aarong's Guinness World Records achievement for the "World's Largest Craft Store" in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: AARONG

Aarong gets Guinness recognition for world's largest craft store

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Aarong, a leading fashion and lifestyle brand in Bangladesh and a social enterprise of BRAC, yesterday organised a programme to mark its Guinness World Records achievement for the "World's Largest Craft Store" at its Dhanmondi outlet.

Amara Hasan Abed, managing director of BRAC Enterprises, inaugurated the ceremony as chief guest, according to a press release.

Commenting on the achievement, she said, "This is more than a record. It is a recognition of the hands behind

the craft. When we honour craft, we protect heritage, and when we expand the platform for it, we expand economic empowerment."

"This achievement celebrates the artisans whose skill sustains communities and transforms tradition into livelihood and dignity," she added.

The ceremony featured the reveal of the Guinness World Records certificate, followed by a showcase music video.

The film presents the store as a living gallery of Bangladesh's heritage, where craft, design, and storytelling converge.

Maritime insurance premiums surge amid Gulf war

REUTERS

As the conflict in the Gulf widens, maritime insurance premiums for war coverage are surging -- in some cases by more than 1000 percent -- dramatically driving up the cost of moving energy through a critical maritime corridor.

The conflagration sparked by Saturday's Israeli-US air strikes against Tehran has paralyzed traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a major shipping chokepoint. Iran on Monday said it would fire on any ship trying to pass, and at least nine vessels have suffered damage in the area since the conflict began.

War risk insurance allows ship owners to claim against any damage to their vessel or the cargo resulting from conflict or terrorism. Policies are typically annual, although some cover one-off voyages through risky waters, including war zones.

The spike in premiums underscores how the war is raising costs for ship owners, traders and energy companies moving cargo through the Strait, adding to fears the conflict -- which shows no signs of abating -- could stoke inflation if it goes on, said analysts.

"The hull war market has reacted more immediately," due to the risk of large, concentrated losses if multiple vessels are hit in the same area, said Stephen Rudman, head of marine, Asia, at global insurance broker Aon, adding that if the situation escalates materially, further rate correction is likely.

The spike in premiums underscores how the war is raising costs for ship owners, traders and energy companies moving cargo through the Strait

"Additional premiums for vessels transiting high-risk waters are rising sharply and may continue to fluctuate in the short term," he said.

Cargo war risk premium rates are also increasing, with quotes being reviewed on a voyage-by-voyage basis, particularly for energy and bulk commodity trades, he said.

Analysts at Jelferies estimated on Thursday that potential industry losses from at least seven vessels reported damaged, at the time its note was published on March 5, could reach up to \$1.75 billion.

With most tankers valued between \$200 million and \$300 million, the new insurance rate of 3 percent would imply a hull war risk premium of about \$7.5 million, up from around 0.25 percent, or \$625,000, before the conflict began, the brokerage added.

Angus Blayney, marine divisional director at Gallagher, a major insurance broker, told Reuters that rates have increased and are changing daily depending on vessel type and individual circumstances, but he did not provide specific figures. He added that cover remains available.

Beirut's Hezbollah controlled southern suburbs stood in ruins on Saturday, as Israel warned Lebanon of a "very heavy price" if it failed to

Dylan Mortimer, marine hull UK war leader at insurance broker Marsh, estimated that ratings are roughly trending between 1 percent and 1.5 percent of vessel value, with a slight variation both upwards and downwards depending on specific risk factors.

Meghna Bank rolls out wheelchair service at Kamalapur station

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Meghna Bank PLC has recently launched a wheelchair service at Kamalapur railway station to assist passengers with special needs.

Md Sadiqur Rahman, additional managing director of Meghna Bank PLC, handed over the wheelchairs to Shuboktagin, general manager (East) of Bangladesh Railway, CRB Chattogram,

according to a press release.

The initiative aims to make movement and travel easier and more convenient for elderly, sick, pregnant, and other special-needs passengers visiting the station.

ABM Kamruzzaman, divisional railway manager of the Bangladesh Railway's eastern zone in Chattogram, along with senior officials from the bank and Bangladesh Railway, were also present at the event.



Md Sadiqur Rahman, additional managing director of Meghna Bank PLC, and Shuboktagin, general manager (East) of Bangladesh Railway, CRB Chattogram, attend the launch of the wheelchair service at Kamalapur railway station recently. PHOTO: MEGHNA BANK

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প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ
ফোন: ৮৮-০২-৯৬৭০৫৩১ (অফিস)
ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮-০২-৯৬৬৭২২২

মেমো নং ৫২৯৪(২)/প্রকৌঃ তারিখ: ৮/৩/২৬

e-GP Tender Notice (OTM & LTM)

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under University of Dhaka.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of work	e-Tender last selling date & time	e-Tender closing date & time
1	1189284	Repair and Renovation Works of the Department of Physics at Mokarram Hossain Khandoker Biggan Bhaban, University of Dhaka.	31-Mar-2026 12:30	31-Mar-2026 14:30
2	1202917	Construction of a Net House with Corrugated Galvanized Iron Sheet for Research at the Department of Soil, Water and Environment, University of Dhaka.	25-Mar-2026 12:00	25-Mar-2026 15:00
3	1189352 (LTM)	Supply of armless semi-revolving chair for computer lab at The Department of Law, University of Dhaka.	25-Mar-2026 13:00	25-Mar-2026 15:00
4	1236997	Supply of furniture for the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of Dhaka	25-Mar-2026 12:30	25-Mar-2026 15:30

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 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 branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-517

Dollar holds steady

REUTERS, Tokyo

The US dollar held broadly steady in Asian trade on Friday and was poised for its steepest weekly gain in more than a year as the escalating conflict in the Middle East drove demand for safe-haven assets.

The euro and yen remained on the back foot as the crisis drove oil prices ever higher, spurring inflation risks in economies dependent on energy imports and upending policy expectations for the Federal Reserve and other central banks.

Earlier hopes for a de-escalation gave way to fresh uncertainty, with Iran warning that Washington would "bitterly regret" the sinking of an Iranian warship. US President Donald Trump said he wanted to be involved in choosing Iran's next head of state after US and Israeli air strikes killed Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in the early moments of the war.

Dhaka, Delhi agree

FROM PAGE B1

Just 14 of the 42 projects have been completed, at a cost of roughly \$410 million, or about 6 percent of the overall commitment under the first two credit lines.

Beyond the LoC, the two sides discussed a broader range of bilateral issues, including trade, customs, financial sector cooperation and digital infrastructure.

Verma said Bangladesh's priorities in the financial sector were discussed during the meeting, including improving the ease of doing business, tax reforms and expanding the use of technology to ensure broader participation in economic activities.

The Indian envoy said he briefed the finance minister on India's experience expanding financial inclusion through its digital public infrastructure.

The two sides also discussed development projects being implemented jointly by the two countries.

On trade, the Indian high commissioner said both sides emphasised the need to further strengthen

bilateral trade and economic ties.

Discussions also focused on making existing connectivity through sea, land and air routes more efficient to facilitate trade and business activities.

"If various processes can be simplified as part of ease of doing business, cooperation between businesses of the two countries will increase," Verma said.

He added that this would help boost bilateral trade as well as increase Bangladesh's exports to the Indian market.

The meeting also discussed ways to integrate the two economies more closely at both bilateral and regional levels, he said.

Verma said constructive discussions would take place in the future regarding the potential use of ports between the two countries.

He added that stronger bilateral relations could be built in the future based on shared development priorities, new ideas, technology and people-centric cooperation.

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Memo No. 111/Engg. Date: 08/03/2026

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Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	e-Tender last selling date & time	e-Tender closing date & time
1	1231646	SE/ELEC-1/DU/2025-2026/20	Supply of different kinds of electrical goods for the season 2025-2026 at Electrical Store University of Dhaka	23-March-2026 17:00	24-March-2026 14:00
2	1239443	SE/ELEC-1/DU/2025-2026/28	Supplying, Installation & testing of Busbar Trunking System (BBS) for Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering for the Construction of 19-Storeyed Academic Building with 21-Storeyed Foundation including 2-Layer Basement for the Faculties of Earth & Environmental Science Engineering & Technology at the place of Existing Science Cafeteria Building, University of Dhaka	23-March-2026 17:00	24-March-2026 11:00

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 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 branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-516

Md. Ahsan Habib
Superintending Engineer-Elect (Zone-1)
University of Dhaka

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ক্রমিক নং	বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিষয়	বিবরণ
১	প্রকল্পের নাম	স্ট্যাটিক সিগন্যাল কোম্পানী, রাসু সেনানিবাস
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৩	দরপত্র বিক্রয় মূল্য	প্রকল্প সিডিউল ১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার টাকা) করে নগদ প্রদানপূর্বক স্ট্যাটিক সিগন্যাল কোম্পানী, রাসু সেনানিবাস এর অফিস হতে ক্রয় করা যাবে।
৪	দরপত্র বিক্রয় শুরু ও শেষ তারিখ	জাতীয় পরিকল্পনা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন হতে ১২তম দিন ১০০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ	বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ১২তম দিন পর্যন্ত। উল্লেখিত সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
৬	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	স্ট্যাটিক সিগন্যাল কোম্পানী, রাসু সেনানিবাস।
৭	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ	সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ন্যূনতম ১২ দিন পর ১৩তম দিনে (সরকারি বন্ধ থাকলে অফিস খোলার দিন) দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলা হবে।
৮	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	দরপত্র তফসিলে বর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহ যথাযথভাবে পালনপূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

বিস্তৃত কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র উল্লেখিত প্রবাসী/মালিকদের পরিমাণ কমানো/বাড়ানো এবং যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২২৪

হেফাজত
অফিসার
স্ট্যাটিক সিগন্যাল কোম্পানী
রাসু সেনানিবাস

তারিখ: ০২-০৩-২০২৬

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Chattogram PWD Division-1
Chattogram
Phone: 02333356028 E-mail: ee_ctg1@pwd.gov.bd

Memo. No: 25.36.1500.110.000.07.0097.26.518/46(3) Date: 08-03-2026

e-Tender Notice(OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Package information is available in tender notice under e-GP System Portal. This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Detailed description of the Tender are as follows:

Tender ID	Name of Work	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
1241110	Construction of Chawkbazar CMP Thana Bhaban (Metro Type-5) (04 storied Thana Building with single basement with 07 storied foundation) Sub-Head(Civil, Sanitary, Internal Electrification, Deep Tubewell, Distribution line, Road, Drain & Apron etc.) under the project of Construction of administrative and barracks buildings of Bangladesh Police stations in various places of the country.	29-March-2026 16:00	30-March-2026 12:00
1241111	Construction of Boalkhali Thana Bhaban (Rural Type-1) (04 storied Thana Building with 06 storied foundation) under the project of Construction of Administrative and barracks buildings of Bangladesh Police stations in various places of the country.	29-March-2026 16:00	30-March-2026 12:00

Further information and guidelines is available in the e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Mir Rasedul Karim)
Executive Engineer
Chattogram PWD Division-1
Rahomotgonj, Chattogram.

তারিখ: ০২-০৩-২০২৬

GD-519

Economic activities might have expanded in February: PMI

Agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors see accelerated expansion

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh economy might have expanded in February this year, supported by stronger growth in the agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors, according to the latest Bangladesh Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) published yesterday.

In February, the PMI reading increased by 1.8 points from the previous month to 55.7, the highest in four months, indicating a faster pace of expansion. The construction sector returned to contraction as its score fell to 49.2 in February from 58.2 in January.

The index is measured within a range of 0 to 100. A PMI of more than 50 represents expansion compared to the previous month, while a reading of under 50 represents contraction.

A PMI of 50 indicates that there is no month-on-month change in the selected market.

"February PMI indicates a modest, seasonally driven uptick in economic dynamism. It suggests a slight increase in economic activity, reflecting stronger demand in agriculture and services linked to Ramadan-related consumption," said M Masrur Reaz, chairman and CEO of Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB).

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka, and PEB have jointly been preparing the PMI since February 2024 to offer timely and accurate insights into the country's economic health and help businesses, investors and policymakers make informed decisions.

February data showed that the agriculture sector recorded its sixth consecutive month of expansion, and at a faster rate. The agriculture PMI rose to 64.5 in February from 53 the previous month.

The manufacturing sector remained in expansion for the 18th consecutive month, with growth accelerating during the month, according to the PMI.

"Continued expansion was recorded across key indicators, including new orders, factory output, imports, input prices and supplier deliveries," it said.

The manufacturing PMI rose to 53 percent in February from 52.1 percent in January.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), Bangladesh



The services sector recorded its 17th consecutive month of expansion, with growth accelerating during the month.

Looking ahead, the future business index indicated continued expansion across all key sectors, namely agriculture, manufacturing, construction and services, reflecting sustained improvements in business expectations," said MCCI and PEB in a press statement.

Reaz said, "However, escalating military conflict in the Middle East poses significant downside risks to growth expectations."

MCCI and PEB said respondents across Bangladesh's key economic sectors described a business environment marked by modest seasonal optimism ahead of Ramadan

and Eid-ul-Fitr, alongside continued pressure from elevated input costs and uneven sectoral performance.

"While stronger festive demand is expected to support sales -- particularly in the services and retail sectors -- firms remain concerned about margin compression driven by high raw material, labour and utility costs."

The report said business expectations remain cautiously positive; however, the construction sector and certain labour market indicators continue to show signs of weakness.

Overall, the near-term outlook appears seasonally supportive, though broader growth prospects remain constrained by persistent inflationary pressures, sector-specific bottlenecks and external economic risks.

Chinese firm to invest \$15.34m in Bepza EZ

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Flourish Garments Bangladesh Co Ltd, a China (Hong Kong)-based company, will invest \$15.34 million to set up a high-end garment manufacturing factory at the Bepza Economic Zone (Bepza EZ) in Mirsharai, Chattogram.

The factory will annually produce four million pieces of garments, including fleece jackets, soft-shell jackets, down jackets, cotton coats, leather jackets, underwear, T-shirts, polo shirts, shorts and parkas.

The product range will also include long pants, ski suits, ski pants, windproof jackets, fishing suits, hiking suits, yoga suits, running suits, jeans, knitted shorts, faux leather clothing, deer-skin velvet clothing, golf clothing and casual skirts.

The investment will create job opportunities for 1,988 Bangladeshi nationals.

Md Tanvir Hossain, executive director (investment promotion) of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), and Han Junxiao, managing director of Flourish Garments Bangladesh Co Ltd, signed the agreement at the Bepza Complex in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

Major General Mohammad Moazzem Hossain, executive chairman of Bepza, attended the programme. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Hossain assured the company of Bepza's full support to ensure smooth and successful business operations in the zone.

He noted that Bepza continues to expand its facilities and develop new zones to accommodate growing investor interest and further strengthen Bangladesh's export-oriented industrial base.

The Bepza executive chairman also urged the new investor to encourage and attract more high-quality and responsible investors to Bepza zones, contributing to sustainable industrial growth and export diversification in Bangladesh.

Abdullah Al Mamun, member (engineering); ANM Foyzul Haque, member (finance); Samir Biswas, executive director (administration), and ASM Anwar Parvez, executive director (public relations), along with senior officials of Bepza and representatives of the company, were also present.

Not everyone should get bank loans

FROM PAGE B1

"Over the past 18 months, various legal reforms have been carried out. Multiple investigations have been conducted to ensure punishment for market manipulators. As a result, fines totalling Tk 1,488 crore have been imposed through punitive measures, of which about Tk 5.23 crore has been collected so far."

Addressing questions about why only about Tk 5 crore had been collected from market manipulators despite fines of over Tk 1,400 crore, he said that anyone who is fined -- even if it is just Tk 100,000 -- gets around nine months across different legal stages to make the payment.

In addition, everyone has legal rights, and many are challenging the fines in court, he noted.

However, he expressed confidence that the entire amount will be deposited in the national exchequer in a year or two.

Maqsood also said that the BSEC has been working closely with the Bangladesh Bank and has jointly proposed a policy draft outline. It now needs to be finalised soon. The initiative includes both "push" and "pull" factors. Under the push factor, Bangladesh Bank may adopt policies requiring large borrowers to move away from bank loans and instead raise funds through bonds or equity. The BSEC will work with the Bangladesh Bank to accelerate this

process, he added.

Tax incentives alone cannot guarantee a healthy market, said Md Abdul Rahman Khan, chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), noting that tax incentives were already in place and yet failed to prevent stock market crashes in the past.

He also noted that in the past, many listed companies failed to provide dividends to investors. In the future, companies that cannot distribute dividends should not be approved for listing.

Khan admitted that this was an area where authorities had failed previously. At the same time, it must be ensured that no company can enter the market using false information.

Referring to incentives, he said the current tax gap between listed and non-listed companies is 7.5 percent, which is already significant and sufficient under current market conditions.

In the keynote paper, Md Moniruzzaman, senior vice-president of the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh, said that although many good companies conduct business in the country, they are reluctant to enter the capital market. One reason is that while listed companies properly pay VAT, many unlisted companies avoid it through manipulation, creating unequal competition.

In a balanced financial system,

banks usually provide short- and medium-term financing, while the capital market supplies most of the long-term financing. However, in Bangladesh, banks are forced to provide both short- and long-term financing. This creates a mismatch between the maturity of assets and liabilities, increasing risks in the financial system, he said.

"Under such circumstances, private institutions should be given conditions requiring them to enter the capital market once they reach a certain size."

Mominul Islam, chairman of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), said the root problem of the capital market is that over the past 15 years, the government has not given adequate importance to it.

However, the hopeful sign is that the current government is giving the sector more attention, he said, adding that bringing government institutions to the market requires inter-ministerial coordination, which has been lacking in the past.

Riad Mahmud, president of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC), said it is very important to introduce digital processes across all levels of the capital market, allowing statements and documents to be submitted digitally. He also said that additional listing fees are a major obstacle for companies seeking to launch IPOs.

Emergency cabinet committee needed

FROM PAGE B1

He also called for greater tax contributions from wealthier groups and broader structural reforms to strengthen the economy.

At the event, M Masrur Reaz, chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, said the ongoing conflict poses three major risks for the country, particularly for the balance of payments and foreign exchange stability.

First, rising energy prices and possible supply disruptions could affect the whole economy, including transport, power generation, agriculture, and global shipping, he said.

Second, export competitiveness may weaken as shipping costs rise and logistics become more uncertain. A prolonged conflict could also

reduce demand in key markets in Europe and North America.

Third, the conflict could also create risks for remittances and overseas employment, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said Bangladesh's economy is facing multiple global and domestic pressures.

He said the country has not fully recovered from shocks caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine War, while policy uncertainties linked to Donald Trump have added further volatility.

Hatem criticised Bangladesh's agreement with the United States, calling it unequal and unethical, and

suggested that it should be reviewed.

He also warned that the overvalued taka -- by about 34 percent -- is hurting exporters, with exports declining for seven consecutive months, the longest downturn in decades.

Hatem added that despite the delerral of LDC graduation, the government has not presented a clear roadmap for the post-LDC period. He also criticised the tax system for taxing firms on sales instead of profits, saying it discourages investment.

At the event, Ashikur Rahman, principal economist of PRI, delivered the keynote presentation, while Zaidi Sattar, chairman of PRI, chaired the session.

Banks to make Inflation hits

FROM PAGE B1

The IFRS 9 framework will shift the system to a forward-looking model, requiring banks to estimate potential credit losses in advance rather than waiting for borrowers to default.

Lenders will also have to account for macroeconomic indicators such as economic growth, inflation and interest rate trends when assessing credit risk.

Banks will need to upgrade their data infrastructure and risk-modelling systems to implement the framework, while the central bank will provide regulatory guidance and supervisory support to ensure a smooth transition, central bank officials said.

Industry insiders said that the successful implementation of IFRS 9 would make the banking sector more resilient and attractive to foreign investors by strengthening international confidence.

FROM PAGE B1

"The twelve-month moving average clearly shows that inflation is on a downward trajectory, indicating that the current contractionary monetary stance is beginning to yield results," he said.

"Bangladesh's real policy rate, calculated by subtracting the inflation rate from the policy rate, stands at roughly 1.5 percent, one of the lowest in South Asia," he added.

He cautioned that any premature easing risked reigniting inflation and undermining macroeconomic stability.

Md Deen Islam, a professor of economics at Dhaka University, echoed a similar tone on keeping monetary policy unchanged.

"The limited impact of higher policy rates largely reflects weak

monetary transmission in the banking sector. Lending rates and credit flows often do not adjust fully to policy signals due to structural inefficiencies and high levels of non-performing loans."

"Much of the recent inflation in Bangladesh has been driven by supply-side factors -- rising food prices, exchange rate depreciation, and higher import costs for fuel and essential commodities -- which monetary policy alone cannot easily control," he noted.

He emphasised that addressing inflation effectively requires a broader policy mix that combines prudent monetary management with improvements in supply chains, enhanced market competition, exchange rate stability, and fiscal coordination.

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স্মারক নং-৪৬.৪২.৩৩০০.০০১.০৯.০০৬৫.২৫-৩৬

তারিখঃ ০৮-০৩-২০২৬খ্রিঃ

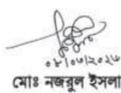
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, জেলা পরিষদ শাখার ০২.১১.২০২৫ তারিখের ৪৬.০০.০০০০.০৪২.১১.০১১.১৯.২০২৫ নম্বর স্মারকের ছাড়পত্রের আলোকে গাজীপুর জেলা পরিষদের সাংগঠনিক কাঠামোভুক্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহে ২০১৫ সনের জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল অনুযায়ী অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকের নিকট হতে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে গাজীপুর জেলা পরিষদের নির্ধারিত চাকুরীর আবেদন করমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রম	পদের নাম	বেতন স্কেল	বয়স	পদ সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬
১	হিসাবরক্ষক	১১০০০-২৬৫৯০ গ্রেড-১৩	১৮-৩২ বছর	০১ (এক)টি	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বাণিজ্য বিভাগে ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণিতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রী
২	বার্তাবাহক	৮৫০০-২০৫৭০ গ্রেড-১৯	১৮-৩২ বছর	০১ (এক)টি	কোন স্বীকৃত শিক্ষাবোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট অথবা সমমানের পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ।
৩	অফিস সহায়ক	৮২৫০-২০০১০ গ্রেড-২০	১৮-৩২ বছর	০৩ (তিন)টি	কোন স্বীকৃত শিক্ষাবোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট অথবা সমমানের পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ।

শর্তাবলী :

- আবেদন করমে গাজীপুর জেলা পরিষদের ওয়েবসাইট (www.zpgazipur.gov.bd) এ পাওয়া যাবে। এছাড়া জেলা পরিষদ, গাজীপুর হতে নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস সময়ে সন্গ্রহ করা যাবে।
- প্রার্থীরা প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করমে বর্ণিত তথ্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক "প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, জেলা পরিষদ, গাজীপুর" বরাবরে আগামী ৩১/০৩/২০২৬খ্রি. তারিখ বিকলে ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে আবেদনপত্র পৌছাতে হবে। বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত বা অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ এবং স্বাক্ষরবিহীন আবেদন সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। এ বিষয়ে কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ৩১/০৩/২০২৬খ্রি. তারিখে ১৮-৩২ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে।
- সরকারী নীতিমালা মোতাবেক মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও বীরসন্মান সন্মান/শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী/কুঙ্গর মু-গোষ্ঠী ও তৃতীয় শিশুর প্রার্থীদের জন্য কোটা সংক্রান্ত সরকারি বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে। প্রার্থীকে তার দাবীকৃত কোটা সমর্থনের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্র/প্রমাণপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদনের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় তাকে সাধারণ প্রার্থী হিসেবে বিবেচনা করা হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে:
 - ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।
 - ২ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ৩(তিন) কপি রঙিন ছবি।
 - সংক্রান্ত ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান, পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত নাগরিক সনদপত্রের মূলকপি।
 - মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহিদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুর-কন্যা হিসেবে আবেদনকারীর সম্পর্কের প্রত্যয়নপত্র বা ইউপি চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত হতে হবে।
- ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক চারিত্রিক সনদপত্রের মূলকপি।
- জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ও জন্ম নিবন্ধনের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।
- আবেদনের সাথে যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, জেলা পরিষদ, গাজীপুর এর অনুকূলে ক্রমিক নং (১) এর বিপরীতে বর্ণিত পদের জন্য ২০০/- টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং (২ ও ৩) এর বিপরীতে বর্ণিত পদের জন্য ১০০/- টাকার পে অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ দাখিল করতে হবে।
- অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি (যদি থাকে)।
- সত্যায়নের ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই সত্যায়নকারী (নবম গ্রেডের গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা) কর্মকর্তার সুস্পষ্ট নাম, পদবী ও সিল থাকতে হবে।
- সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- প্রবেশপত্র প্রেরণের লক্ষ্যে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে আবেদনকারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা উল্লেখ করে ১০x৪ সাইজের ১০/- টাকার মূল্যের ডাকটিকেট লাগানো একটি আলাদা ফেরত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীকে খামের উপর মোটা অক্ষরে পদের নাম এবং প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে কোটার নাম স্পষ্ট অক্ষরে লিখতে হবে।
- কোটা সম্পর্কিত প্রচলিত সরকারি নীতিমালা এবং নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য সরকারি বিধি-বিধান যথাযথ ভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- নিয়োগের ব্যাপারে কোন প্রকার সুপারিশ বা তদবির প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতার পরিপন্থী বলে বিবেচিত হবে। নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বাছাই কমিটির সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- সর্বশেষ সরকারি নিয়োগ বিধি মতে লিখিত পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টি,এ/ডি,এ দেয়া হবে না।
- মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতাসহ অন্যান্য যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের মূলকপি উপস্থাপন করতে হবে।
- নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার চূড়ান্তভাবে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীকে চাকুরীতে নিয়োগের পূর্বে সিন্ডিকাল সার্জন কর্তৃক স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষার অনুরোধ/মাদকাসক্ত প্রমাণিত হলে তিনি নিয়োগের জন্য অযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
- কোন অথা গোপন করে বা ভুল তথ্য প্রদান করে বা শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সার্টিফিকেট/নাগরিকত্বের সনদ/কোন ধরনের সনদপত্র বা তথ্যাদি ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা চাকুরীতে নিয়োগের পর ও পুলিশ জেরিফিকেশন সন্তোষজনক না হলে যে কোন সময় আবেদনকারীর আবেদনপত্র/ নিয়োগ বাতিল করে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।
- চাকুরীর শর্তাবলী, বেতনভাতা/সুযোগ্য-সুবিধার ক্ষেত্রে জেলা পরিষদ আইন-২০০০, স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী চাকুরী বিধিমালা ১৯৯০ এবং সরকার কর্তৃক জারীকৃত এতদসংক্রান্ত নির্দেশাবলী প্রযোজ্য হবে।
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিধি-বিধান এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধি-বিধানের কোন সংযোজন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ/ত্রুটিমুক্ত/নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- কোন কারণ দর্শনা ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ এ বিজ্ঞপ্তির শর্তাবলী পরিবর্তন/পরিবর্তন/সংযোজন/বিয়োজন করতে পারবে। যে কোন সময় যে কোন আবেদন বা এ নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার সর্বময় ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।


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GD-518

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

Remittances Surge, Exports Dip

Remittance

- » Feb inflow: **\$3.02b** (+19.4% YoY)
- » Highest Feb remittance in at least seven years
- » Boost driven by Eid-ul-Fitr festival transfers
- » Total (July-Feb): **\$22.45b** (+21.4% YoY)

Reserves

- » Gross reserves (Feb 26): **\$35.11b** (up from \$26.26b)
- » IMF BPM6 reserves: **\$30.36b** (up from \$21.08b)

Exports

- » Feb exports: **\$3.49b** (-12% YoY, due to garment slowdown)
- » July-Feb exports: **\$31.90b** (-3.15%)
- » Readymade garments: **\$25.79b** (-3.73%)



CENTRAL BANK LEADERSHIP SHAKE-UP

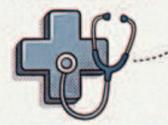
- » Govt abruptly removed Ahsan H Mansur as Bangladesh Bank governor on Feb 25, ending his tenure due until 2028
- » Within hours, Md Mostaqur Rahman, a corporate accountant and garment exporter, was appointed as the new governor
- » Finance minister said the move aligns institutions with the new govt's vision and priorities



REQUEST TO DEFER LDC GRADUATION BY THREE YEARS

TIMELINE

ORIGINALLY SET: **NOV 2024**



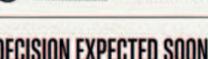
EXTENDED ONCE TO **NOV 2026**



CURRENT REQUEST: **DEFERMENT TO NOV**

2029

UNDER REVIEW BY **UN CDP → ECOSOC**



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DECISION EXPECTED SOON

Why deferment

- » **Global shocks:** pandemic aftermath, war, supply disruptions, geopolitical instability
- » **Domestic pressures:** political transition, financial stress, Rohingya burden
- » **Economic challenges:** slower growth, high inflation, weak investment, forex pressure, limited job creation

Why it matters

- » **Potential export risk:** about **14%** (\$8b annually)
- » Nearly **\$1b** in yearly incentives at risk
- » Risk of losing preferential access, especially for EU garment exports
- » Extension would support macroeconomic stability, smooth transition planning

Bangladesh to Review US Reciprocal Deal

Why review

- » US Supreme Court struck down many Trump-era tariffs on Feb 20
- » Deal raises concerns over Bangladesh's policy flexibility, economic freedom
- » US president proposed an additional 10% tariff on all countries

Deal background

- » Signed Feb 9 under the American Reciprocal Trade framework
- » Includes an exit clause unique for Bangladesh
- » Original tariff reduced from 37% → 20% → 19%
- » Govt to review before finalising

Tariff situation

- » Reciprocal tariff reduced from 20% → 19%
- » Effective tariff: 19% + 16.5% = 35.5%
- » With proposed adjustment, total could fall to 26.5%

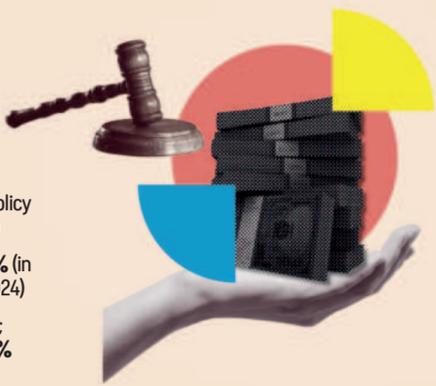


Tight Monetary Policy Continues

- » **Policy stance:** Tight policy to remain during Jan-Jun
- » **Policy rate:** Held at **10%** (in double digits since Oct 2024)
- » **Inflation:** **8.58%** (Jan); 12-month average **8.66%** -- above **7%** target

Liquidity & credit trends

- » **SDF rate:** Cut by 50bps to **7.5%** to support private lending
- » **Private credit:** **6.1%** (Dec 2025); projected **8.5%** by Jun 2026
- » **Public credit:** **28.9%** (Dec); projected **21.6%** in H2 FY26
- » **Govt borrowing target:** Tk **1,18,000cr** -- adding pressure on rates



FIRST-EVER EPA WITH JAPAN

- » First full trade deal with a developed country, signed Feb 6
- » Japan's first EPA with an LDC

MARKET ACCESS & TARIFFS

- » **100%** duty-free access for about **7,379** Bangladeshi products
- » Immediate duty-free access to **97%** of Bangladesh's export basket
- » Bangladesh grants duty-free access to **1,039** Japanese products
- » Full reciprocity not required -- giving Bangladesh policy space
- » Japanese automobiles excluded to encourage local investment

