



## Eid nears, NBFIs depositors still await refunds

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Abdul Momen Chowdhury, a retired government official, invested all his savings in Aviva Finance and Prime Finance – Tk 1.8 crore together with his wife. The 87-year-old suffers from serious health complications. But for the last six months, he has been unable to access his money at the struggling institutions.

The problem compounded last December, when the central bank announced plans to liquidate both institutions, along with seven other non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs).

The institutions are: Aviva Finance, Prime Finance, FAS Finance, Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company, Premier Leasing, Fareast Finance, GSP Finance, People's Leasing, and International Leasing.

Former Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor Ahsan H Mansur said in January that even if the institutions were liquidated, individual depositors might get their principal amounts back before Eid.

That hope has yet to materialise. "I earned well during my career, but at this stage of life, I have to depend on money sent by my daughters living abroad to pay

for my medical treatment," Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

He had hoped things would take a turn for the better if an elected government came to power. The new government has come, but is yet to take any steps to that end.

"The government is distributing family cards, yet no steps are being taken to ensure that we get our deposits back," he said.

He last received interest payments in September last year. "I heard that Bangladesh Bank would arrange repayment for depositors before Eid, but with the festival just days away, we have yet to receive any update," he said.

Chowdhury is one of over 3,000 depositors waiting for refunds from nine struggling NBFIs that BB decided to wind up or restructure under the newly enacted Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025 – the country's first comprehensive framework for resolving failing banks and NBFIs.

Together, the nine NBFIs hold deposits worth Tk 15,370 crore, including Tk 3,525 crore from individual depositors and Tk 11,845 crore from banks and corporate clients, according to BB data.

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## Bangladesh's cement producers reject US 'overcapacity' claims

### BANGLADESH'S CEMENT EXPORTS TO US ALMOST ZERO

#### LOCAL MARKET

Total cement plants: 41

Installed annual production capacity:	86.02m tonnes	Domestic demand:	39.75m tonnes
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Average annual cumulative demand growth: 8%



#### CEMENT EXPORTS

Bangladesh exports very small volumes	Estimated exports around 20,000 tonnes
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Main export market: India's Tripura state

#### DEMAND DRIVERS

Major infrastructure projects over the past decade

Urbanisation and housing construction

Anticipation of future demand from a growing economy

## BB orders swift merger of five Islamic banks

### Chairman of the merged bank resigns

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has instructed administrators and officials to expedite the ongoing merger of five struggling shariah-based banks, including completing IT integration, as part of the wider banking sector reforms.

"There is no alternative to completing the merger quickly as part of broader banking sector reforms," BB Governor Md Mostaqur Rahman told officials during a meeting yesterday with administrators appointed to oversee the five banks.

The meeting, chaired by the governor, was attended by the administrators of the

five banks, their supporting teams, and central bank officials.

The directive came just hours after Mohammad Ayub Mia, chairman of the board of the state-owned Sammilito Islami Bank PLC – formed through the merger of the five troubled shariah-based lenders – resigned.

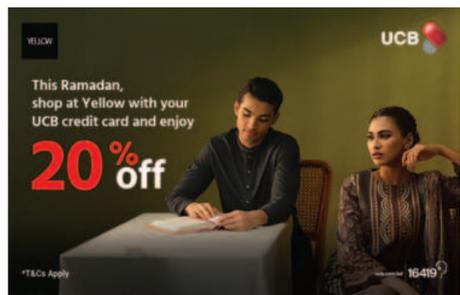
He submitted his resignation to the secretary of the Financial Institutions Division under the finance ministry, citing personal reasons.

Central bank officials at the meeting said the governor inquired about delays in IT integration. The banks currently use different software systems and data structures, making it technically complex to consolidate all data onto a single platform.

Officials assured the governor that efforts are ongoing to complete the process as quickly as possible.

Some members of the administrator teams said rumours were circulating in the market about the merger. In response, the

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JAGARAN CHAKMA

Bangladeshi cement manufacturers have dismissed claims by the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) last week over alleged industry overcapacity, insisting that the sector's production reflects growing domestic demand driven by a decade of major infrastructure projects and the needs of a rapidly expanding economy.

They also pointed out that Bangladesh exports very little cement, with shipments to the United States nearly non-existent. Most exports are directed to neighbouring regions of India.

The comments come amid a US trade investigation into Bangladesh and more than a dozen other economies, examining whether their policies and production practices are contributing to global overcapacity that could harm American manufacturing.

In its official complaint, the US cited unused capacity in Bangladesh's cement industry as evidence of unfair trade.

According to the Bangladesh Cement Manufacturers Association (BCMA), the country has 41 cement plants with a combined annual production capacity of 86.02 million tonnes.

The domestic demand was at 39.75 million tonnes in 2025, up 5.55 percent from the previous year.

Multinational companies account for around 20 percent to 25 percent of this capacity. Bangladesh exports a very small amount of cement, with annual shipments to India's Tripura estimated at roughly

20,000 tonnes, according to BCMA. Mohammad Khoushed Alam, deputy managing director of Fresh Cement, a concern of Meghna Group of Industries, said, "Bangladesh's cement capacity should not be interpreted simply as overcapacity, as the sector is preparing for future demand in a growing economy."

He said that while the country's installed capacity stands at about 86 million tonnes, annual consumption is roughly 40 million tonnes.

"Although this may appear excessive on paper, it reflects long term planning rather than unnecessary investment," Alam said.

He said cement demand in Bangladesh has grown at an average annual rate of around 8 percent. If this trend continues, the existing capacity could be fully absorbed within eight to nine years.

"In a country of 170 million people with ongoing urbanisation and infrastructure development, production capacity must anticipate future demand," Alam added.

He also highlighted structural challenges, with almost all raw materials imported, leaving the industry vulnerable to global supply disruptions and shipping delays.

Demand is also highly seasonal, peaking during the dry construction months. In some periods, deliveries can reach around 4.5 million tonnes, requiring sufficient capacity to ensure an uninterrupted supply, Alam added.

Echoing a similar perspective, Mohammed Amirul Haque, president of the BCMA and managing director of Premier

Cement Mills PLC, said claims of overinvestment or overproduction are misleading.

"There is no evidence of overinvestment in the industry," he said, responding to claims linked to the US investigation. "What is often described as overcapacity actually reflects how industrial capacity is measured and utilised in practice."

Haque said that installed capacity represents the theoretical maximum output under ideal conditions, while factories rarely operate at full capacity year-round.

Maintenance requirements, power and gas shortages, and seasonal fluctuations mean plants cannot sustain peak production continuously. Cement's limited storage life also forces manufacturers to maintain adequate capacity to meet sudden surges in demand, he further said.

"If capacity is not built ahead of demand, the industry would struggle to supply the market during peak construction periods," he said, adding that demand has been growing by around 8 percent to 10 percent annually, driven by infrastructure development, housing projects, and urbanisation.

Mohammad Iqbal Chowdhury, chief executive officer of LafargeHolcim Bangladesh PLC, said the sector has expanded significantly over the past 15 years in anticipation of sustained infrastructure investment.

Chowdhury said Bangladesh exports very little cement, with shipments to the US almost nil. Limited exports mainly go to India.

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## EPA policy delivery key to Japanese investment

Say diplomats, experts and stakeholders

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The recently signed Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) holds significant potential to boost Japanese investment in Bangladesh, but realising those gains depends entirely on effective industrial policy implementation and institutional capacity building, diplomats and policy experts said at a seminar yesterday.

Without proper execution, however, the agreement risks remaining a symbolic document rather than a catalyst for economic transformation, they said at a seminar on "Maximising the Opportunities of the Bangladesh-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement" organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at the Japan Embassy in Dhaka.

Speaking at the event, Japanese Ambassador Saida Shinichi noted that so far, Japanese investment in Bangladesh has been modest, but the potential remains high as the EPA can encourage stronger business engagement.

The deal addresses not only tariff reduction but also investment frameworks, customs procedures, regulations and rules in services, the ambassador said. It will enhance institutional capacity to facilitate Japanese investment.

However, he stressed that Bangladesh needs the right industrial policy and proper implementation is critical for realising the EPA's potential.

Kenichi Ohno, an emeritus professor at



the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo, said Japanese investors talk more about India as Bangladesh does not feature prominently in their investment planning.

Implementation of industrial policy is the key for attracting investment, he said, citing Vietnam as an example of how policy execution can deliver results.

The emeritus professor suggested five conditions for effective policy formulation – the leader's vision and commitment, policy design and consensus building,

documentation and approval, substantive and meaningful participation, and a competent secretariat with sufficient authority and capacity.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the CPD, said the EPA would be crucial for sustaining trade and investment ties and maintaining Bangladesh's preferential access to the Japanese market after graduating from the least developed country (LDC) category.

However, she stressed that Bangladesh must improve its business environment,

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## Solar could help save \$3b in LNG cost in 25yrs: report

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh could save nearly \$3 billion in liquefied natural gas (LNG) import costs over 25 years by developing 1 gigawatt (GW) of solar power capacity, according to a new report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

The report, titled "Iran tensions underscore the urgency of Asia's renewables pivot for macroeconomic stability", warns that escalating geopolitical tensions are once again exposing the economic vulnerabilities of countries heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels.

According to the report, ongoing tensions involving Iran have triggered sharp increases in global energy prices, with crude oil prices rising 51 percent and LNG prices increasing by as much as 77 percent in recent weeks.

The surge is placing renewed pressure on energy-import-dependent Asian economies, including Bangladesh.

IEEFA said that if the crisis continues, energy prices could rise even further, potentially driving up inflation, putting pressure on foreign exchange reserves, and weakening overall macroeconomic stability across the region.

"In such a volatile global energy environment, accelerating the transition to renewable energy is no longer optional but essential for economic resilience," the report said.

Bangladesh relies heavily on imported LNG to meet its growing energy demand. A significant share of the country's LNG supply comes from Qatar and Oman under long-term agreements. However, the country also purchases LNG from the spot market during supply shortages.

According to the report, Bangladesh recently bought a spot LNG cargo at \$28.28 per million British thermal units (MMBtu)—almost three times the benchmark Japan-Korea Marker (JKM) price recorded last month.

IEEFA said such price volatility demonstrates how reliance on imported LNG can quickly translate into fiscal pressure for developing economies.

Energy analysts say Bangladesh remains particularly exposed due to limited domestic gas reserves and a long-standing dependence on imported fossil fuels.

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## Bida outlines plan to boost investment

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), Ashik Chowdhury, has outlined a 180-day action plan aimed at strengthening the country's investment climate through coordinated reforms across four key agencies.

The roadmap, presented to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Sunday evening, brings together Bida, the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza), the Maheshkhali Integrated Development Authority (Mida), and the Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) under a common reform framework.

Chowdhury said the plan seeks to place investment at the centre of Bangladesh's economic growth strategy by accelerating job creation and encouraging both domestic and foreign investment.

"Our plan is centred on building an investment-led economy, accelerating employment creation, and increasing the level of domestic and foreign investment in Bangladesh through focused, implementation-driven reforms," he said.

Amid global economic uncertainty, the immediate priority will be to support domestic investors and help existing businesses expand, while maintaining continued engagement with foreign investors.

The six-month roadmap outlines 25 initiatives structured around three pillars: infrastructure development, investment facilitation, and investment promotion.

The largest share of initiatives – 13 in total – falls under infrastructure development, focusing on logistics improvements and industrial readiness.

# Prime Bank promotes Nazeem A Choudhury to AMD post

STAR BUSINESS DESK

M Nazeem A Choudhury has recently been promoted to the post of additional managing director (AMD) of Prime Bank PLC.

Choudhury has more than 25 years of diversified experience in business development, sales and marketing, and communications, according to a press release.

Prior to joining Prime Bank as deputy managing director, he served in multiple capacities at Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Metlife, Eastern Bank and Meghna Bank.

He completed his MBA from the Institute of Business Administration and has a master's degree in English from Dhaka University.

He is a certified project management professional and also holds an internationally recognised certification for Islamic Finance Professionals from Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions.



M Nazeem A Choudhury

# EBL, Proyash to support children with special needs

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) yesterday entered into a strategic partnership with Proyash Institute of Special Education to strengthen the school's infrastructure for children with special needs.

As part of the initiative, Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external affairs and head of CSR desk of EBL, formally handed over a cheque to Colonel Md Altaf Ali, executive director and principal of Proyash Institute of Special Education, at a ceremony held at the bank's head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Proyash, a non-profit charitable

institution administered by the Bangladesh Army under the guidance of the Chief of Army Staff, works for the holistic development of children with special needs.

Its programmes include Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education, Skill-Based Training, Extra-Curricular Activities, therapeutic services and other developmental initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Ziaul Karim said Proyash Institute has been providing services to communities of children with special needs through therapy, vocational and skill-based training, helping transform them into active members of society while providing much-needed relief to parents facing lifelong challenges.



Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external affairs and head of the CSR desk of EBL, hands over a cheque to Colonel Md Altaf Ali, executive director and principal of Proyash Institute of Special Education, at the bank's head office on March 16. PHOTO: EBL

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা www.jamalpur.gov.bd

নম্বর-০৫.৪৫.০২০০.০১৪.০৪.০২৪.২৬-১৫২

তারিখ: ১৬/০৩/২০২৬ খ্রি.

### "দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে জামালপুর জেলায় কর্মরত গ্রামপুলিশদের (দফাদার ও মহল্লাদার) জন্য তফসিল "খ" এ বর্ণিত পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত উপযুক্ত প্রযুক্তিকারী/সরকারী/টিকাদারের নিকট হতে পিপিআর-২০২৫ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনকৃত) এর নিয়মানুসারে নির্ধারিত শর্তনুযায়ী গীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে:

ক্র: নং	বিবরণ	বিজ্ঞপিত তথ্য
০১	মহল্লাদার/বিভাগ	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মহল্লাদার
০২	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর
০৩	ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	জেলা প্রশাসক, জামালপুর
০৪	কাজের বিবরণ	২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে জামালপুর জেলায় কর্মরত ইউপি গ্রামপুলিশদের (দফাদার ও মহল্লাদার) পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ
০৫	সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারের যোগ্যতা ও প্রয়োজনীয় শর্তাবলি	বিজ্ঞপিত শর্তাবলি দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির "খ" তফসিলে বর্ণিত আছে।
০৬	আহ্বানের সূত্র	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ (ইউপি-২ শাখা) এর স্মারক নম্বর ৪৬.০১৮.০১১.০০.০০.০০২.২০১১ (অংশ-১)-২৪; তারিখ: ০১ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৬ খ্রি।
০৭	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি/সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
০৮	বাওট এন্ড সোর্স ফন্ড	২০২৫-২৬ অর্থবছরে পরিচালন বাওটের মজুরী নং-০৪, হিসাবের খাত নং ১৩৭০১০১/১২০০০১০০৮/০৬০১১০৩ গ্রামপুলিশদের পণ্য ও সেবা বাবদ সহায়তা খাত
০৯	দরপত্র সিটিউলের ক্রমক্রম	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা। অফারতথ্যে।
১০	দরপত্র বিক্রয় ও দাখিলের স্থান	ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ। খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় (স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা), জামালপুর। গ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর।
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২০-০৪-২০২৬ খ্রি., বেলা ৫.০০ টা।
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	২১-০৪-২০২৬ খ্রি., বেলা ১২:০০ টা।
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২২-০৪-২০২৬ খ্রি., বেলা ০৩:০০ টা। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর। উপস্থিত দরদাতা/দরদাতার প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকে।
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় (স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা), জামালপুর (দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত কমিটি কর্তৃক)।
১৫	দরপত্র আহ্বান	দরপত্রে উক্ত তথ্যের ০৩% তফসিলি ব্যাংক থেকে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে জেলা প্রশাসক, জামালপুর এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে।
১৬	তফসিল-খ এ বর্ণিত মাল্যমাল সরবরাহের মেয়াদকাল	কার্যক্রম প্রদানের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন।

### তফসিল-"খ"

ক্র: নং	পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদির বিবরণ	পরিমাণ
০১	জামা দুইটি-একটি মূল ও একটি হাফ (নীল রং, বুকের পাশে দুইটি পকেট, বোতাম ও ঢাকনাসহ, কাখে বোতাম)	৫৩০x২=১১৪৬ পিস
০২	ফুলশার্ট দুইটি (শাদি রং, কোমরে ইকি চওড়া বেষ্ট পরিধানযোগ্য ০৩ টি লুফ সফলিত, প্রত্যেকের নির্দিষ্ট মাপ অনুযায়ী)	৫৩০x২=১১৪৬ পিস
০৩	পাটী (মহিলা পুলিশের ন্যায়)	৪৫x২=৯০ পিস
০৪	ব্রাউজ (মহিলা পুলিশের ন্যায়)	৪৫x২=৯০ পিস
০৫	পেটিকোট (মহিলা পুলিশের ন্যায়)	৪৫x২=৯০ পিস
০৬	সোকার ব্যাচ নীল রং এর (ইউনিফর্ম কমান্ডার/দফাদারদের জন্য সোকার ব্যাচ গোল্ডেন কালারের স্টার, রিডোন অক্ষয়ি কালার ও ব্যাচ গ্রামপুলিশ পেট্রোল স্টার কালার হবে)	দফাদার ৬০ জোড়া এবং মহল্লাদার ৫০ জোড়া।
০৭	মাথার কাপ গ্রামপুলিশের মনোগ্রামসহ (পুলিশের অনুকূলে)	৬১৮ টি
০৮	ট্রাইজার	৬১৮ টি
০৯	পেট্রি	৬১৮ টি
১০	কট	৬১৮ টি
১১	নেম ব্যাজ (Name Badge) (উন্নতমানের)	৬১৮ টি
১২	মনোগ্রাম	৬১৮ টি
১৩	উন্নতমানের চামড়ার জুতা (পুলিশ ও মহিলা পুলিশ ও মহিলা পুলিশের অনুকূলে)	৬১৮ জোড়া
১৪	উন্নতমানের কাপড়ের জুতা	৬১৮ জোড়া
১৫	মোজা	৬১৮x২=১২৩৬ জোড়া
১৬	চামড়ার বেট (পুলিশের ন্যায়)	৬১৮ টি
১৭	খাতা-কলম, অফিসের কাগজপত্র, জামা কাপড় বন্দ করার জন্য সাইড ব্যাগ।	৬১৮ টি
১৮	উন্নতমানের ৪.৫V চার্জার টর্চলাইট	৬১৮ জোড়া
১৯	একটি কাগজ রং এর ছাতা (গ্রামপুলিশের মনোগ্রামসহ)	৬১৮ টি
২০	ফিটা সফলিত উন্নতমানের লায়নার বীলি	৬১৮ টি
২১	বেতের লাঠি (লম্বা ৩'-০০" ও ৩'-৪" গোলাকার বেড় বিশিষ্ট)	৬১৮ টি

### দরপত্র দাখিলের শর্তাবলি:

০১. দাখিলকৃত দরপত্র জামানত হিসেবে উক্ত দরের কমপক্ষে ৩% যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক থেকে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট বা পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে জেলা প্রশাসক, জামালপুর এর অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।
০২. মনোনীত দরপত্র দাতাকে কার্যক্রম প্রতিষ্ঠার পূর্বে চুক্তি মূল্যের ১০% অর্থ Performance Security হিসেবে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে।
০৩. দরপত্র দাতার সন্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০২ (দুই) কপি রঙিন ছবি দাখিল করতে হবে।
০৪. কোনক্রমেই ত্রুটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। দরপত্র সিটিউন ও দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের প্রতি পাতায় দরপত্রদাতাকে স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে। দরপত্রে কোন প্রকার কাটাকটি, ম্যামায়া, ওভাররাইটিং বা অস্পষ্টতা থাকলে তা বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
০৫. কর্তৃপক্ষ মনে করলে দিয়ার এবং তদন্তমূলক বিবেচনার সরবরাহযোগ্য মাল্যমাল সরবরাহের জন্য অংশগ্রহণকারী আলদা আলদা টিকাদারকে কার্যক্রম দিতে পারবে।
০৬. ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অফারতথ্যে) "১-০১৩৮-০০০০-২৬৮১ (৩৭০৫/৩৬০৫- বিধি রক্ষা প্রতি) খাতে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদানপূর্বক ১ (এক) কপি চালান জমা দিয়ে বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় (স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা), জামালপুর এবং পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর হতে সিটিউন ত্রুজ করা যাবে।
০৭. দরপত্রের সকল কার্যাদি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন (PPA), ২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা (PPR), ২০০৫ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনকৃত) মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে।
০৮. দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রের ব্যাপারে টেন্ডার কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
০৯. কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই টেন্ডার কমিটি যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১০. সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক ভাট ও আয়কর কর্তন করা হবে।
১১. প্রত্যেক দফাদার ও মহল্লাদারদের শরীরের নির্দিষ্ট মাপ অনুযায়ী পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ করতে হবে। উপজেলা পর্যায়ে খ-শরীরে উপস্থিত হয়ে প্রত্যেক গ্রামপুলিশের শরীরের মাপ নিতে হবে।
১২. সিটিউনে বর্ণিত পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি যথাযথভাবে গুণগতমান ও মাপ বহির্ভূত হলে তা গ্রহণ করা হবে না। সে ক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট টিকাদারের কার্যক্রম বাতিলপূর্বক জমাও জামানত বাতিল করা হবে। একই সাথে টিকাদার সম্মুখে পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি ফেরত নিতে বাধ্য থাকবে।
১৩. তফসিল "খ" এ বর্ণিত সকল আইটেমের নমুনা দরপত্রের সাথে আবেদনকারীকে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৪. পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদির গুণগতমান নিশ্চিত করার জন্য টিকাদারকে দরপত্রের সাথে মহল্লাদার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কাপড়ের ন্যায় পাট ও জামার নমুনা সহ অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদির নমুনা অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। কাপড়ের নমুনা এই অফিস থেকে দেখা যাবে।
১৫. দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত যেকোনো তথ্যাদি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর এবং www.jamalpur.gov.bd ওয়েব সাইট হতে জানা যাবে।
১৬. ক্রয়যোগ্য মাল্যমালের পরিমাণ কম/বেশি হতে পারে।

### দরদাতার যোগ্যতা:

০১. The Public Procurement Rules, 2025 (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনকৃত) এ উল্লিখিত দরদাতার যোগ্যতা অনুযায়ী দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
০২. দরদাতাকে পূর্ববর্তী ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের যে কোন ০৩ (তিন) বছরে গ্রামপুলিশ/বিভাগীয়/পুলিশ/আনসার ও সিটিউনের কমপক্ষে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) লক্ষ টাকার পোশাক তৈরী ও সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সন্দেহ দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।
০৩. দরপত্রের সাথে ট্রেড শাইপেল, যে কোন সিটিউন ব্যাংক থেকে সরাসরি সার্টিফিকেট (দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখের পূর্ববর্তী ২৮ (আটপ) দিনের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) লক্ষ টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রিটি), ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ বছরের আয়ের ও ভ্যাট পরিশোধের সার্টিফিকেট অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।

মোহাম্মদ ইদ্রুস আলী  
জেলা প্রশাসক  
জামালপুর।

ফোন: ০২৬১৭৭-১১২০  
ই-মেইল: dcjamalpur@cpa.gov.bd

**Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)**  
Plot#E-5/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
www.btrc.gov.bd

**Invitation for Tender (IFT)**

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications Division
02	Agency	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)
03	Procuring Entity Name	Director, Administration Division, BTRC.
04	Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable
05	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
06	Invitation for	Procurement of Infrastructure Monitoring System of Nationwide Tower and Optical Fiber Network including Disaster Response Cell.
07	Invitation Ref No.	14.32.0000.000.400.07.0004.26.455
08	Date	16 March 2026
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
09	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (GoB)
11	Development Partners (If applicable)	Not Applicable
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
12	Project/Program Code (If applicable)	Not Applicable
13	Project/Program Name (if applicable)	Not Applicable
14	Tender Package No.	Not Applicable
15	Tender Package Name	Not Applicable
16	Tender Publication Date	16 March 2026
17	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	08 April 2026, 04:00 PM
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	09 April 2026, 02:00 PM
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	09 April 2026, 02:30 PM
20	Name & Address of the Office(s) Selling and Receiving Tender Document	BTRC, Plot#E-5/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
21	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have minimum 5 years' experience in ICT business in Bangladesh. (Provide Contract Agreement/ Work Completion certificate to prove the experience).</li> <li>The Vendor must have updated valid Trade License, TIN certificate, VAT &amp; BIN certificate, updated Income Tax acknowledgement receipt of return/clearance certificate.</li> <li>Must have registered in Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) of Bangladesh.</li> <li>The Firm must have ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management) certification.</li> <li>The Firm/Company must have experience of completion of minimum one GIS based system development projects with the Government/Semi Government Organizations/Multinational or private Companies in last 5 years.</li> <li>Bidder shall have at least 2 (two) practical experiences in developing monitoring/analytcs/SAS/OSS/BSS platforms or integrated service management platforms with integration to at least 3 external systems (e.g. NMS, Billing, CRM, ERP). (please provide the relevant documents with Live URL to prove the experience).</li> <li>At least 1 completed Hyper-Converged Infrastructure (HCI) project in a government organization within the last 5 years, including supply, installation, virtualization, centralized management, and high-availability configuration.</li> <li>At least 1 completed integrated AV or Control Room projects in the last 5 years, including minimum 1 large Video Wall (Flip Chip COB LED) installation and configuration.</li> <li>The Firm/Company must have had an average annual turnover above BDT 02 Crore in the last 03 (Three) financial years. All financial requirements must be supported by a verified audit report.</li> <li>Must have a minimum amount of Liquid asset/ Line (s) of credit of the firm shall be BDT 2 crore.</li> <li>Must have Minimum 15 full-time ICT professionals on payroll. Must propose at minimum: Project Manager (10 yrs exp), Solution Architect (8 yrs), 2x Senior Software Engineers (5 yrs), Database Administrator (5 yrs), Security Expert (5 yrs), GIS/Geospatial Specialist (3 yrs), UI/UX designer (3 yrs) and HCI-Certified Engineer (3 yrs). To demonstrate the human strength, the bidder must give a list for employees mentioning educational qualification, year of experience and experience in relevant projects.</li> <li>Must submit the management and logistic capacity of the firm/company (Website link/brochures and other documents describing company's expertise, strength and experience, core functions, products and services, project experience, availability of relevant professional staff and well-equipped office space with necessary facilities) to carry out this assignment.</li> <li>The firm must have to provide a basic project understanding.</li> <li>The Firm/Company must have to submit manufacturer authorization for software and hardware products to verify the authenticity in applicable cases.</li> <li>Joint Venture (JV) is not allowed.</li> </ol>
22	Technical Presentation & Demonstration	The bidder must deliver a technical presentation to the BTRC evaluation committee demonstrating the proposed solution for the Infrastructure Monitoring System. The presentation must cover: (a) proposed system architecture and technology stack, (b) infrastructure monitoring and geospatial visualization approach, (c) integration methodology with external systems, and (d) implementation roadmap and timeline. BTRC will schedule and notify shortlisted bidders of the presentation date after initial document screening. Failure to present or demonstrate adequate technical understanding of the project scope will render the proposal non-responsive.
23	Brief Description of Goods (as detailed in tender Schedule)	Detail specifications for the hardware and software are attached.
24	Brief Description of Related Services (as detailed in tender Schedule)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System Design, Development and Implementation as per annex-I.</li> <li>Integration with different entity.</li> <li>Maintenance &amp; Warranty.</li> </ol>
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	BDT 3,000/- (Three Thousand) (Pay Order in the Favor of BTRC) (non-refundable)
<b>Tender Information</b>		
26	Lot No	Identification of Lot
26	1	Infrastructure Monitoring System of Nationwide Tower and Optical Fiber Network including Disaster Response Cell.
		Location
		BTRC, Plot#E-5/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
		Tender Security Amount (Tk.)
		BDT 7 (Seven) Lacs
		Completion Time in Date
		180 Days from Contact signing
27	Name of the Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Rohol Amin
28	Designation of the Official Inviting Tender	Director, Administration Division, BTRC.
29	Address of the Official Inviting Tender	BTRC, Plot#E-5/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
30	Contact Details of the Official Inviting Tender	Tel: +8802222217120; e-mail: secretary@btrc.gov.bd
31	The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all tender or annual the tender proceedings.	

(Mohammad Rohol Amin)  
 Director  
 Administration Division, BTRC  
 Phone: +8802222217120  
 e-mail: secretary@btrc.gov.bd

## Eid nears

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After reviewing the NBFIs in January, the regulator decided to liquidate six: FAS Finance, Premier Leasing, Fareast Finance, Aviva Finance, People's Leasing, and International Leasing. Prime Finance, GSP Finance, and BFC were given three to six months to improve their financial health.

But the refund process has stalled. The central bank is awaiting Tk 3,500 crore from the finance ministry to begin repaying depositors. Once received, the liquidation can proceed, says officials.

The new government, led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), took office on February 17, ended Mansur's tenure, and appointed businessman Md Mostaqur Rahman as the new governor on February 26.

Rahman has yet to speak to journalists but said through the central bank spokesperson that reform initiatives started during Mansur's tenure, including the liquidation of struggling NBFIs, will continue. Meanwhile, depositors continue to suffer. Minhajul Huda, 75, who relies on rental income and stock market investments, had deposited Tk 2.75 crore in Prime Finance.

After putting his lifetime savings into the institution, Huda is now facing serious hardship and is struggling to cover his children's education expenses.

His son, Inzamamul Huda, visits Prime Finance's head office regularly in the hope of recovering the money.

"Forget repayment - the officials of the institution have now become aggressive in their attitude. Even after meeting the managing director and chairman of Prime Finance, we found no solution," he told The Daily Star.

## Bangladesh's

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"For that reason, it is difficult to see how the overcapacity of Bangladesh's cement industry is linked to the US market," he said, adding that the sector's surplus reflects long-term investment decisions by local companies anticipating continued infrastructure growth.

Md Moshirul Rahman, chief executive of Akij Resource, which oversees Akij Cement, said the country's cement capacity should be understood in the context of long-term development needs.

With per capita cement consumption at around 210 kilograms, far below China's 1,700 kilograms and roughly half of India's, he said there is substantial room for growth as urbanisation and infrastructure expansion continue.

He also mentioned the presence of multinational companies such as LafargeHolcim, Heidelberg Materials, and Thailand's INSEE, which together account for around a quarter of total production.

# Gold prices steady

REUTERS

Gold prices were steady on Monday after paring a near 1 percent fall earlier in the session, as a softer dollar and safe-haven demand helped offset waning hopes of near-term US interest rate cuts due to elevated energy prices.

Spot gold edged up 0.2 percent to \$5,027.98 per ounce, as of 0427 GMT, recovering from a more than three-week low hit earlier in the session. US gold futures for April delivery fell 0.6 percent to \$5,031.60.

The US dollar nudged lower, making greenback-priced commodities, such as bullion, cheaper for holders of other currencies.

US 10-year Treasury yields eased, increasing the appeal of non-yielding bullion.

"Gold prices are holding broadly steady as the market navigates competing macro forces. Safe-haven demand amid ongoing geopolitical tensions continues to lend support, but rising oil prices have also revived inflation concerns," said Christopher Wong, a strategist at OCB.

Oil remained above \$100 a barrel as the US-Israeli war against Iran entered a third week, putting oil infrastructure at risk and keeping the Strait of Hormuz shut in the biggest disruption to global supplies ever.

Higher crude prices feed into inflation



by raising transportation and production costs. Gold is considered an inflation hedge, but high interest rates make yield-bearing assets more attractive, weighing on its appeal.

"In the near term, (gold's) price action may remain choppy as markets reassess the Fed policy path and the trajectory of real yields," Wong said.

The Federal Reserve is widely expected to hold interest rates steady for a second straight meeting on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump said on Sunday his administration is talking to seven countries about helping to secure the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump also threatened more strikes on Iran's main oil export hub, Kharg Island, and said he was not ready to reach a deal to end the war.

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strengthen compliance standards and ensure effective implementation of the agreement to fully capitalise on the opportunities.

Bangladesh's exports to Japan have grown from less than \$75 million in the 1970s-80s to about \$1.26 billion in 2024, while imports from Japan now stand at nearly \$2 billion.

Under the EPA, around 97 percent of Bangladeshi products - about 7,379 tariff lines - would receive immediate duty-free access to the Japanese market.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman and CEO of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, noted that the EPA comes at a crucial transitional moment for both economies.

He pointed to Bangladesh's impending LDC graduation, the restructuring of global supply chains, growing Indo-Pacific geopolitical competition, the rise of regional trade blocs and the evolving Bangladesh-Japan bilateral relationship as key

developments shaping the partnership.

He also said the EPA could help Bangladesh diversify export markets beyond the United States and Europe while supporting Japan's "China-plus-one" strategy for supply chains.

Md Fazlul Hoque, former president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said Japan remains largely untapped for Bangladesh's apparel sector.

Despite being the world's second-largest apparel importer, Bangladesh exports only about \$1.5 billion worth of garments to Japan, roughly 3 percent of its total apparel exports, he stated.

Syed Nasim Manzur, president of the Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh, called on Japan to ensure that the EPA benefits all sectors, not only garments.

He also called for economic diversification in Bangladesh, noting that

more people are becoming poor, employment is falling and the country is experiencing jobless growth.

Rabiul Islam, an economist at the Asian Development Bank, said the opportunity to maximise the Bangladesh-Japan EPA is ample, but quality, compliance and social issues need to be addressed.

He suggested five key points for successful utilisation of the EPA: setting sector-specific standards for automotive, light engineering, electrical and electronics sectors; using Japanese FDI in export processing zones; implementing infrastructure standards; promoting industrial associations; and deepening cooperation for certification.

Mohammad Mahfuz Kabir, research director of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, said Japan's cooperation is needed for Bangladesh's plea to the UN for a three-year extension of LDC graduation.

Monzur Hossain, member of the general economics division of the Bangladesh Planning Commission, said the EPA aims to ensure duty-free and quota-free market access for Bangladesh in Japan post-LDC graduation.

It covers 17 sectors including trade in goods, customs procedures, trade facilitation, investment, e-commerce, intellectual property and services.

Potential challenges include implementation gaps, export diversification, compliance with Japanese standards and institutional coordination, he said.

However, Kaziuki Kataoka, country representative of the Japan External Trade Organisation in Bangladesh, said the EPA could help mitigate the risks of LDC graduation but alone may not guarantee a surge in foreign direct investment.

Improving the overall business environment will be essential to attract Japanese investors, he said, adding that proper

implementation of the deal's provisions on customs procedures, intellectual property and regulatory rules could support that process.

Owais Parry, senior economic advisor of the United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh, said success depends on proper implementation of effective industrial policy.

A dedicated team is also needed for policy implementation, he said.

Hiroshi Yoshida, senior representative of JICA Bangladesh Office, assured his organisation's continued support to Bangladesh, and suggested the introduction of one stop services in the investment related offices.

Tareq Rafi Bhuiyan, president of the Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the agreement, signed on February 6, was a timely safeguard for Bangladesh for the post-LDC era as it ensures continued market access for garments under flexible rules of origin.

# BB orders swift merger

FROM PAGE B1

governor stressed that banking sector reforms remain a key government priority.

He added that the government had injected Tk 20,000 crore into the new bank, while Tk 12,000 crore from the deposit insurance fund is being used to repay depositors of the five banks up to Tk 2 lakh each.

"There is no scope for reversing the merger," he added, stressing that the entire process must be completed as soon as possible, central bank officials and administrators told The Daily Star.

On March 3, the governor had assured administrators that the integration would continue uninterrupted and that a managing director would be appointed soon.

He also instructed them

to follow regulations, accelerate recovery of defaulted loans, and take steps to reopen factories financed by the five banks that remain closed.

**BACKGROUND OF THE MERGER**

Last December, EXIM Bank PLC, Social Islami Bank PLC, First Security Islami Bank PLC, Global Islami Bank PLC, and Union Bank PLC merged to form Sammilito Islami Bank PLC.

A seven-member board, headed by former secretary Ayub Mia, was formed on December 7, making him the bank's first chairman.

The merger followed the prolonged failure of these banks to return depositors' money.

In November, BB appointed administrators to integrate operations, including IT systems,

assigning each bank one administrator supported by four officials from various levels of the central bank.

Among the five banks, EXIM Bank was controlled by Nazrul Islam Mazumder, chairperson of the Nassa Group. He also served for many years as chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks, a forum for bank directors.

The other four banks were controlled by the Chattogram-based S Alam Group, a controversial business conglomerate.

The merged bank started operations during the interim government period with an authorised capital of Tk 40,000 crore and a paid-up capital of Tk 35,000 crore - Tk 20,000 crore from the government and Tk 15,000 crore from depositors' shares.

The five banks

collectively have around 75 lakh depositors, with deposits totalling Tk 1.42 lakh crore and loans of Tk 1.92 lakh crore, 77 percent of which are defaulted.

Although depositors had long been unable to access their savings, the central bank began repaying up to Tk 2 lakh per depositor from January 1 under the merged bank arrangement.

The payments are made through a special scheme announced on December 30, funded by the deposit insurance trust.

Depositors with balances above Tk 2 lakh can withdraw an additional Tk 1 lakh every three months, up to a total of Tk 7 lakh. Patients with kidney failure or cancer can withdraw any amount needed by submitting the necessary documents.

# Solar could help save \$3b

FROM PAGE B1

A similar situation unfolded during the 2022 global energy crisis triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Although Bangladesh reduced LNG consumption during that period, the country's overall import bill nearly doubled because of soaring prices.

The report also warns that rising global fuel prices can create a self-reinforcing economic cycle. As international energy prices increase, the local currency tends to weaken against the US dollar, raising the cost of energy imports even further. This can push inflation higher,

increase production costs for businesses that operate in dollar-denominated markets, and raise the burden of servicing foreign debt.

To mitigate these pressures, governments across Asia have introduced various short-term policy measures, including fuel subsidies, retail price caps, and tighter monetary policies. However, IIEFA cautioned that such interventions provide only temporary relief and could strain public finances if maintained for long periods.

Several Asian economies have already taken steps to manage rising energy

costs. Thailand has capped diesel prices and is considering reducing fuel taxes to ease consumer pressure. Meanwhile, refiners in China, Thailand and India have temporarily restricted exports of crude and refined petroleum products to protect domestic supplies.

The central bank of the Philippines has also warned that it may tighten monetary policy if oil prices climb above \$100 per barrel, reflecting concerns about inflationary pressure.

The report emphasises that heavy reliance on fossil fuels leaves countries exposed to geopolitical shocks and global market

volatility. In Bangladesh, electricity generated from LNG is already three to four times more expensive than electricity produced from solar or wind energy, according to IIEFA.

Beyond cost savings, expanding renewable energy would improve energy security and shield the economy from unpredictable fluctuations in global fuel prices.

The duration of the current geopolitical tensions remains uncertain. US President Donald Trump recently said the conflict could last "four to five weeks" and called for Tehran's "unconditional surrender."

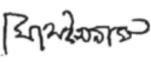
**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Directorate General of Drug Administration  
Aushad Bhavan, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212  
[www.dgda.gov.bd](http://www.dgda.gov.bd)  
Memo No. NDCL/Prosha/Procurement/126/24/153 Date: 16.03.26

**Invitation for Tender (OTM)**  
**e-Tender Notice No. 02 (2025-26)**

e-Tender is invited to the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following goods:

SI No.	Tender ID and Package No.	Description of package	Tender/proposal publication date and time	Last selling date and time	Closing/opening date and time
01	1243446 DGDA/NDCL/2025-26/GR-04	Goods Procurement of Furniture for NDCL	16-03-2026 10:30	02-04-2026 10:30	02-04-2026 13:30
02	1244068 DGDA/NDCL/2025-26/GR-03	Goods Procurement of Equipment for NDCL	16-03-2026 15:20	02-04-2026 10:30	02-04-2026 13:30
03	1238017 DGDA/NDCL/2025-26/SR-01	Service Repair and Maintenance of Equipment (Including Calibration of Lab Equipment)	16-03-2026 10:40	02-04-2026 10:40	02-04-2026 13:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted on 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 e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of the banks registered in the e-GP System. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and from the e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
**Md. Shafiqul Islam**  
Director (C.C.)  
Directorate General of Drug Administration  
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212  
[dgda.gov.bd](http://dgda.gov.bd)

GD-626

**Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Project Director  
Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) - Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component) Project  
Plot No. F-19/A, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Memo No.: 18.15.0000.023.14.058.25-98 Date: March 15, 2026

**e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)**

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

SI	Tender ID No.	Name of Package	Last Date and Time for Tender Selling	Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date and Time
1	1245925	BLPA-W8A, Construction of International Passenger Terminal Building with ancillary facilities at Burimari Land Port	23 April, 2026 13:00	23 April, 2026 14:00	23 April, 2026 15:00
2	1245876	BLPA-W6, Construction of International Passenger Terminal Building & Bus Terminal at Bhomra Land Port	26 April, 2026 13:00	26 April, 2026 14:00	26 April, 2026 15:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline hardcopy 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 Branch of registered Bank up to date and time mentioned in the notice. 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)).

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

Sd/-  
(Mohammad Shamim Alam)  
Member, BLPA & Project Director (Additional Charge)  
Access-BLPA Project  
E-mail: [pdaccessblpa@gmail.com](mailto:pdaccessblpa@gmail.com)

GD-620

**বাংলাদেশ গম ও ভুট্টা গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট**  
নশিপুর, দিনাজপুর ৫২০০  
Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute  
Nashipur, Dinajpur-5200  
[www.bwmri.gov.bd](http://www.bwmri.gov.bd)

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি  
টেলিফোন : 02588817734  
ই-মেইল : [dg\\_bwmri@gmail.com](mailto:dg_bwmri@gmail.com)

Memo No: 12.26.0000.019.07.001.25- 426 Date: 16/03/2026

**e-Tender Notice (Goods)/2025-2026**

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

SI No	ID	Name of Goods	Last selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
01	1247884	Procurement of Compact Optical Sorter Machine for Hybrid Wheat	06-Apr-2026 13:01	06-Apr-2026 15:01

This is 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 procuring entity deserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

  
16/03/2026  
MD. Nazmul Haque  
Assistant Programmer  
BWMRI, Nashipur, Dinajpur.

GD-631

# Upcoming WTO MC14: What is at stake for Bangladesh?



**MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN and TANBIN ALAM CHOWDHURY**

By any measure, the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14), scheduled for 26 to 29 March 2026 in Yaounde, Cameroon, is expected to be a watershed moment for the multilateral trading system (MTS), which has evolved over the past three decades since the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995. As the institution tasked with setting rules for global trade, the WTO is now under pressure to respond to growing attacks on the rules-based trading system and to calls for deep reform of the organisation itself. Against this backdrop, MC14 is likely to emerge as a Reform Ministerial.

For Bangladesh, a country scheduled to graduate from the group of least developed countries in November 2026, the stakes are particularly high. MC14 will be the last WTO Ministerial Conference before Bangladesh's graduation from LDC status after more than five decades in the category. Even if Bangladesh succeeds in securing a deferral of graduation by up to three years, decisions taken at MC14 will carry major implications for the country's participation in the multilateral trading system. Both as a graduating LDC and as a future developing country, the outcomes of MC14 will have long-term significance for Bangladesh.

In Geneva, discussions ahead of MC14 are focusing largely on reform of the WTO. These include the consensus-based decision-making process, the single undertaking principle, where nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, the framework for negotiations and decision-making, special and differential treatment for developing countries, including LDCs, and ways to ensure a level playing field for all members. These are high-stakes issues for Bangladesh. The country and its allies in the WTO will need to engage proactively in these debates in order to safeguard the interests of low-income and developing countries at MC14.

## A SHIFTING GLOBAL TRADE LANDSCAPE

In recent years, the growing use of trade measures by major economies to pursue national economic interests has become a defining feature of global commerce. The principles on which the WTO was founded are increasingly under strain. Protectionist policies surged during the Covid-19 pandemic and weakened the authority of the WTO. However, breaches of WTO principles have intensified even further in recent years. Trade is being weaponised in ways rarely seen before.

At the same time, there is a growing view that the WTO will have little future unless significant reforms are undertaken in its decision-making structure, negotiating agenda and institutional objectives. The organisation now faces what many observers describe as an existential crisis.

The use of trade policy to pursue economic and geopolitical objectives is clearly on the rise. This trend increasingly takes the form of unilateral measures, non-tariff barriers, reciprocal tariffs and stringent conditions attached to market access.

Against this backdrop, several critical questions arise. Does the WTO have a viable future? What reforms are required

for the organisation to remain relevant? How can the interests of developing countries be protected within the global trading system? What alliances or power blocs might emerge as global economic power shifts, particularly with the rise of BRICS? And could a new global trade body eventually replace the existing WTO?

## POSSIBLE PATHS AHEAD

Five scenarios may unfold in response to these challenges. The first scenario is that WTO members succeed in reforming and revitalising the organisation through negotiations that address the concerns of different members. Notably, around 80 percent of global merchandise trade still takes place under the Most Favoured Nation principle, one of the core foundations of the WTO system.

A second scenario would involve the dissolution of the WTO and the creation of a newly negotiated global trade organisation. Proponents of this view argue that persistent violations of WTO rules and the increasing resort to unilateral tariffs and security-based trade restrictions have weakened the current system to such an extent that a new

deepen South-South cooperation and develop alternative governance structures led by BRICS countries.

For Bangladesh, a rules-based multilateral trading system that incorporates special and differential treatment for weaker economies, as represented by the WTO, remains the more preferable option. At the same time, it is evident that the WTO is showing clear limitations. While a consensus-based organisation works to Bangladesh's benefit, the slow pace of WTO decision-making has become a growing concern for many countries and deserves careful attention.

## REFORM DEBATES INSIDE THE WTO

Current WTO reform discussions are structured around three interconnected tracks.

Track 1 concerns governance. This includes decision-making procedures such as consensus and Article IX, negotiating instruments, existing agreements and negotiations, and the dispute settlement mechanism.

Track 2 focuses on fairness. Issues here include transparency, development and special and differential treatment, market

following LDC graduation, reforms to special and differential treatment so that these remain effective, and a functional dispute settlement mechanism.

While special and differential treatment for LDCs is not being questioned in the proposals, the position of the European Union and the United States is that eligibility for such treatment for developing countries should be determined through objective criteria, should be time-bound, and should include clear pathways for transition to regular WTO disciplines.

At the same time, concerns remain over the lack of meaningful discussion regarding unilateral tariffs, particularly reciprocal tariffs introduced by the United States, which have adversely affected the trade interests of many WTO members. This represents an important fairness issue and highlights a significant inconsistency with the broader principle of fairness. Members of BRICS and other countries are likely to raise these issues at MC14.

## BANGLADESH'S PRIORITIES AT MC14

Bangladesh will need to remain



This photograph shows the World Trade Organization (WTO) headquarters in Geneva. The WTO Ministerial Conference, set for March 26-29 in Cameroon, is expected to be a pivotal moment for the multilateral trading system.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

multilateral framework with updated rules may be required.

The third plausible scenario is the emergence of a new multilateral trading system with membership limited to countries willing to uphold non-discriminatory rules, while excluding those prone to arbitrary and self-serving measures. Such a system could potentially exclude the country that has shown the strongest inclination to pursue unilateral tariffs and non-MFN arrangements, namely the United States.

The fourth scenario is based on the survival of the WTO, while its negotiating function becomes increasingly organised around open plurilateral agreements and Joint Statement Initiatives. These would focus particularly on new issues such as e-commerce, investment facilitation, services domestic regulation and digital trade. Some countries, including the United States, prefer this option.

A fifth scenario concerns the emergence of a more cohesive coalition of Global South economies that views the crisis facing the WTO and unilateral policies pursued by the United States as both an opportunity and a catalyst to

access including tariffs, reciprocity and non-tariff barriers, subsidies, unfair practices and the broader question of a level playing field.

Track 3 addresses contemporary challenges such as supply chain resilience, economic security, climate change, digital trade and artificial intelligence.

Across recent rounds of discussion, a shared baseline has emerged. Consensus remains the foundation of WTO decision-making and is not itself under challenge. At the same time, there is growing concern that consensus is sometimes used as a de facto veto.

For Bangladesh, the governance track is particularly important. As a relatively weak economy, its interests lie in a consensus-based and genuinely member-driven system that safeguards its trade interests. At the same time, Bangladesh also needs a WTO capable of taking decisions without consensus-based decision-making becoming a permanent stumbling block.

Bangladesh's interest also lies in strengthening the development dimension of trade. Core priorities include support for a smooth transition

attentive to the evolving demands on the multilateral trading system, developments within the WTO and growing calls for deep reform. Preparation will be essential to advance both offensive and defensive interests in this changing environment.

There is hope that ongoing work in Geneva ahead of MC14 may lead to a reformed WTO grounded in predictability, fairness and flexibility. However, how these principles will be defined in practical terms remains uncertain. Reaching an agreement will not be easy.

The United States, on one side, and countries such as India and China on the other, are expected to represent the two ends of the negotiating spectrum, with the European Union likely to occupy a middle ground. Bangladesh will need to participate in these discussions in an informed manner so that its interests as a graduating LDC and as a future developing country are effectively safeguarded and advanced.

*Mustafizur Rahman is distinguished fellow, and Tanbin Alam Chowdhury is programme associate (Research) at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)*

## Oil rises further above \$100

AFP, Hong Kong

Oil prices jumped further above \$100 Monday and Asian stocks mostly fell as the Iran war moved into a third week with both sides showing no sign of backing down and diplomats trying to ensure safe passage for tankers through the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

Crude shot up in the opening minutes after the US president said at the weekend that forces struck military targets on Kharg Island, a scrubby stretch of land in the Gulf that handles almost all of Iran's oil exports.

He also warned attacks could expand to energy infrastructure if the Islamic republic interferes with transit through Hormuz, which has been effectively closed since the US-Israel operations began on February 28.

Iran's Fars news agency reported soon after that no oil infrastructure was damaged in strikes.

Trump urged other countries to send warships to keep the waterway open but offered no specifics or commitments from the US side, saying he hoped China, France, Japan, South Korea and the UK would take part.

He later wrote Saturday in a Truth Social post: "The Countries of the World that receive Oil through the Hormuz Strait must take care of that passage, and we will help - A LOT!"

"This should have always been a team effort, and now it will be."

## War-related oil squeeze a 'short-term pain' US official insists

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump's top energy official said Sunday that Americans will have to endure the "short-term pain" of higher prices at the pump as US forces conduct their war against Iran.

Now in the third week of a multi-dimensional Middle East conflict that has seen US and Israeli forces pound Iran's military targets, and Tehran responding with missile and drone attacks against several neighboring states, global energy prices have soared.

And concern has swelled that a lengthy blockage by Iran of the critical Strait of Hormuz could send crude prices through the roof.

"President Trump needed to act now... to stop the killing of American soldiers, to stop the destabilization of the region, and to end Iran's ability to threaten energy markets," US Energy Secretary Chris Wright told ABC News talk show "This Week."

## Dollar pulls back

REUTERS, London

The dollar pulled back from 10-month peaks on Monday in a tentative start to a week that brings a slew of central bank meetings held under the shadow of the US-Israel war on Iran.

The US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan are among those to hold their first policy meetings since the Middle East conflict began, offering investors a sense of how rate setters view the impact of soaring oil prices on inflation and growth.

As the European session got underway, the dollar index was a touch lower at 100.27 and holding below a 10-month high hit on Friday.

The dollar has benefited from a flight to safety since the US-Israeli strikes on Iran began at the end of February. Other major currencies such as the euro have been hurt by their economies' dependence on oil imports.

Since the start of the conflict, investors have almost eliminated their bearish bets against the dollar, according to weekly data from the US markets regulator.

# Asean states working on fuel-sharing deal

ANN/PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which the Philippines currently chairs, will expedite the enforcement of an energy-sharing mechanism which will allow member states to support each other's oil and gas needs during supply disruptions.

This measure, through which Asean countries can provide petroleum supplies to neighbors facing shortages of at least 10 percent of their requirement, comes as the conflict in the Middle East continues to escalate further.

In a press briefing following the 32nd Asean Economic Ministers' (AEM) Retreat in Taguig City on Friday, Trade Undersecretary Allan Gepty said the AEMs agreed to hasten the completion of the Asean Petroleum Security Agreement (Apsa) ahead of this year's summit in May.

Under Apsa, a member could give a distress notice to the secretariat of the Asean Council on Petroleum of the occurrence of a "critical shortage" in its petroleum supply due to an emergency.

Critical shortage happens when a country experiences a shortfall of at least 10 percent of its normal domestic requirement for a continuous period of at least 30 days.

Before requesting assistance from other Asean states, the distressed country shall implement short-term measures to reduce demand of its petroleum use, including demand restraint, fuel switching, price surge protection and information sharing.

Under Apsa's Coordinated Emergency

Response Measures, all member states shall endeavor to supply petroleum to the distressed country at the aggregate amount equal to 10 percent of its normal domestic requirement.

The terms and conditions of the sale of petroleum shall be negotiated among the parties "in the spirit of assistance and no undue advantage shall be taken by the Asean states."

President Marcos earlier assured the public that the country has sufficient oil stockpiles to cover approximately 50 to 60 days of supply.

Specifically, the country's available reserves cover diesel, which is sufficient for about 50.5 days; fuel oil and gasoline, each sufficient for about 51.5 days; kerosene, sufficient for about 67.5 days; jet fuel, sufficient for about 58 days; and liquefied petroleum gas, sufficient for around 29 days.

Sharing under Apsa, however, is done on a voluntary and commercial basis because these countries' exports are often tied up in long-term commercial contracts. This means a distressed country such as the Philippines must still pay market rates which are currently spiked by the ongoing war.

Based on the Department of Energy-Oil Industry Management Bureau, petroleum product demand among the country's different industries reached 184.5 million barrels in 2024. Asean is highly vulnerable to Middle East tensions as most of its crude oil and a significant share of its liquefied natural gas are imported from that region.

Governments and businesses across

Southeast Asia are scrambling to stave off energy shortages as the Strait of Hormuz remains shut to maritime traffic amid the Iran War.

While Asean governments have directly intervened by enforcing price caps to stabilize fuel prices, such was not the case for the Philippines whose oil industry remains deregulated in accordance with a 1998 law.

Local oil companies set their own prices

based on global crude oil prices, foreign exchange rate, and shipping and refining costs.

Congress is rushing to pass a law giving the President emergency powers to suspend the excise on fuel products as crude prices continue to rise.

The move is projected to reduce the price of gasoline by P10 per liter, while the price of diesel could be reduced by P6 per liter.



People queue to buy fuel at a petrol station in Hanoi after Vietnam's trade ministry called on local businesses to encourage their employees to work from home to save fuel amid disruptions in supply and price surges triggered by the US-Israel war on Iran. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: REUTERS