

star

BUSINESS



Promising export sectors to get RMG-style support: Amir Khosru

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will provide all promising export sectors with the same facilities currently available to the readymade garment (RMG) industry, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said yesterday at a meeting with business leaders.

"If any promising export sector comes to us with a proposal, we will extend to that sector the same facilities that are available to the garment industry," he said at the pre-budget meeting organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the revenue board at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon.



Bonded warehouse facilities, back-to-back arrangements, and all other relevant support will be provided, he added, citing the gold and diamond sectors as examples of industries held back by the absence of such support.

Goldsmiths, he noted, were leaving the country for a lack of opportunities.

Bonded warehouse facilities allow export-oriented industries to import raw materials duty-free, on the condition that finished goods are not sold domestically. Currently, only the RMG sector enjoys the facility in full; the leather goods sector receives it partially.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) had long resisted broader extension, citing fears of

duty-free materials being diverted to the local market, despite calls from economists to extend the facilities across the board.

The minister acknowledged those concerns but said they could not justify inaction. "It cannot be the case that we do nothing out of fear of theft," he said, adding that preventing misuse is a separate issue, and solutions will be addressed accordingly.

On taxation, he said the government could not offer broad incentives at present but would work to lower the cost of doing business.

"Wherever you are facing obstacles, let us know, and we will remove them. Tell us where your costs are increasing, and we will directly address those issues within the next three months," he told businessmen at the meeting.

This is already part of the ruling BNP's

READ MORE ON B2

Novo Nordisk eyes Bangladesh as an insulin hub

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and JAGARAN CHAKMA



Bangladesh is stepping into high-end pharmaceutical manufacturing as Novo Nordisk begins producing modern insulin locally in partnership with Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd, a concern of Transcom Group.

The move promises to expand access for millions of people with diabetes while positioning the country as a future export hub for advanced biologic medicines.

The Danish drugmaker's transfer of advanced manufacturing technology marks a "milestone" for Bangladesh, said Jay Thyagarajan, the company's senior vice president for Asia Pacific, as it signals a shift from import dependence to building sophisticated biopharmaceutical capability at home.

"This is not just about manufacturing," Thyagarajan told The Daily Star. "It is about building sustainable capability in Bangladesh and demonstrating that the country can produce biologic medicines at the highest global standards."

LIMITED ACCESS

The urgency behind the move is stark. Bangladesh has around 15 million diabetic patients, yet only a small fraction receives insulin therapy due to high costs, inconsistent supply and limited access to treatment facilities.

Globally, more than 600 million people live with diabetes, but in countries like Bangladesh, access gaps remain acute.

"Given the scale of unmet demand, we felt the need to ensure a sustainable local supply," Thyagarajan said.

Local manufacturing is expected to play a critical role in narrowing this gap, particularly as diabetes cases continue to rise alongside urbanisation and lifestyle changes.



WHY BANGLADESH -- AND WHY ESKAYEF

Novo Nordisk's decision to localise production was driven by both market need and manufacturing potential. A key part of that strategy is its partnership with Eskayef, a concern of Transcom Group.

Thyagarajan said the choice was based on trust and proven capability. "Eskayef and Transcom have demonstrated over the years that they can maintain high quality production standards comparable to global benchmarks," he said.

Insulin production is among the most complex processes in pharmaceuticals, requiring precision, consistency and strict regulatory compliance. Novo Nordisk was confident that its Bangladeshi partner could meet those standards.

Equally important was institutional support. Coordination among regulators, policymakers and the medical community helped enable the technology transfer.

"Technology transfer of this scale requires alignment across stakeholders. In Bangladesh, that alignment was there," he said.

A COMPLEX LEAP INTO BIOTECHNOLOGY

Unlike conventional drugs, insulin is a biological product that demands advanced processes such as fermentation, sterile manufacturing and highly controlled environments.

"It is not a simple molecule," Thyagarajan said. "It requires extremely high levels of control and quality."

Novo Nordisk has transferred proprietary technology from Denmark and ensured that production in Bangladesh adheres to European Union standards. Each batch is tested to match global benchmarks.

READ MORE ON B2

Listed MNCs struggle as inflation, weak demand hit profits

AHSAN HABIB

Listed multinational companies (MNCs) in Bangladesh had another difficult year in 2025, with most failing to claw back profits eroded by inflation and shrinking consumer demand.

Of the 13 MNCs listed in the stock market, 11 follow a December fiscal year-end. Ten have published results so far.

As per the published data, three saw profits rise in 2025 but remain below the previous year's level, four hit five-year lows, and two incurred the highest losses in their operational history in the country. Only one, Robi Axiata, posted record profits.

"The economic situation was the main factor," said Shahidul Islam, CEO of VIPB Asset Management Company, who has tracked the companies' performances for years as a major shareholder with billions of taka invested.

Inflationary pressure raised raw material costs, but companies could not pass them on to consumers whose demand had already shrunk, he said.

Analysis of financial reports shows that the damage was broad. Most companies saw sales growth slow last year. Four -- Grameenphone, Bata Shoe, Heidelberg Cement, and Linde BD -- saw sales fall outright.

Among the companies, British American Tobacco's (BATBC) profit fell 67 percent to Tk 584 crore in 2025, from Tk 1,788 crore in 2023, the highest level in the last five years. The figure was Tk 1,750.68 crore in 2024.

The tobacco company said, "2025 was marked by a challenging socioeconomic and geopolitical landscape characterised by inflationary pressures, currency devaluation, and constrained consumer purchasing power."

The global economic slowdown and rising raw material costs added further complexity to the operating environment. The top two segments of the company recorded a volume decline of approximately 10 percent, it added.

EARNINGS OF LISTED MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

(In crore taka)

YEAR	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Singer	51	7	52	-48	-224
RAK Ceramics	90	67	61	-2	-39
Bata Shoe	-6	41	40	29	1.2
Heidelberg	47	-23	45	46	20
Linde BD	122	88	22	642	34
Unilever	52	73	96	67	79
LafargeHolcim	388	444	594	381	510
BATBC	1,497	1,787	1,788	1,751	584
Robi	180	182	320	702	937
GP	3,412	3,009	3,307	3,630	2,957

SOURCE: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF COMPANIES

RAK Ceramics posted its highest-ever loss of Tk 39 crore last year, a reversal from Tk 90 crore in profit in 2021.

Singer Bangladesh also incurred a huge loss of Tk 224 crore, the largest in its recent history.

Heidelberg Cement's profit more than halved from its 2021 peak of Tk 47 crore.

The country's largest telecom operator, Grameenphone's profit dropped 18.5 percent year-on-year. The company attributed the decline to economic weakness and political uncertainty following the July 2024 uprising.

"The prolonged political uncertainty weakened business and investor confidence, while persistent inflation subdued job creation, and declining household purchasing power collectively constrained overall market demand," it said.

Unilever Consumer Care and LafargeHolcim remained profitable but 18 percent and 14 percent below their 2023 levels, respectively.

Linde BD's profit collapsed to Tk 34 crore after an anomalous Tk 642 crore in 2024, which was inflated by a one-off asset sale.

READ MORE ON B3

FBCCI calls for tax reforms to reduce business costs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Businesses yesterday called for structural reforms in the tax system to reduce the cost of doing business, ease compliance burdens, and improve investment competitiveness.

In this regard, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) placed a set of proposals for the upcoming national budget before the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at a pre-budget discussion held in Dhaka.

FBCCI Administrator Md Abdur Rahim Khan presented the major proposals at the discussion.

The apex trade body called for reducing the minimum tax from 1 percent to 0.25 percent on annual gross turnover, with a long-term plan to phase it out. It said the current rate forces firms to pay tax even in loss-making periods amid high inflation, elevated interest rates, dollar shortages, and rising input costs.

The FBCCI also proposed zero minimum tax for businesses operating at a loss with zero or negative taxable income based on audited accounts, newly established firms



for the first three years, and businesses affected by natural disasters, epidemics, or government-declared economic crises.

The trade body termed the turnover-based minimum tax system unfair, saying it undermines equity in taxation, and urged a more realistic framework reflecting actual business performance.

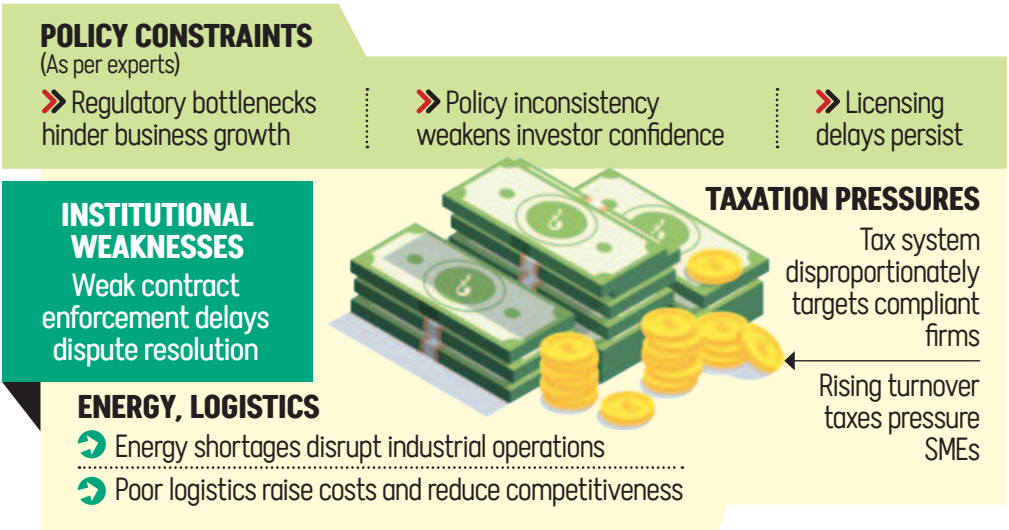
It also demanded raising the personal tax-free income threshold to Tk 500,000 and reducing corporate tax rates to ease pressure on individuals and firms.

The FBCCI called for a gradual reduction of advance income tax (AIT) at the import stage, saying it raises upfront costs and strains liquidity for import-dependent industries.

READ MORE ON B2

Policy uncertainty, weak trust weigh on investment

Experts say regulatory bottlenecks take a toll on confidence



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's business climate is being held back by regulatory bottlenecks, inconsistent policies, weak trust, and institutional inefficiencies, which are reducing investment

potential and weakening long-term investor confidence, experts said at a dialogue yesterday.

The remarks were made at a discussion titled "Business climate dialogue on improving the investment climate: why it is critical for the new government priorities the

upcoming national budget", organised by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) at its auditorium at Police Plaza in Gulshan.

"The real challenge is not competition but entering the market itself. Firms must be ready for a long-term commitment because operational hurdles -- from licensing delays to compliance burdens -- can discourage even established companies," said Zinnia Huq, chief financial officer of Unilever Bangladesh.

She said regulatory approvals often take months due to weak coordination among agencies, which leads to conflicting requirements, such as dividend remittance rules clashing with tax approvals.

She added that legal risks remain high as cases move through multiple channels, reducing predictability.

Huq further said that labour regulations are uncertain because interpretations often change and are sometimes applied retrospectively, making business planning difficult.

Tax administration, she added, sometimes raises large initial claims against compliant firms, which are later adjusted after review.

READ MORE ON B3

Promising export sectors

FROM PAGE B1
manifesto, but businesses' input will make it more effective, he noted, adding that while removing all obstacles might not be possible, the government will eliminate most of them. "Give us some time. If we fail, we will take responsibility."

Stating that many have spoken about expanding the tax net, the minister requested business associations to assist in bringing those who are still outside the tax net into the system.

Painting a difficult economic picture, Khosru said the new government has inherited a damaged banking sector, weakened stock market and over Tk 40,000 crore in unpaid energy bills.

In addition, due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the government is facing an additional energy cost of around \$4 billion, he added.

"We are navigating through these challenges across all sectors, but the government does not have unlimited resources... It will take some time for the situation to improve," the minister said, adding that the government and businesses need to work together to overcome this.

Noting that businesses are also experiencing a serious capital shortage, he said due to currency depreciation, many have

seen about 40 percent of their capital wiped out. On top of this, a 13-14 percent inflation rate has further eroded value. "Altogether, nearly 50 percent of capital has been eroded."

Describing the economy currently in a "low-level equilibrium", Khosru said generating growth is necessary to move it upward and attract investment. "If poverty, which has risen significantly, is not reduced through higher expenditure, demand will not be generated."

On the high borrowing costs, he said in the past, monetary supply was tightened to control inflation, but its effectiveness is uncertain.

With interest rates at 15 percent, he said the government would increase the development budget to stimulate growth, but cautioned that investment quality, not volume, was the priority. "If funds are misused or siphoned abroad in the name of mega projects, then a large budget serves no purpose."

He projected a two-year adjustment period before the economy stabilises. "By the third year, the economy will turn around."

Khandakar Abdul Mukhtar, minister of commerce, industries, textiles and jute, said energy shortages and high borrowing costs had left many industrial sectors fragile, and that

resolving those two issues was a prerequisite to new investment.

On reducing the cost of doing business, he said alongside providing targeted relief to the private sector, proposals will be made considering how to strengthen the national exchequer.

He also called for the jewellery sector to be brought fully into the formal economy, arguing that Bangladesh had a skilled workforce but lacked laboratories, design infrastructure, and supportive policy.

"If neighbouring countries can export several billion dollars' worth of gold annually, why can't we? We have the technical knowledge and skills. What we need are better laboratories, design facilities, and a supportive government policy," he added.

Kamran T Rahman, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the effective tax rate for many businesses reached 40-50 percent when advance and source taxes were factored in.

He called for unconditional corporate tax reductions, relaxed cash transaction rules, an integrated taxpayer profile system, and online appeal hearings for income tax, VAT, and customs disputes.

Gold loses lustre on Middle East war

AFP, London

Gold is seen as a safe haven asset in times of volatility but investment volumes fell in the first quarter, industry data showed Wednesday, as the Middle East war forced some investors to liquidate holdings to raise cash.

Investment volumes fell by five percent during the quarter, according to the World Gold Council, despite gold having set a record high in January as investors sought refuge

from a weak dollar and US President Donald Trump's erratic policy shifts.

"Hefty outflows in March reversed much of the sizable January and February inflows" into gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs), an easy means to invest in the precious metal, the council said in its quarterly report.

And that was linked in particular to North American funds.

"Oftentimes because gold is so widely accepted, it is the first thing that you sell

when you need a certain access to cash or to liquidity," said World Gold Council expert Juan Carlos Artigas.

Following the US-Israeli attacks on Iran at the end of February, Tehran closed traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas normally flows.

That sent oil and gas prices rocketing higher and disrupting markets, forcing many investors to raise cash to settle their positions.

FBCCI calls for tax reforms

FROM PAGE B1

It also proposed rationalising withholding tax rates and lowering them on machinery and raw materials to support industrial expansion.

On indirect taxation, it suggested a uniform 2 percent VAT on all locally traded goods to simplify compliance and reduce disputes.

In the customs regime, the FBCCI proposed capping import duty at 1 percent on industrial machinery, spare parts, raw materials, and inputs not produced locally, and 3 percent for locally produced items.

Institutionally, it recommended establishing separate Large Taxpayer Units (LTU) and Medium Taxpayer Units (MTU) in Dhaka and Chattogram to improve tax administration.

Speaking as the chief guest, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said the government is committed to ensuring a business friendly environment and removing barriers to doing business.

Business concerns would be reflected in the upcoming budget, he assured.

Commerce Minister Khandaker Abdul Mukhtar said the economy needs revitalisation through new investment and sustaining existing industries, while pointing to challenges in banking and logistics and urging specific private sector proposals.

NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan, former FBCCI president Mir Nasir Hossain, and International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICCB) President Mahbubur Rahman also spoke at the event.

Novo Nordisk eyes Bangladesh

FROM PAGE B1

The transition has taken years. Modern insulin was introduced in Bangladesh in 2006, followed by a contract manufacturing agreement with Eskayef in 2009. Local production of human insulin began in 2012.

However, producing modern insulin locally required further refinement. An agreement signed in 2018 culminated in full-scale production in 2026, after nearly eight years of preparation.

"We take time because quality cannot be compromised," Thyagarajan said.

LOWER COSTS, WIDER REACH

For patients, the biggest impact is likely to be affordability and access.

By reducing reliance on imports, Bangladesh will be less exposed to global supply disruptions. At the same time, local production is expected to lower costs by cutting import duties and logistics expenses.

"Affordability remains a major barrier," Thyagarajan said. "Local production allows us to reduce costs and pass those benefits to patients."

Although pricing details are yet to be announced, the company confirmed that locally produced insulin will be cheaper than imported alternatives.

Currently, only about one million patients in Bangladesh use insulin, leaving millions untreated or inadequately managed. Expanding local supply

could significantly increase coverage.

FROM DOMESTIC SUPPLY TO GLOBAL EXPORTS

Beyond meeting local demand, Novo Nordisk sees Bangladesh as a potential export base.

The country is already exporting human insulin produced locally, and plans are underway to expand exports of modern insulin.

"Bangladesh can become not only self-sufficient but also a global supplier," Thyagarajan said.

The ambition aligns with Bangladesh's broader push to move into high-value manufacturing sectors. The country's success in the garment industry — where it ranks among the world's top exporters — demonstrates its ability to

meet global standards.

"The same can be achieved in pharmaceuticals, particularly in biotechnology," he said.

The initiative also includes training local workers in advanced manufacturing processes, helping build a skilled workforce in a highly specialised field.

A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

Novo Nordisk has been present in Bangladesh since 1957, making it one of its earliest markets outside Europe.

At a time when several multinational pharmaceutical companies have scaled down operations in the country, the Danish firm says it remains committed.

"Our commitment is driven by patients,"

Thyagarajan said. "We are here not just as a business, but as a healthcare partner."

BEYOND DIABETES

The company is also expanding its focus beyond diabetes to include obesity, another growing health challenge.

More than one billion people globally are overweight or obese, a number expected to rise sharply by 2030. Bangladesh is also seeing a steady increase, with around 10 million affected.

"Obesity is a complex chronic disease, not just a lifestyle issue," Thyagarajan said.

Novo Nordisk has already introduced GLP-1-based treatments for diabetes and is working to bring similar therapies for obesity to Bangladesh.



জেলা পরিষদ

ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া

ফোনঃ ০৮৫১-৫৮৮০০, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৮৫১-৫৭৫৬৬

Web: <http://zp.brahmanbaria.gov.bd>, Email: ceo.zp.brahmanbaria@lgd.gov.bd, zpb.baria@gmail.com

স্মারক নম্বরঃ ৪৬.৪২.১২০০.০০০.০০১.৪৪.০০৮২.২৬.১১৫ তারিখঃ ১৪ বৈশাখ ১৪৩৩ বাংলা ২৭ এপ্রিল ২০২৬খ্রিঃ

পুকুর ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২৫-২০২৬

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া জেলা পরিষদের মালিকানাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত পুকুরগুলো ২০২৬-২০২৯ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য (১লা জুলাই ২০২৬ হতে ৩০ জুন ২০২৯ পর্যন্ত ৩ বৎসর মেয়াদে) ইজারার প্রদানের নিমিত্ত নির্ধারিত ফরমে পৃথক পৃথকভাবে সীলমোহেরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের সিডিউল নিম্নোক্ত ছকে ত্রয় ও দাখিল হবে। প্রতিটি দরপত্রের সঙ্গে উক্ত মূল্যের সমুদয় অর্থ, উক্ত মূল্যের উপর ১৫% মূল্য সংযোজন কর ও ১০% উৎস করের অর্থ যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (এমআইসিআর) আকারে প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, জেলা পরিষদ, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জেলা পরিষদ কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।

দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান		দরপত্র সিডিউল জমা/দাখিলের স্থান	
জেলা পরিষদ কার্যালয়, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া		জেলা পরিষদ কার্যালয়, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া	
জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া		জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া	
উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার, সদর/সরাইল/কসবা/নবীনগর/ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া।		--	

ইজারা ডাক	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১ম বার	১৯ মে ২০২৬ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)	২০ মে ২০২৬ সকাল ৯টা হতে বেলা ১টা পর্যন্ত	২০ মে ২০২৬ বেলা ৩:০০ ঘটিকায়
২য় বার	০২ জুন ২০২৬ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)	০৩ জুন ২০২৬ সকাল ৯টা হতে বেলা ১টা পর্যন্ত	০৩ জুন ২০২৬ বেলা ৩:০০ ঘটিকায়
৩য় বার	১০ জুন ২০২৬ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)	১১ জুন ২০২৬ সকাল ৯টা হতে বেলা ১টা পর্যন্ত	১১ জুন ২০২৬ বেলা ৩:০০ ঘটিকায়
৪র্থ বার	২২ জুন ২০২৬ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)	২৩ জুন ২০২৬ সকাল ৯টা হতে বেলা ১টা পর্যন্ত	২৩ জুন ২০২৬ বেলা ৩:০০ ঘটিকায়

পুকুরের নামঃ

ক্রমিক নং	পুকুরের নাম	উপজেলার নাম	মেয়াদকাল	সরকারি দর
১	শ্রীঘর পুকুর	নবীনগর	২০২৬-২০২৯ অর্থ বৎসর (১লা জুলাই ২০২৬ হতে ৩০ জুন ২০২৯ পর্যন্ত ০৩ (তিন) বৎসর মেয়াদে)।	৯৪,০৫০/-
২	বিদ্যাকুট পুকুর	ঐ	ঐ	৪,৩৮,৫৩৩/-
৩	মীরপুর পুকুর	ঐ	ঐ	১,৩৭,৫০০/-
৪	দুর্গইল পুকুর	ঐ	ঐ	১,১৪,৯৫০/-
৫	ডোবাজাইল পুকুর	সরাইল	ঐ	১,২৪,১১৬/-
৬	লোপাড়া পুকুর	ঐ	ঐ	২,০৬,৫৮০/-
৭	দেলী পুকুর	কসবা	ঐ	১,২৭,৪৫৩/-
৮	লেশিয়ারা পুকুর	ঐ	ঐ	৩১,৯০০/-

২৭.০৪.২০২৬

মোঃ আব্দুল কাসিম মিয়া
প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
জেলা পরিষদ, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া

GD-955

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

ঢাকা সামাজিক বন বিভাগ

বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।

E-mail: dfosfdhaka@gmail.com

“বৃক্ষরোপণে সাজাই দেশ
সবার আগে বাংলাদেশ”

স্মারক নং-২২.০১.০০০০.৪০৪.২৮.০০৪.২৫-৭০৩ তারিখঃ ২৯/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি.।

জাতীয় বৃক্ষরোপণ অভিযান ও বৃক্ষমেলা ২০২৬ উপলক্ষ্যে
স্টল বরাদ্দের আবেদনপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আসন্ন জাতীয় বৃক্ষরোপণ অভিযান ও বৃক্ষমেলা-২০২৬ শেরেবাংলা নগরস্থ বাংলাদেশ চীন মৈত্রী আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন কেন্দ্রের পশ্চিম পার্শ্বের মাঠে অনুষ্ঠিত হওয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত গৃহীত হয়েছে। উক্ত মেলায় অংশ গ্রহণ করতে ইচ্ছুক নার্সারী/নন-নার্সারী ও নার্সারী সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানকে স্টল বরাদ্দ পাওয়ার জন্য আগামী ১৪/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, ঢাকা সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২ এর বরাবরে নির্ধারিত ফরমে লিখিতভাবে আবেদন করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদন ফরম অত্র দপ্তর হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পাওয়া যাবে এবং বন অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েব সাইট www.bforest.gov.bd হতে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে। একটি নার্সারী/নন-নার্সারী ও নার্সারী সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের পক্ষে কেবলমাত্র একজন ব্যক্তি আবেদন করতে পারবেন এবং এক্ষেত্রে ব্যক্তি আবেদনকারী নিজে তার আবেদনপত্র যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট জমা প্রদান করে প্রাপ্তি স্বীকারপত্র গ্রহণ করবেন। কোন ক্রমেই একজন ব্যক্তি নিজ ব্যতিত অন্য ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের আবেদনপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে পারবেন না।

উল্লেখ্য যে, সরকারী, আধাসরকারী ও ব্যক্তিমালিকানাধীন নার্সারী/নন-নার্সারী ও নার্সারী সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকদের প্রতিটি স্টলের জন্য ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা একটি পে-অর্ডার শুধুমাত্র অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের ঢাকা মহানগরস্থ যে কোন শাখা হতে “বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, ঢাকা সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২” এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে উক্ত জমাকৃত অর্থের পে-অর্ডার, আবেদনকারীর সদ্য তোলা ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট ও ০২ (দুই) কপি স্ট্যাম্প সাইজের ছবি এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি সহ আবেদন ফরমে সংযুক্তির জন্য উল্লিখিত প্রযোজ্য কাগজপত্র/দলিলাদি/ছবি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। একজন আবেদনকারী/একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান সর্বোচ্চ দুইটি স্টলের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন তবে প্রত্যেক স্টলের জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা হারে পে-অর্ডার প্রদান করতে হবে। যারা স্টল বরাদ্দ পাবেন না তাদের পে-অর্ডার আবেদনের প্রেক্ষিতে ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।

জাতীয় বৃক্ষমেলা-২০২৬ এর স্টল বরাদ্দ সংক্রান্ত যে কোন তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে অফিস হতে জেনে নেওয়া যাবে।

(শারমীন আক্তার)
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
ঢাকা সামাজিক বন বিভাগ
বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২
ফোন-০২২২২২৮৩৫৩০
ও
সদস্য সচিব
স্টল বরাদ্দ উপ-কমিটি
জাতীয় বৃক্ষরোপণ অভিযান ও বৃক্ষমেলা-২০২৬।

GD-957

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)

Power Division

IEB Bhaban (9th-10th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000

www.sreda.gov.bd

INVITATION FOR TENDER

01	Ministry/Division	Power Division												
02	Agency	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources												
03	Procurement Entity Name	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)												
04	Invitation for	Member (Administration), SREDA												
05	Invitation Ref. No.	Procurement of Supply & Installation of VRF AC (for CHIGO Brand) Parts & repair with Related Services & Maintenance.												
06	Date	27.02.0000.013.99.086.24-181												
29 April, 2026														
KEY INFORMATION														
07	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National)												
FUNDING INFORMATION														
08	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget, GoB												
PARTICULAR INFORMATION														
09	Tender Name	Procurement of Supply & Installation of VRF AC (for CHIGO Brand) Parts & repair with Related Services & Maintenance.												
		<table><thead><tr><th>Date</th><th>Time</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>10 Tender Publication date</td><td>30 April, 2026</td></tr><tr><td>11 Tender Collection date</td><td>30 April, 2026</td></tr><tr><td>12 Tender Last Selling Date</td><td>09 May, 2026</td></tr><tr><td>13 Tender closing Date & Time</td><td>10 May, 2026 2:00 PM</td></tr><tr><td>14 Opening Date and Time</td><td>10 May, 2026 2:30 PM</td></tr></tbody></table>	Date	Time	10 Tender Publication date	30 April, 2026	11 Tender Collection date	30 April, 2026	12 Tender Last Selling Date	09 May, 2026	13 Tender closing Date & Time	10 May, 2026 2:00 PM	14 Opening Date and Time	10 May, 2026 2:30 PM
Date	Time													
10 Tender Publication date	30 April, 2026													
11 Tender Collection date	30 April, 2026													
12 Tender Last Selling Date	09 May, 2026													
13 Tender closing Date & Time	10 May, 2026 2:00 PM													
14 Opening Date and Time	10 May, 2026 2:30 PM													
15	Name & Address of the office: Selling, Receiving & Opening Tender Document	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) IEB Bhaban (9th-10th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000												
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER														
16	Eligibility of Tenderer	As per TDS												
17	Brief Description of Goods	As per schedule												
18	Brief Description of Related Services	As per schedule												
19	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 500/-												
20	Tender Security Amount	Tk. 12,000/-												
21	Official Inviting Tender	Name Chowdhury Md. Hamid Al Mahbub												
22		Designation Member (Administration)												
23		Address IEB Bhaban (9th-10th Floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000												
24	Contact details	Tel: +8802-55110338; e-mail: member.admin@sreda.gov.bd												
25	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.													

Chowdhury Md. Hamid Al Mahbub
Member (Administration) SREDA
Phone: + 8802-55110338
e-mail: member.admin@sreda.gov.bd

GD-962

Prime Bank, CPA launch co-branded Visa card to streamline port transactions

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC, in collaboration with the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), has launched the “CPA-Prime Bank Co-Branded Visa Card”, aiming to enhance financial convenience and offer benefits to stakeholders within the port ecosystem.

The card is designed to ensure seamless transactions, improve operational efficiency, and provide tailored financial solutions for individuals and businesses associated with the port community.

Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority, inaugurated the card as the chief guest at Sheraton Dhaka on Tuesday.

Moniruzzaman said, “We believe our initiative to advance digital transformation at the port will be strengthened by this partnership with



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, chairman of Chittagong Port Authority; Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank Foundation; and Faisal Rahman, acting chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a group photograph after inaugurating the “CPA-Prime Bank Co-Branded Visa Card” at Sheraton Dhaka on Tuesday.

Prime Bank. We congratulate all those involved in making this collaboration possible.

“This partnership will modernise the port’s payment system, making it more efficient and user-friendly, while simplifying business operations. Users will benefit from more secure and transparent transactions.

“We are confident that such initiatives will enhance operational efficiency and support the port’s continued growth.”

Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank Foundation, and Faisal Rahman, acting chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, attended the launch ceremony.

At the event, Chowdhury said, “We are proud to be associated with CPA, a key driver of Bangladesh’s economy. We believe this partnership will bring positive change to society.

Dollar gets safe-haven lift

REUTERS, Singapore/London

The dollar edged higher on Wednesday as investors awaited a closely watched Federal Reserve rate decision in what was likely to be Chair Jerome Powell’s swan song, against a backdrop of an Iran war that shows little sign of imminent resolution.

Activity was tempered by markets in Japan closing for a public holiday and by caution ahead of a string of major central bank decisions over the coming 48 hours, along with the likes of Amazon, Microsoft and Meta reporting earnings after Wednesday’s closing bell.

Against the dollar, the euro dipped 0.07 percent to \$1.1705 while sterling slipped 0.05 percent to \$1.3513, as both currencies edged further away from their highs earlier this month.

The euro is around 1 percent below where it was at the end of February when the war broke out, while the pound is roughly unchanged.

The Fed’s rate decision will later take centre stage. The central bank is widely expected to keep rates on hold, leaving the focus on policymakers’ assessment of the war’s impact on the economy and on Powell’s future.

Policy uncertainty

FROM PAGE B1

Nuria Lopez of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh said the main issue is not a lack of opportunity but weak investor confidence, adding that an unfriendly business environment and unclear policy direction continue to discourage foreign investment.

She also said that taxation places additional pressure on businesses, as authorities often rely heavily on compliant firms, especially multinationals, creating an uneven playing field.

Sector-specific lobbying limits competition and makes it harder for new firms to enter the market, she added.

Lopez further said that institutional weaknesses, energy shortages, and the lack of a clear investment roadmap are increasing uncertainty, warning that Bangladesh could fall behind regional competitors.

Margub Kabir of Margub

Kabir and Associates said trust is central to investment decisions and depends largely on dispute resolution.

He said Bangladesh remains weak in enforcing contracts and has previously ranked among the lowest globally due to a slow and overloaded judicial system.

Kabir also said arbitration, which foreign investors often prefer as it helps avoid court delays, offers limited benefit. This is because enforcing arbitral awards still requires going through the same lengthy court process, which reduces their effectiveness.

He added that the main problem is not a lack of laws but weak implementation, stressing the need to simplify procedures, appoint specialised commercial judges, and introduce faster enforcement systems.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said improving the business environment must begin with core infrastructure reforms.

He said a reliable energy supply is the most urgent need, especially for industries moving into higher-value production. He added that man-made fibre manufacturing requires uninterrupted power, as even short outages can stop production completely.

He also pointed to inefficiencies in key logistics routes, including the Dhaka-Chattogram highway and port operations, which are increasing costs and reducing competitiveness.

M Masrur Reaz of Policy Exchange Bangladesh said Bangladesh’s past growth has been driven largely by private sector investment, which helped manufacturing rise from 8 per cent of GDP decades ago to 25 per cent today.

However, he said

this momentum is now slowing, with private investment declining and foreign direct investment remaining below 1 per cent of GDP, far behind regional peers.

He said this slowdown comes at a critical time, as the country aims to become a \$1 trillion economy and create millions of jobs. These goals depend heavily on higher investment.

He added that the upcoming budget will be an important policy signal.

Reaz also highlighted practical challenges, including weak logistics, low productivity, energy shortages, and limited export diversification, which are worsened by fragmented reforms and poor coordination across sectors.

Farooq Ahmed, secretary general of MCCL, Sumitra Kumar Mutsuddi, head of corporate at BSRM, and Sumaiya T Ahmed, head of sustainability at Pran-RFL Group, also spoke at the event.

Airbus profits slide as deliveries drop

AFP, Paris

Airbus said Tuesday its first-quarter profit fell as it delivered fewer planes to customers, falling behind rival Boeing for the first time in years.

The drop in deliveries to 114 in the first quarter, compared to 143 for Boeing, was primarily due to a shortage of Pratt & Whitney engines.

Net profit slumped 26 percent from the same quarter last year to 586 million euros (\$686 million), with revenues sliding seven percent to 12.65 billion euros.

The first quarter results “reflect the lower level of commercial aircraft deliveries”, said Airbus chief executive Guillaume Faury.

“In commercial aircraft, we continue to ramp up and produce as per our plan while navigating the shortage of Pratt & Whitney engines,” he added.

Listed MNCs

FROM PAGE B1

Robi Axiata bucked the trend, with profits rising 33 percent year-on-year to Tk 937 crore in 2025.

Marico and Berger Paints, which follow a March fiscal year-end, were excluded from the analysis.

The outlook for MNCs, Shahidul said, has darkened sharply in recent months.

A few months ago, conditions looked promising, but the US-Israel war on Iran has introduced new uncertainty.

“Now, the outlook depends on the war, thus the oil price. The overall economic situation may worsen if oil prices rise and the war is prolonged. It will impact the performance of the companies,” he added.



GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

Open Tender (International) for Petroleum Products

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	Procuring Entity Name	General Manager (Com. & Ops.), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
4	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram, Bangladesh.
5	Invitation for	Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 Cst and Gasoline 95 Unleaded during “June 1 st to August 31 st , 2026”.
6	Invitation Ref. No	28.03.0000.000.045.01.0013.26.
7	Date	30 th April, 2026
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Source of Funds	Own Fund
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	Tender Package No.	PG-03 and PG-04
11	Tender Package Name	PG-03: Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 Cst. PG-04: Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoline 95 Unleaded .
12	Tender Publication Date	30/04/2026
13	Tender Last Selling Date and time	13/05/2026; 4:00 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
14	Tender Closing Date and time	14/05/2026; 12:30 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
15	Tender Opening Date and time	Date: 14/05/2026 ; PG-03: 12:45 PM (BST) (GMT+6) PG-04: 01:30 PM (BST) (GMT+6)
16	Name and Address of the Office(s)	
17	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh.
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BTMC Bhaban, Level-10, 7-9 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
	Receiving Tender Document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100.
	Opening Tender Document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100.
18	Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting	Virtual Meeting (Zoom Platform). 06/05/2026; 12:45 PM (GMT+6)
19	Tender Validity/ Offer Validity Period	The Offer must be valid till 22/06/2026.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

20	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer		(i) A maximum of three (03) litigation history against the tenderer over a period of the last three (03) years. (ii) The Tenderer(s) must have minimum 3 (Three) years' general experience in the export of petroleum products. (iii) The Tenderer(s) must have specific experience of executing at least 02 (two) contracts with a minimum value of USD 75.00 Million each in last three years in the supply of goods similar to the proposed goods. (iv) The Tenderer(s) must own refinery(ies) or more than 50% equity of a refinery. The processing capacity of the refinery(ies) must be at least 2.00 million metric tons per year. Or, The Tenderer(s) must satisfactorily complete the export of at least 2.50 million Metric tons of petroleum products annually for the last three years. (v) Annual turnover of the Tenderers during last 3(three) years must be equivalent to minimum US\$ 1.50 billion. (vi) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital facility must be US\$ 1.00 billion. (vii) The Tenderer(s) must be free from any interdictory/embargo/sanction from international organization like UNO, OPEC, WTO etc. (viii) The Tenderer(s) must comply with international safety standard and environment compliances.	
21	Brief Description of Goods		PG-03: The total quantity to be supplied is 150,000-200,000 Metric Tons of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 Cst (+/-10% at Buyer's Option).	
			PG-04: The total quantity to be supplied 0.215 - 0.430 Million Barrels (25,000-50,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoline 95 Unleaded (+/-10% for Buyer's Option).	
Minimum and Maximum range of importable quantity for each package is at Buyer's option.				
22	Tender Document Price		Tender Document Price: BDT 12,000.00 / US\$ 100.00 for each package, Non-Refundable by Cash / Pay Order / Bank Draft drawn in favor of "Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation".	
23	Package No	Identification	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time
	PG-03 and PG-04	PG-03	USD 0.30 Million	01 st June – 31 st August 2026 (3 Months)
		PG-04	USD 0.20 Million	01 st June – 31 st August 2026 (3 Months)

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

24	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Zahid Hossain
25	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Commercial & Operations), BPC.
26	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh.
27	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No: +88-02-3333-16121 Mobile: +88 01713755377/+880 1762-921229 Fax No: +88 2333320147 Email: gm_commercial@bpc.gov.bd

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

Mohammad Zahid Hossain
General Manager (Commercial & Operations)
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)



Zila Parishad, Sylhet

www.zp.sylhet.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.60.9100.001.01.002.26.857(50)

Date: 28-04-2026

e-Tender Notice No. 09/2025-2026 (OTM)

e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following work:

Sl No.	e-Tender ID No. & Package No.	Name of works
1	Tender ID No: 1260630 e/zpsyl/2025-26/RB-21	Construction of Chief Executive Officer's residence, Zilla Parishad, Sylhet.
2	Tender ID No: 1260631 e/zpsyl/2025-26/RB-23	Construction of Cycling Track, Road side wall with Grill, Putting Lamp post and Renovation main building interior decoration with colour at Nolja Dakbanglow, Gowainghat Upazila.
Tender publication date & time		: 28 April 2026 15.00
Tender documents last selling date & time		: 12 May 2026 15.00
Tender closing & opening date & time		: 13 May 2026 14.00

These are 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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) as well as Sylhet Zila Parishad Contractor License (2025-2026) shall be 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. The Authority reserve the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceeding. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Moyazzem Hossain
Assistant Engineer
Zila Parishad, Sylhet

Oil prices rise further

AFP, Hong Kong

Oil prices rose Wednesday as talks to end the Iran war appeared to be at a standstill and the crucial Strait of Hormuz no nearer being reopened.

While the White House has said Donald Trump and his team were considering Tehran's latest proposal to restore traffic through the waterway, CNN and the Wall Street Journal said the president was sceptical.

The Islamic republic this week submitted a plan that would reportedly see it ease the chokehold and Washington lift its retaliatory blockade on the country's ports as talks continued, including over its nuclear programme.

While US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Iran's proposal was "better than what we thought they were going to submit", he insisted any eventual deal had to be "one that definitively prevents them from sprinting towards a nuclear weapon".



Farmers wash freshly harvested potatoes beside a pond in Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha, as growers struggle to sell amid a supply glut that has outpaced demand this year.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

Higher exports bring no relief to potato farmers

Retail price in Dhaka remains the same as last year, as per TCB

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

Potato exports this year so far surpass last year's figures by 10.7 percent, yet that is not enough to cover a surplus in production and bring relief to farmers.

As per provisional data from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), so far, approximately 1.17 crore tonnes of potatoes have been produced this year, compared to about 1.15 crore tonnes last year. This indicates a possible increase of over 200,000 tonnes year-on-year.

The official Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data on potato production is yet to be published, however.

On the other hand, according to the DAE, the Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA), and the Bangladesh Potato Exporters Association, the annual demand for potatoes in Bangladesh is 85 to 90 lakh tonnes.

BCSA said 36 lakh tonnes of potatoes are currently stored in cold storage, which is 1 lakh tonnes more than last year.

Meanwhile, the Plant Quarantine Wing of the DAE shared that potato exports in

FY26 so far (as of April 29) were 52,293 tonnes. Exports in FY25 till April 30 stood at 47,225 tonnes. The increase stands at a little over 5,000 tonnes, not nearly enough to cover the excess production this year.

Experts in this sector have blamed several factors for the meagre exports, namely, low cultivation of export-quality potatoes and higher production costs than neighbouring nations.

GAP BETWEEN PRODUCTION AND EXPORT

AKM Mafidul Islam, deputy director (export) of the Plant Quarantine Wing, said the export momentum is better this year compared to previous years.

"Furthermore, the Vietnamese market has recently opened up for Bangladeshi potato exporters."

He remained hopeful that potato exports would rise this year.

Ferdousi Begum, chairman of the Bangladesh Potato Exporters Association, said, "The demand for potatoes in Bangladesh is only 85 lakh tonnes, but we have had a surplus since 2007."

"There is not much demand for Bangladeshi potatoes anywhere except Malaysia."

Some go to Nepal, but the potatoes get damp from rain in July during the loading and unloading process, and it lowers the quality, she said.

Mostofa Chowdhury Babu, president of the BCSA, said, "The main problem with exporting potatoes from Bangladesh is that

KEY POINTS

➡ Potato output to exceed last year's 1.15cr tonnes

➡ Exports up 10.7% y-o-y so far this fiscal year

➡ Bangladesh has had a surplus since 2007

➡ Annual demand for potato is 85 lakh tonnes

the production cost is higher than in neighbouring countries."

"This year, the cost of producing one kilogramme of potatoes in the Northern districts was Tk 15 and Tk 19 in Munshiganj. In contrast, the production cost in India is around Tk 10. Due to this, Nepal is buying from India instead of Bangladesh this year, Babu said.

"Furthermore, the cultivation of export-quality potatoes in Bangladesh is still significantly low."

GROWING FRUSTRATION FOR POTATO GROWERS

Farmers have complained of low prices despite a record harvest.

Rafiqul Islam, a farmer from Chhatianpara village in Bogura's Shibganj upazila, said his potato crop on 9 bighas of land was damaged by rain. Despite the government's assurances, he has yet to receive any assistance.

Abdul Motin, a farmer at Shibganj's Kichak bazar, a major hub for potato wholesalers, said that the price of local variety 'Pakri' potatoes has dropped by half compared to the start of the season. The surplus supplies have kept prices low, he told this correspondent, while farmers are struggling to sell off the excess.

Discouraged by the lack of profit, Sakiul Islam, a farmer from Rajahar village in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila, said he plans to only grow enough potatoes for personal consumption in the future.

Nayeem Islam, a farmer from Biala

village in Joypurhat's Kalai upazila, said he plans to drop potato cultivation entirely from next year.

Meanwhile, retail prices for potatoes in Dhaka have remained between Tk 20 and Tk 25 per kilogramme, as per the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB). The prices were the same this time last year.

LIKELY MEASURES TO CONTAIN THE CRISIS

Farmers are currently producing more potatoes than needed, said Abdur Rahim, director general of the DAE.

"For this reason, the government is working to increase potato usage by processing them alongside exports."

He said the government plans to create a database in the future using farmer cards.

"We will then be able to determine exactly how much land should be used for potato cultivation based on national demand," the DG added.

Talking to The Daily Star, prominent agricultural economist Jahangir Alam Khan listed several measures the government could take to mitigate this crisis.

"This year, the government could set a minimum procurement price for potatoes."

He suggested the government buy and store at least 10 percent of the total production at this fixed price to stabilise the market, releasing the potatoes later when prices rise.

Bangladesh's withheld IMF tranche and the limits of stabilisation

FAHIM CHOWDHURY

When the IMF's Asia-Pacific director signalled to Bangladesh's delegation in Washington last week that the expected \$1.3 billion tranche would not be released in June, the key message was not financial but what Bangladesh can credibly offer in return, and what it cannot.

The Spring Meetings' macro position was the strongest in three years. Gross reserves are roughly \$35 billion, the BPM6 measure is above \$30 billion for the first time since mid-2023, and March remittances reached a record \$3.75 billion. At this level, the IMF pause signals reform credibility rather than liquidity.

The four unmet conditions remain unchanged: revenue mobilisation, banking governance, removal of electricity and gas subsidies, and a market-determined exchange rate. All were agreed under the \$4.7 billion programme approved in January 2023 and expanded to \$5.5 billion in June 2025. All have been monitored. None has moved materially in eighteen months. The interim administration stabilised the currency and rebuilt reserves, but did not deliver structural reform.

Pakistan in 2014 is a relevant comparison. It entered a three-year IMF programme in September 2013 with reserves near \$6 billion, an 8 percent fiscal deficit, and similar reform conditions. By mid 2014, reviews had stalled on comparable structural issues.

The difference was what Pakistan could offer. I worked on the privatisation of state oil and gas firms during that programme. The value was not only revenue but a pipeline of sellable state assets. When the Oil and Gas Development Company's follow-on was delayed in November 2014 due to falling oil prices, the IMF accepted it because the broader privatisation programme remained intact. A credible monetisation pipeline strengthens negotiating position.

That lever is absent in Bangladesh. It has never issued a Eurobond. Commercial borrowing is around 11 percent of external debt, with the rest largely concessional. This worked when multilateral flows were predictable, but becomes a vulnerability as LDC graduation on November 24, 2026 (or delayed) shifts financing terms, and IMF support is uncertain.

There is also no asset pipeline. The BSEC has identified fifteen profitable state-owned enterprises and multinational subsidiaries for listing over three years, but none have progressed. Banks are under restructuring, with the ADB's \$500 million banking sector support focused on stabilisation, not privatisation. The Sammilito Islami Bank merger, formalised in December, remains far from saleable.

The core constraint is fiscal, not external. Tax-to-GDP fell to 6.56 percent in FY25, below the programme assumption of 7.9 percent for FY24, with projections reaching 10.5 percent only by FY35. The Centre for Policy Dialogue has repeatedly highlighted this, and Fahmida Khatun has stressed rising debt-service pressure as LDC graduation approaches. Without revenue mobilisation, remittance-led stabilisation will fade, and monetary policy will carry an unsustainable burden.

A programme lapse would not cause immediate stress, given strong reserves, but the structural cost would be significant. ADB and World Bank operations are cross-conditioned on IMF continuity and would be reoriented if it fails. The policy anchor would weaken just as graduation removes concessional financing advantages.

Between now and the October Annual Meetings, a credible alternative is needed. A B2/negative Eurobond would be costly. More viable options include a remittance-backed Sukuk, a diaspora instrument, or partial listing of a profitable state entity. The Finance Ministry could task the central bank and Privatisation Commission with a monetisation pipeline before the June ECOSOC meetings.

Stabilisation without reform is a rolling arrangement. The challenge is what can credibly be placed on the table in return.

The writer is managing director at RetailBook, a London Stock Exchange platform backed by Rothschild & Co and Jefferies, and has worked on over 500 transactions raising more than \$200 billion across more than 30 markets.

UAE exit from Opec to boost supply, lower oil prices

Russia says

REUTERS, Moscow

Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said on Wednesday that the decision by the United Arab Emirates to leave Opec will mean the oil-producing countries will boost production, bringing down global prices in the future.

Russia is a member of the Opec+ group of countries and has been coordinating its policies with Opec members. Russia is seen as the main beneficiary of the spike in global oil prices due to the war in the Middle East.

"Today we hear that one of the countries, the United Arab Emirates, is leaving Opec. What does this mean? It means that the country can produce as much oil as its production capacities allow and release it onto the market," Siluanov said.

Siluanov's comments marked Russia's first reaction to the surprise UAE exit. Russia has strong ties with both the UAE and Opec leader Saudi Arabia.

"If Opec countries conduct their policies in an uncoordinated manner (after UAE exit) and produce as much oil as their production capacities allow and as much as they want, prices will go down accordingly," he added.

He stressed that for now the oil prices were supported by the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and that his predictions of oversupply referred to the situation when the passage would open at some point in the future.

Lending rates to be brought down to tolerable level: commerce minister

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Double-digit bank lending rates will be brought down to a tolerable level to make them more investment-friendly, Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir said yesterday.

Industries such as textiles cannot survive with high-cost financing under the current double-digit interest rate regime, the minister said.

Muktadir was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the four-day Bangladesh International Textile, Knitting and Garment Industry Exhibition (BTKE Expo 2026), held at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka.

Energy shortages and high interest rates, ranging between 13 and 14 percent, remain major challenges for the garment and textile sectors, he added.

Bangladesh requires around 4,300 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) of gas, while domestic production stands between 1,700 and 2,300 MMCFD, with an additional 900 MMCFD supplied through imported liquefied natural gas (LNG).

This leaves a deficit of around 1,400 to 1,700 MMCFD. To address this gap, the government is willing to increase LNG imports.

Infrastructure limitations also remain a challenge. Currently, the country has two floating storage and regasification

units (FSRUs) with a combined capacity of around 1,100 MMCFD, operating at about 90 percent efficiency.

The government plans to invite tenders for additional FSRUs to expand gas supply and support gas-based industries, he said.

Emphasising the importance of energy security, he said any disruption in fuel

supply would severely affect industrial production and overall economic activity.

In the longer term, the government is prioritising renewable energy and plans to fast-track the generation of 10,000 MW of solar power.

The minister said the government is taking steps to simplify licensing



Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir speaks at the inaugural ceremony of the four-day international textile, knitting and garment industry exhibition, titled "BTKE Expo 2026", at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: BKMEA