

# BB raises credit card loan limit to Tk 40 lakh

New guideline aims to promote cashless system, modernise credit card management

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has raised the maximum credit card loan limit for individuals to Tk 40 lakh from Tk 25 lakh for local use and has also doubled the unsecured credit card loan ceiling. A directive in this regard was issued yesterday, including a comprehensive new guideline for banks aiming to promote a cashless economy and strengthen credit card governance.

Under the revised framework, the unsecured credit card loan ceiling was set at Tk 20 lakh, up from the previous Tk 10 lakh, allowing banks to extend higher credit without collateral.

The new directive from the central bank comes as credit card usage continues to expand rapidly for everyday transactions, online purchases, and bill payments across the country.

BB said the updated framework consolidates previous circulars into a full-fledged regulatory structure to address emerging



operational challenges and modernise credit card management in the banking sector.

It focuses on strengthening risk management, protecting customer rights, ensuring transparency in transactions, and encouraging responsible lending by banks. It also seeks to create a more secure and transparent environment to support the gradual expansion of a cashless financial system.

Banks must now follow clearer standards in determining customer eligibility and setting credit limits, while maintaining stricter oversight over repayment capacity, the guideline states.

It also introduces detailed rules on interest charges, fees, billing procedures, and collection practices to reduce disputes and improve transparency for cardholders.

To enhance security, banks have been instructed to strengthen internal control systems, improve fraud monitoring, and establish effective dispute resolution mechanisms.

The guideline further emphasises stronger safeguards for customer privacy and data protection.

The central bank said the revisions were made after reviewing persistent challenges in the sector, including customer complaints, operational irregularities, fraud incidents, and complexities in payment settlement.

# BSEC clears merger of two Walton companies

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The stock market regulator has said it has no objection to the proposed merger of two companies of Walton Group.

Local electronics giant Walton disclosed the development on the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), saying that the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) had raised "no objection" to the proposed merger.

According to the company, the merger of listed Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC with non-listed Walton Digi-Tech Industries will expand the overall business portfolio, reduce operational costs, and improve efficiency.

In January, Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC announced plans to merge with Walton Digi-Tech Industries.

Walton Hi-Tech Industries manufactures, markets and exports a range of home and electrical appliances, including refrigerators, compressors, air conditioners, televisions, elevators, fans,

cables and washing machines. Walton Digi-Tech Industries, an IT company operating for more than eight years, produces advanced technology products across several categories. It currently offers more than 123 products under 36 brands, according to the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).

The merger will bring a wide range of digital technology products into the listed company's portfolio, including laptops, computers, mobile phones, printed circuit boards and electric bikes.

Walton Hi-Tech Industries reported a fall in profit for the financial year that ended on June 30, 2025, citing weaker consumer demand and higher finance costs.

The company posted a profit of Tk 1,036.62 crore for the year, a decline of 24 percent compared with the previous year.

The board of directors recommended a 175 percent cash dividend and a 10 percent stock dividend for FY25, the lowest payout since 2020, when the company declared a 200 percent dividend.

# Sheltech celebrates 38th anniversary

**STAR BUSINESS DESK**

Sheltech (Pvt) Ltd has celebrated its 38th anniversary, marking nearly four decades of contribution to the real estate sector.

Founded in 1988 from the vision of the late Toufiq M Seraj and Kutubuddin Ahmed, the company has grown under the leadership of Chairman Kutubuddin Ahmed, and Managing Director Tanvir Ahmed, according to a press release.

To mark the anniversary, a milad mahfil was held on March 12 at the Sheltech Tower in Dhaka.

Kutubuddin Ahmed expressed gratitude to all for their support throughout the journey. Officials of Sheltech and its affiliated concerns attended the event.

Since its inception, Sheltech has delivered more than 4,650 residential and commercial units to clients in Dhaka on schedule. The company also expanded its footprint to Chattogram, contributing to the city's planned developments.



According to the company, Sheltech has built the confidence of clients and stakeholders through its focus on quality construction, timely project completion and customer satisfaction, helping it establish a reputation as a reliable real estate developer in Bangladesh.

Over the years, the group has expanded beyond real estate into ceramics, consultancy services, financial and commercial services, property management, cargo transport, agro industries, SPC poles, boutique hotels and brokerage houses, among other businesses.

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The combined shock scenario produces the largest effect, including a roughly 3 percent decline in GDP, said the paper.

Sanem did not provide the estimated loss in absolute terms.

According to the final estimates for fiscal year 2024-25, Bangladesh's GDP at current prices stands at \$456 billion. Based on calculations by The Daily Star, a 3 percent decline would translate into a loss of about \$13.68 billion under the worst-case scenario.

Prof Selim Raihan, executive director of Sanem and author of the study, said these pressures combined could trigger moderate to significant economic stress in the short to medium term.

"This result is not surprising," he said. "The effects reinforce each other when multiple external pressures come at the same time. Higher fuel prices raise production costs. Trade disruptions weaken export demand. At the same time, declining

remittance inflows lower household income and consumption."

"These forces work together, impacting the supply and demand sides of the economy. This is because rising costs and a weakening market mean firms cut back production. Households struggle with lower purchasing power and tighten their belts. The interaction between these changes generates a deeper slowdown than any of the shocks would create on their own."

The paper said Bangladesh's exports may decline by about 2 percent in the case of an energy price shock. This is because industries' higher production costs can make Bangladeshi goods a little less competitive in international markets.

"This decline gets even larger when introducing trade disruptions. In the shipping disruption scenario, exports would shrink by about 3.4 percent. Freight costs and the uncertainty of logistics are significant here."

In the combined scenario,

however, that pressure is multiplied. Exports drop by nearly 6 percent, a sign of the cumulative effect of rising costs, reduced demand, and shipping disruptions, it added.

The report said Bangladesh's export-oriented garments sector stands out as one of the most vulnerable sectors in both of the simulations. Its output may decline as much as 4.5 percent.

But the transport and logistics sector would be the worst hit, by as much as 5 percent, energy-intensive manufacturing 4 percent, and agriculture 1.5 percent, according to the findings.

Prof Raihan said in the case of a prolonged war, the effect could be felt in around two years. "In fact, the impact can be larger if the situation gets worse," he said.

The paper said

Bangladesh's development model has relied on export-led manufacturing and overseas employment, but that same integration exposes it to external shocks when geopolitical crises erupt elsewhere.

The study recommends diversifying energy sources, improving trade logistics infrastructure, expanding export markets and broadening strategies for overseas employment.

# Iran war could wipe out

# War further clouds

investment now. They are likely to wait to see where things settle down."

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.

The consistent slowdown in credit demand in the private sector means investment will remain subdued, the much-needed boost to the economy will be delayed, and there will be fewer jobs than required in the country.

Ashikur Rahman, principal economist at the Policy Research Institute (PRI) of Bangladesh, said that in periods surrounding national elections, it is quite common for entrepreneurs to delay major investment decisions until there is greater clarity regarding the political and policy environment.

As a result, demand for

credit from the private sector tends to remain subdued. At the same time, banks have also become more cautious in extending loans because of concerns about asset quality and the broader macroeconomic environment, he said.

"Restoring confidence through political stability and credible economic reforms will therefore be critical for reviving private sector credit demand," he said. However, the emerging geopolitical tensions have added another layer of risk to the macroeconomic outlook.

"Any escalation in the conflict in the Middle East could push up global oil prices and disrupt energy markets. For an energy-importing country like Bangladesh, this would increase the import bill, put pressure on the balance of payments, and complicate inflation management," he added.

# Govt body

Following a meeting with business leaders at the Chattogram Circuit House later that day, the minister said the government plans to set up a modern laboratory at the port to test imported goods and install new scanners to strengthen inspection capacity.

He also said a separate fact-finding committee will be formed to resolve long-standing issues at the port,

including nearly 10,000 auction-eligible containers and imported vehicles that have been lying there for years.

According to the minister, the proposed committee will include the chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority and the chairman of the National Board of Revenue, and may also seek advice from the finance minister if necessary.

# Govt to rally

Under that criterion, Bangladesh would qualify to maintain subsidies in various sectors, Razzaque said.

Gambia has also sought an extension of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) for graduating LDCs, which would benefit Bangladesh by preserving its patent waiver facility on goods such as medicines

beyond graduation. But concrete decisions at the ministerial conference will be difficult given fragmentation in global trade caused by US reciprocal tariffs and the US-Israel war on Iran, Razzaque said.

"If all the LDCs and graduating LDCs can raise their voice collectively, a few good decisions may come from the conference, because the WTO also has an agenda for LDCs," he added.

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**Invitation for e-Tendering**

Invitation Reference No.	Memo No: 35.01.8800.471.07.001.26-427	Date: 08/03/2026
Tender ID & No.	Work description	Publication Date & Time
1240826, 03/e-GP/PMP/Bridge/SRD/2025-2026	Construction of 75.99 m (2x15.25m+1x42.68m) long P.C Girder & RCC Girder Bridge (Hurasagor Bridge) 11th km (Ch.10+645 m) of Sirajganj-Kodda-Someshpur Zilla Highway (Z-5402) under Sirajganj Road Division during the year 2025-2026	15 March - 2026 13:00 Hrs
		15 April - 2026 14:00 Hrs

This is an online tender where only e-tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on 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's Branches for 15.04.2026 Up to 13:30 Hrs. 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)) (+8809609112233, +880176262528-31)

(Md. Imran Farhan Sumel)  
Identity No-602280  
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD  
Road Division, Sirajganj.

**Invitation of Tender**  
**EMEC&S, Saidpur Cantonment**

1. Financial year 2025-2026 sealed quotations are invited from bonafide reputed and enlisted (Rangpur Area) firms of Bangladesh Army who all are renewed (2025-2026) of purchase equipment as below:

Ser	Tender No. & Date	Description of work	Date of selling tender schedule	Opening date of tender
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	Tender No. 02 dt: 03 March 2026	3x Temperature Control Unit 5 Ton.	According to PPR 2008 rule 61 (4) the schedule will be sold up to 14 days from the date of publication at the newspaper.	Tender will be opened on the 15th day of the publication newspaper.

2. The terms & conditions with technical specification are available at (TSS office) EMEC&S Saidpur Cantonment during office time. Three percent (3%) earnest money of the total tendered amount have to be deposited in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order along with the tender in favour of Commandant, EMEC&S Saidpur Cantonment, Saidpur. Interested firm has to purchase tender schedule from (TSS office) EMEC&S upto 1400 hours in every working day till last date of selling as mentioned in columns d (14 days from the date of publication at the newspaper). On the opening date (mentioned in column e) at 1230 hours tender box will be opened in presence of intending bidders or their representatives (if any).

3. Participation firms must have past experience in doing the similar nature of work and experience certificate to be attached in tender.

4. If the authority decides to purchase the same goods again in the current financial year, the supplying firm will be obliged to supply those at the same price.

5. The package price offered by the firm participation in the tender will be considered as the lowest bidder.

6. Authority preserves all the rights to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

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Commandant  
EMEC&S  
Saidpur Cantonment

**The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL)**  
Gazipur-1703

**Local/International e-Tender**

Local/International e-Tender is invited in The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL)'s e-Tender site <https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd> for procurement of the following item for SPCBL as per e-Tender schedule. Necessary information is given below:

e-Tender No.	Nature of e-Tender	Name of item	Date of publish	Last date & time for submission of e-Tender	Date & time for opening of e-Tender
30/25-26	International	Supply of 2,200 Kgs UV Curing Varnish with Photoinitiator for 100 & 500 Taka Bank Notes.	16.03.2026	20.04.2026 11:00am	20.04.2026 11:15am
31/25-26 & 32/25-26	Local & International	Supply of 650 sheet film (orthochromatic film), 100 liters film developer "A" (orthochromatic film developer) & 100 liters film developer "B" (orthochromatic film developer).	16.03.2026	20.04.2026 11:00am	20.04.2026 11:45am

For more details, please visit/contact the followings:  
Website : [www.spcbl.org.bd](http://www.spcbl.org.bd)  
Cell No. : +8801534002184, +8801742453378  
Telephone : +88-02-996695110-15  
Fax : +88-02-996695772-3  
E-mail : [info@spcbl.org.bd](mailto:info@spcbl.org.bd)  
e-Tender site : <https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd>

Rafeza Akhter Kanta  
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)  
E-mail: [info@spcbl.org.bd](mailto:info@spcbl.org.bd)

**Rajshahi City Corporation**  
Engineering Department  
Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi  
[crashahi.portal.gov.bd](http://crashahi.portal.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.46.645.23(Part-1).117 Date: 15.03.2026

**e-Tender Notice**  
(IFT: 03/2025-26)

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

S.L No.	Tender ID	Reference No	Name of Works	Tender Document last selling time and date
1.	1242826	46.12.0000.006.46.64 5.23(Part-1).118	Supply Different Types of Spares and Repairing for Excavator Big (DOOSAN DX-340LCA-K)-04.	12:30 PM on 30-March-2026
2.	1242827	46.12.0000.006.26.44 2.25(Part-4).119	Supplying & Repairing Different Types of Spare Parts for Asphalt Mixing Plant.	

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 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)).

রাসিক/জশা-৯৩ (২০২৫-২৬)  
তারিখ : ১৫/০৩/২০২৬  
৪ X ৩

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**Chittagong Port Authority**  
Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer (Electrical)

**e-GP (Tender Notice)**

Memo No. 18.13.0000.421.07.002.23 Date: 8/03/2026

Sl. No	Tender ID No. & Method	Tender Ref. No. & Name Of Works	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
1	1230358 (OTM)	18.13.0000.426.07.114.25 Supply and Installation of Air Conditioned Container Office for Security Department of CPA	30-Mar-2026 10:30	30-Mar-2026 10:30
2	1222758 (OTM)	18.13.0000.426.07.080.25 Electrification with other related Utility works and Necessary Modification of Car lift due to vertical extension of 3rd and 4th Floor over Existing 2nd Floor of the Multistoried Car Shed in Jetty Area.	30-Mar-2026 10:30	30-Mar-2026 10:30
3	1232115 (OTM) (Re-tender)	18.13.0000.426.07.088.25 Replacement of different faulty instruments of NCT 33/11 KV substation's Generators (Brand Caterpillar) with other related works.	30-Mar-2026 10:30	30-Mar-2026 10:30

This is an online tender where only e-tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no Offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Please register on e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)

Deputy Chief Engineer (Electrical)  
Chittagong Port Authority