

# Trust Bank launches new entrepreneurship training for CMSMEs

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank PLC has launched the second batch of its month-long "Entrepreneurship Development Programme", aimed at enhancing the skills and business capabilities of entrepreneurs in the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprise (CMSME) sector.

The programme is being conducted under the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP), an initiative of the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance, supervised by the SME and Special Programmes Department (SMESPD) of Bangladesh Bank and financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Nawshad Mustafa, director of the SMESPD of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the training programme as the chief guest at Eque Heritage Hotel and Resort in Saidpur, Nilphamari recently, according to a press release.

Mohammad Wasim, deputy programme director and joint director of the central bank, attended the event as a special guest.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Shamsuzzaman, senior executive vice-president and principal of

the Training Academy at Trust Bank PLC, presided over the programme.

Scheduled from April 6 to May 4, 2026, the training programme is designed to provide CMSME entrepreneurs with practical insights into business planning,

marketing strategies, financial management and enterprise development.

Experienced trainers from Bangladesh Bank and Trust Bank PLC will conduct sessions under the programme.

Through such initiatives, Trust

Bank PLC continues to reaffirm its commitment to promoting grassroots entrepreneurship and advancing inclusive economic growth across Bangladesh, in line with the national vision of building a skilled and financially empowered SME sector.



Nawshad Mustafa, director of the SME and Special Programmes Department of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurates the month-long "Entrepreneurship Development Programme", launched by Trust Bank PLC, at Eque Heritage Hotel and Resort in Saidpur, Nilphamari recently.

PHOTO: TRUST BANK

# War exposes critical gaps

FROM PAGE B1

Despite his efforts to bring stakeholders together and present evidence, support was limited, reflecting the lack of a strong, united voice from industry bodies, he added.

Alam further alleged that the interim government has worsened the crisis, with the sector's deficit rising from about Tk 40,000 crore to Tk 63,000 crore.

He added that there has been no meaningful progress in renewable energy or in attracting capable investors.

On governance, Alam said state-owned companies are operating with profit motives. "Around 75 such entities are contributing to higher costs in the sector. The government should not make a profit from energy," he said, calling for transparency on how much these companies earn and return.

DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed warned that reserves of diesel, octane, and petrol are gradually declining.

He said import delays could cause major

disruptions to transport, power generation, and other sectors.

"Every \$10 rise in global oil prices increases Bangladesh's annual spending by about \$1 billion. If prices go above \$120 per barrel, the extra cost could reach \$4.5 billion a year, raising government losses and increasing production and business costs," he said.

**BARRIERS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Zahidul Alam, senior vice-president of the Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Association, said a 27-30 percent duty on imported solar power equipment is a major obstacle to the sector's growth.

He suggested offering at least a one-year duty-free facility for batteries used in solar projects.

Vidiya Amrit Khan, vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said that in Europe, widespread solar power use has helped reduce the impact of the energy crisis.

"But the situation in Bangladesh is very different," she added,

calling for better coordination among government agencies in the power sector and expressing concern over the lack of initiatives to address challenges following the country's LDC (least developed country) graduation.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Md Shahid Sarwar, member for power at the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, said renewable energy could help address both current and future energy crises.

However, he added, long-term energy security for industry and other sectors still requires increased offshore and onshore natural gas exploration.

Md Obaidur Rahman, secretary of the Ministry of Industries, said Bangladesh has long faced persistent energy shortages, which have worsened due to ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

He added that while the country needs 600,000 tonnes of fertiliser by June, there is currently a shortage of 400,000 tonnes because of production disruptions.

# Higher energy prices could erode reserve gains

FROM PAGE B1

Inflows surged to \$3.22 billion in December 2025, up from \$2.64 billion a year earlier, and remained strong at \$3.17 billion in January 2026, compared with \$2.19 billion the previous January. February saw remittance reaching \$3.02 billion, up from \$2.53 billion received in the same period a year earlier.

"In the context of the energy crisis, remittances play a critical role in offsetting higher import payments and supporting reserve accumulation," the report said.

The GED nonetheless cautioned against over-reliance on remittances. A significant share of Bangladesh's migrant workforce is employed in energy-exporting economies, particularly in the Middle East, leaving flows vulnerable to geopolitical tensions, oil price swings, and shifts in host-country labour demand.

"Any disruption in these economies could directly affect migrant employment and, consequently, remittance inflows," it warned.

While seasonal factors and

continued migration are expected to sustain inflows in the near term, GED said the medium-term outlook "will depend heavily on global economic conditions and the stability of overseas labour markets."

The report also flagged a widening gap between inflation and wages. Wage growth remained stagnant at 8.06 percent in February, squeezing the real incomes of low-income households and threatening to dampen consumption as rising living costs erode purchasing power.

On the fiscal front, revenue collection by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) fell well short of targets.

Actual collection in February reached Tk 30,559 crore, against a revised target of Tk 42,051 crore, leaving a shortfall of over Tk 11,000 crore.

Implementation of the Annual Development Programme has also slowed compared with the previous fiscal year, hampered by bottlenecks in project approval, procurement, and fund disbursement.

# Oil rebounds With cold storages nearly full

REUTERS, New Delhi

Oil prices rose on Thursday as doubts over a fragile two-week Middle East ceasefire raised concerns that energy flows through the crucial Strait of Hormuz will remain restricted.

Brent crude futures were up \$2.18, or 2.3 percent, at \$96.93 a barrel at 0645 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose \$3, or 3.18 percent, to \$97.41 a barrel.

Both benchmarks fell below \$100 per barrel in the previous trading session, with WTI recording its biggest decline since April 2020, on early optimism the ceasefire will result in a reopening of the strait.

However, analysts said market participants are hesitant to fully strip out the geopolitical risk premium, and there is no clarity on what negotiations between the US and Iran would mean for oil flows.

"The chances of a meaningful reopening (of the Strait of Hormuz) any time soon look dim," said Vandana Hari, founder of oil market analysis provider Vanda Insights, predicting continued volatility in oil prices.

"The futures market looks a bit broken," she said. Otherwise, "prices should have snapped right back to pre-ceasefire levels by now."

FROM PAGE B4

Meanwhile, cold storage owners say their hands are tied.

Delwar Hossain, managing director of Shahi Himagar Limited under Selim Reza Group, said their ten facilities in Thakurgaon and Dinajpur, with a combined capacity of 85,000 tonnes, are full.

Enamul Haque, general manager of IJAB Group, said their 11,000 tonne

plant has also reached capacity, forcing them to turn farmers away.

Alongside large refrigerated units, the DAE has set up 152 non-refrigerated model potato stores in northern districts since 2022. Each 15 by 25-foot structure can hold 25 to 30 tonnes for up to four months.

Sakhawat Hossain, district agricultural marketing officer (in-

charge) of Thakurgaon, said the project aims to promote diversified use, storage and marketing of potatoes.

Nurul Huda, adviser to Thakurgaon Potato Growers and Traders Welfare Association, called for expanding processing industries, boosting exports and including potatoes in relief programmes to help steady the market.

# Investors pivot to Asia

FROM PAGE B4

strategies, while 53 percent reported extending their investment horizons compared to three years ago, signalling a move towards longer-term positioning.

Regional dynamics are also evolving. Businesses in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia are increasingly focusing on supply chain reconfiguration, with 94 percent of respondents expecting

cross-border trade and investment to become more regional in nature.

Despite ongoing uncertainty, 89 percent of businesses and investors are increasing capital deployment in high-growth markets, reflecting strong confidence in long-term returns.

"Our Global Investment Summit survey highlights a structural transformation in the global economy," said Michael Roberts,

CEO of HSBC Bank PLC and CEO of Corporate and Institutional Banking.

"Trade and investment flows are becoming more regional. Asia is growing in strategic importance, and technology is reshaping how and where capital is deployed."

He added that business leaders are recalibrating their operations, investment strategies and capital allocation as global complexity continues to rise.

## Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh

Office of The Deputy Director

250 Bedded TB Hospital

Shyamoli, Dhaka-1207.

Memo No. TBHSD/e-GP Tender/2025-26/332

Date:09/04/2026

### e-Tender Notice

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 (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers.

2025-2026 FY e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Ayesha Akther, Deputy Director, 250 Bedded TB Hospital, Shyamoli, Dhaka for the Procurement of

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Publication Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
1250348	Procurement of Others Stationary	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1250344	Procurement of Furniture and Kitchen Goods	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1250332	Procurement of Other Equipment Repair.	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1250269	Procurement of Other Equipment Machineries	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1250257	Procurement of Gauze Bandage Cotton Goods	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1250248	Procurement of MSR Linen Goods.	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1250191	Procurement of Computer Goods	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1250131	Procurement of Cleaning Goods	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1250111	Procurement of Lilan Washing Items	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1247761	Procurement of MSR Equipment (Surgical-1)	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30
1249977	Procurement of MSR Equipment (Surgical-2)	09-Apr-2026 20:30	22-Apr-2026 12:30	23-Apr-2026 12:30

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer. e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

(Dr. Ayesha Akther)  
Deputy Director  
250 Bedded TB Hospital  
Shyamoli, Dhaka

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ মহাকাশ গবেষণা ও দূর অনুধাবন প্রতিষ্ঠান (স্পারসো)  
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২৪ জুলাই ২০২৬

তারিখ: ০৭ এপ্রিল ২০২৬

### "স্পারসো রিসার্চ ফেলোশিপ বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

২০২৬-২৭ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশ মহাকাশ গবেষণা ও দূর অনুধাবন প্রতিষ্ঠান (স্পারসো) -তে ফেলোশিপের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নবর্ণিত ছকের শ্রেণিতে অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে-

ক্রম	ফেলোশিপ ক্যাটাগরি	ন্যূনতম বয়সসীমা	ফেলোশিপের মেয়াদকাল
০১	রিসার্চ এসোসিয়েট (RA)	স্নাতক ডিগ্রিদারী এবং ২ বছর গবেষণার অভিজ্ঞতা	সর্বোচ্চ ১০ মাস
০২	জুনিয়র রিসার্চ ফেলো (JRF)	স্নাতক পর্যায়ে অধ্যয়নরত	সর্বোচ্চ ১০ মাস

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- Space Economy & Space Legislation.

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(স্বাক্ষর)  
মোঃ মাহমুদুল হক  
প্রধান প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)  
স্পারসো।  
ফোন: ০২-৪১০২৫৬৭৭