

Shopping hours extended to 10pm ahead of Eid

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Shops and shopping malls across the country will remain open until 10:00pm, instead of 7:00pm, from May 12 until Eid-ul-Azha, Shop Owners Association said yesterday.

Helal Uddin, president of the association, confirmed the development to The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

In a video message, he said the association had requested the government to allow shops and shopping malls to stay open until 11:00pm for Eid-ul-Azha.

"The government has permitted us to keep shops open until 10:00pm. At the same time, we have been instructed not to use excessive lighting or electricity," he said.

Due to the energy crisis, the government on April 3 directed shops and shopping malls to close by 6:00pm.

Later, following a meeting with business associations, the closing time was extended by one hour from April 5, allowing businesses to operate until 7:00pm.

Sasso expands in Bangladesh with Kazi Farms

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Sasso Hendrix Genetics Group, a global multi-species breeding company, has partnered with Bangladesh's Kazi Farms to launch a grandparent project in Bangladesh, aiming to sustainably strengthen the local poultry supply and support long term growth in the country.

The objective of this agreement is to produce Sasso genetics parent stock locally in Bangladesh to meet growing domestic demand in a market that is considered highly strategic for Sasso Hendrix Genetics Group, according to a press release.

Bangladesh is one of the most

dynamic markets for low-growing, coloured, high quality chicken — a segment in which Sasso is currently the market leader in the country, the statement read.

This new project will further improve product availability, customer responsiveness, and market proximity, while maintaining the highest genetic, quality, and biosecurity standards, it added.

This partnership builds on a long standing collaboration of more than 18 years between Sasso and Kazi Farms. Over the years, both companies have developed a solid relationship based on trust, shared values, and a common vision of quality, sustainability, and

performance, it mentioned.

Kazi Farms' production standards are fully aligned with the requirements of an international genetic selection group such as Hendrix Genetics, as well as with the values carried by the Sasso brand, it added.

In the same spirit of proximity and customer focus, Sasso Hendrix Genetics Group has also decided to establish a local subsidiary called Sasso Bangladesh.

The objective of this new entity is to better support customers locally by providing enhanced technical, commercial, and strategic assistance directly in the field, it mentioned.

bKash honours top supply chain partners

STAR BUSINESS DESK

bKash Limited, the country's leading mobile financial service provider, recently organised the "bKash Partner Excellence Award 2026" to recognise the contributions of its supply chain partners in ensuring seamless services for millions of customers nationwide.

In its sixth edition, the award programme honoured 17 top supply chain partners across eight categories for outstanding performance and commitment to operational excellence, compliance, integrity, proactive support and collaboration, and partner profile management.

The ceremony celebrated the long-standing relationships between bKash and its supply chain partners, highlighting their role in supporting the company's nationwide operations.

Winners in each category were presented with crests and certificates as recognition of their achievements.

Prime mover workers' strike ends after 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Import, export, and other operations at most factories under three export processing zones (EPZs) in Chattogram were badly disrupted for the last three days due to a strike enforced by prime mover workers, which ended yesterday evening.

Drivers and helpers of container carrying prime movers, particularly engaged in transporting import and export containers between Chattogram port and the factories under Chattogram EPZ (CEPZ), Karnaphuli EPZ, and Korean EPZ (KEPZ), enforced the strike from Monday morning over several demands.

Their demands included an increase in monthly wages and other allowances paid by vehicle owners, as well as the implementation of appointment letters.

However, the workers withdrew their strike following a fruitful tripartite meeting convened in the afternoon by Additional Commissioner (Traffic) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) Wahidul Hoque Chowdhury.

Md Hasan Mahmud, joint secretary of the Chattogram District Prime Mover Trailer Workers Union, said the workers had been demanding a raise in the monthly basic wage from Tk 6,000 to Tk 11,000.

At the meeting, vehicle owners promised to meet the demands, including raising the monthly basic wage to Tk 8,000, Mahmud said, adding that the workers withdrew the strike following this assurance.

CEPZ Executive Director Moshuiddin Bin Meshah said many of the 137 factories in the CEPZ suffered due to the strike, as a major portion of their imports and exports transported in containers got stuck.

Complex rules

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operating at one of the container terminals, he noted, adding that similar partnerships would be expanded further.

Muktadir also highlighted the heavy fiscal burden created by loss-making state-owned enterprises, many of which occupy vast tracts of underutilised land.

The government intends to bring these industrial assets under private sector investment within the next two years, he said, so they can generate employment, investment and revenue.

Referring to state-owned sugar mills and factories under the industries, jute and textile ministries, he said many of the facilities were established decades ago under a different economic reality and now require modernisation or repurposing.

The minister argued that idle industrial land could be transformed into hubs for diversified manufacturing activities, creating large-scale employment opportunities.

Turning specifically to the packaging sector, he said the industry's global market size offers enormous opportunities for Bangladesh.

"The global packaging industry is worth more than a trillion dollars. Bangladesh should not limit its ambitions to a tiny

share of the market," he said.

He urged entrepreneurs to think bigger and expand their global footprint, assuring them of policy support from the government.

Speaking at the event, BPPIA President Safius Sami Alamgir said the sector has evolved from an import-dependent industry into a Tk 18,000 crore market that now meets around 80 percent of domestic demand.

He said the global packaging market is currently worth \$1.3 trillion and could reach \$1.8 trillion by 2035, presenting a significant opportunity for Bangladesh.

"If Bangladesh can capture even 1 percent of the market, it could generate \$13 billion in exports," he said.

Alamgir described packaging manufacturers as the "invisible backbone" behind major consumer brands and said the sector could replicate the success of the ready-made garment industry through competitive manufacturing.

However, he called for policy reforms, citing double taxation, difficulties in obtaining tax refunds and uneven competition as major obstacles to growth.

Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Vice

Chairman Mohammad Hasan Arif highlighted the packaging industry's growing role in Bangladesh's export diversification efforts, pledging institutional support to expand the sector's global footprint.

Arif said the government had already recognised the industry's potential by declaring paper and packaging products as the "Product of the Year" for 2026.

He noted that the EPB had earlier organised discussions on the sector's challenges and opportunities during the Dhaka International Trade Fair, where several policy recommendations emerged.

The EPB now plans to support local exporters in participating in at least one or two international packaging exhibitions in fiscal year 2026-27, he said, assuring exporters of continued institutional backing to strengthen global market access.

Rashedul Haque, managing director of Exponet Exhibition Private Limited, said a total of 140 companies from home and abroad are displaying their products and technologies through 360 stalls at the expo. Of them, 25 companies from China are taking part in the event. The fair will continue until May 9.

Ex-owners unlikely

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The remaining 92.5 percent is to be repaid within two years at 10 percent simple interest.

The provision has drawn criticism from economists and policy experts, who say it risks rewarding those linked to past financial mismanagement rather than ensuring accountability.

Against this backdrop, five sponsor shareholders and former directors of SIBL submitted an application to the BB last month seeking to regain control of the bank.

BB Spokesperson Khan said the application is currently under review but indicated that the demands are unlikely to be accepted.

APPLICANTS SAY APPLICATION MADE UNDER NEW LAW

The applicants are led by Maj (Retd) Md Rezaul Haque, former chairman and sponsor shareholder of SIBL.

Maj (Retd) Haque, who chaired the board until October 30, 2017, was joined by sponsor shareholders Hakim Md Yousuf Harun Bhuiyan, managing director and chief mutawalli of Hamdard Laboratories Waqf, and Sultan Mahmood Chowdhury.

The other applicants

are former shareholder director Alia Begum and shareholder Md Zabedul Alam Chowdhury.

Maj (Retd) Haque is currently suffering from age-related health complications and unable to move around properly.

Following the fall of the Awami League-led government in August 2024, the central bank dissolved the board, which had been heavily influenced by controversial conglomerate S Alam Group, and formed a new one that included Maj (Retd) Haque as a director.

However, he was absent from most meetings due to his health condition.

Maksuda Begum, an independent director appointed by the BB after the political changeover, said Maj (Retd) Haque attended meetings occasionally but was unable to stay for long due to illness.

Md Zabedul Alam Chowdhury, a former shareholder and one of the applicants to reclaim the bank, said they had applied in line with regulations.

"We have applied according to the rules. We will fulfil all the conditions. If we get the bank back, we will bring in new investors," he told The Daily Star.

He added that the

bank would operate more effectively if the application were approved.

IRREGULARITIES LED TO THE MERGER

The five banks were brought under the merger process after forensic audits following the political changeover in 2024 found extensive loan irregularities and financial mismanagement.

The lenders faced acute liquidity shortages and were unable to repay depositors, prompting emergency intervention by the interim government.

The banks had been controlled by politically connected groups.

EXIM Bank was previously under Nazrul Islam Mazumder, former chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks, while the other four were linked to family members of Mohammed Saiful Alam, chairman of S Alam Group.

Allegations of large-scale irregularities and fund embezzlement during the previous government led to a sharp deterioration in their financial health.

As of September 2024, the combined outstanding loans of those five banks stood at Tk 1,92,787 crore, while total deposits were Tk 1,58,918 crore, according to BB data.

65% of healthcare

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Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, former planning adviser to the interim government, criticised the Ministry of Health for failing to understand actual demand and execute projects.

"Even though the budget for health is relatively small, the authorities are often unable to spend it. This indicates a profound lack of institutional capacity," he said.

Prof Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, the prime minister's adviser on finance and planning, said the government views healthcare not merely as a service but as a fundamental right.

"While there is often a trade-off in resource allocation, our rights-based approach compels us to prioritise essential care," he said.

Cabinet clears

FOR HSD-based generation, the tariff was set at US cents 19.298 per kilowatt-hour, equivalent to Tk 23.698 per unit.

The committee also approved electricity purchase from the 410 MW Bheramara Combined Cycle Power Plant, established by NWPGL, under a re-determined levelised tariff structure.

A proposal to purchase 163 vehicles for the Rapid Action Battalion at an estimated cost of Tk 122.27 crore was also cleared by the committee.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also

According to him, the government is considering mandating at least three critical services across all 250-bed hospitals: cardiac coronary units (CCUs) to address rising heart-related emergencies, kidney dialysis to ensure accessible treatment for chronic kidney disease, and complex gynaecological and obstetric care to safeguard maternal health.

"To prevent waste and enhance efficiency, we are introducing the e-Health Card project. Digitalising health records will streamline service delivery," the PM's adviser also said.

Nutrition programmes are also central to the government's strategy, as unaddressed deficiencies place the wider healthcare system under continued strain, he added.

power import subsidies at its 13th meeting yesterday.

The committee gave in-principle approval to the draft Bangladesh Offshore Model Production Sharing Contract (PSC) 2026, proposed by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division.

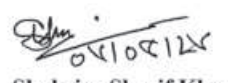
"It also granted partial in-principle approval to a proposal from the Power Division to include electricity imports — from joint ventures, the Adani Power Jharkhand project, and other sources in India and Nepal — in the government's subsidy list, with the aim of ensuring uninterrupted power supply.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Memo No. 35.01.4240.432.04.001.25-660 Dated: 06/05/2026

Invitation of RHD Quotation for Ferry Toll Collection (6th Call)

Sl. No.	Lease Quotation Notice No.	Lease-02/2025-2026/JRD
1	Lease Quotation Notice No.	Lease-02/2025-2026/JRD
2	Name of Quotation	Lease for Toll Collection from Kachua Ferry at 6 km of Binapani-Kachua-Betagi-Mirjaganj-Patakhali (Z-8052) (Jhalakati Part) Road during 03 (three) financial years under Jhalakati Road Division.
3	Lease implementation period	3 (three) financial years (1095-day).
4	Price of lease quotation schedule	Tk. 2,000.00 (two thousand) per set.
5	Security money	10% of Quoted Rate. (including VAT and Tax) (In favour of Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jhalakati in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft.)
6	Quotation last selling date	20/05/2026 up to office hour (4:00pm).
7	Tender closing date and time	21/05/2026 at 12:00pm.
8	Eligibility of lease quotationer	All interested Persons/Firms regardless of whether enlisted or not with the employer may submit Quotation provide that they are otherwise qualified who can fulfill the qualification criteria stipulated in the Quotation's document.
9	Selling quotation document	Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/ DC Office, Jhalakati EE (RHD), Road Division- Jhalakati/Barisal/Bhola/Pirojpur/Planning Division-1, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/SDE (RHD) Road Sub-Division, Jhalakati.
10	Receiving quotation document	EE (RHD), Road Division, Jhalakati. SE (RHD), Barisal Road Circle, Barisal. DC Office, Jhalakati
11	Quotation opening place, date & time	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jhalakati 21/05/2026 at 2:00pm.
12	a	The concern authority reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Quotations.
	b	If it is not possible to receive/open the Quotation the Schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time and same venue.
	c	The Quotationer will quote the rate in figures & words.
	d	This Quotation Notice will also be seen at RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd .


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GD-1047

বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
সভার, ঢাকা-১৩৪১
আমিবেই শক্তি, আমিবেই সুখি


স্মারক নং- ৩৩.০৫.২৬২২.২০৪.০৯.০০১.১৮ (সংশ-৪)-১৫৬
তারিখঃ ০৭/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রি.

নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, সভার, ঢাকা এবং বিএলআরআই অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, বাঘাবাড়ি, সিরাজগঞ্জ ও বিএলআরআই অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, পোশাগাতি, রাঙ্গামাটি-তে গবেষণার অনুরোধেই সুখি ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালিত নিলামে বিক্রয় করা হবে। এতদসঙ্গে, বাংলাদেশী ব্যবসায়ী/ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান-কে নিলাম দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য নির্দেশক্রমে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

১. দরপত্রের নাম: বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, সভার, ঢাকা।
২. নিলাম দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান:
 - ক) বিএলআরআই, সদর দপ্তর, সভার, ঢাকা-তে ১২ (বিএলআই) টি ছাপল ও ১১০ (একশত দশ) টি ভেড়া।
 - খ) বিএলআরআই অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, বাঘাবাড়ি, সিরাজগঞ্জ-তে ২০ (বিশ) টি গুঁড়।
 - গ) বিএলআরআই অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, পোশাগাতি, রাঙ্গামাটি-তে ০৮ (আট) টি গুঁড় ও ০৪ (চৌদ্দ) টি ছাপল।
৩. প্রদানের বিধি ও লটারি প্রদানের স্থান: দরপত্র (সিডিএস মোতাবেক)।
৪. প্রদানের স্থান: বিএলআরআই অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, বাঘাবাড়ি, সিরাজগঞ্জ-তে ০৩ (তিন) কাবিন্দরে মোহো।
৫. দরপত্রের মেয়াদ: অগ্রহী বাংলাদেশী ব্যবসায়ী/ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নিলাম দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
৬. নিলাম দরপত্র সিডিএসের মূল্য: প্রতি সেট সিডিএসের মূল্য ০০০.০০ (তিনশত) টাকা মাত্র (অফিসেরযোগে)।
৭. জামানত প্রদানের বিধি: প্রতিটি সেট দরপত্রে সহিহ আঙ্ক বাবে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হইতে মহাপ্রতিষ্ঠান, বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, সভার, ঢাকা এর বরাবরে সেট প্রতি ১০,০০০/= (দশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার জামানত হিসাবে প্রদানের লটারি সহিহ শর্তে করিতে হইবে। দাবিকৃত দরপত্রে সাথে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট মূল কপি সংযুক্ত করে স্বাক্ষর করা দিতে হবে।
৮. দরপত্র সিডিএস বিক্রয়ের স্থান:
 - ক) সিবি প্রকৌশলী, বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, সভার, ঢাকা (সদর দপ্তর, অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, বাঘাবাড়ি, সিরাজগঞ্জ ও অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, পোশাগাতি, রাঙ্গামাটি-এর সকল প্রকার দরপত্র সিডিএস বিক্রয় করা হইবে)।
 - খ) ইন্টার অফিস, বিএলআরআই অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, বাঘাবাড়ি, সিরাজগঞ্জ (শুধুমাত্র উক্ত কেন্দ্রের প্রাণিসম্পদের দরপত্র সিডিএস বিক্রয় করা হইবে)।
 - গ) ইন্টার অফিস, বিএলআরআই অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, পোশাগাতি, রাঙ্গামাটি (শুধুমাত্র উক্ত কেন্দ্রের প্রাণিসম্পদের দরপত্র সিডিএস বিক্রয় করা হইবে)।
৯. দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান:
 - ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, সভার, ঢাকা-এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত বাসে সদর দপ্তর, অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, বাঘাবাড়ি, সিরাজগঞ্জ ও অঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র, পোশাগাতি, রাঙ্গামাটি-এর প্রাণিসম্পদের দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা দিতে হবে।
১০. সিডিএস বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ: আগামী ১৭/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রি: তারিখ (অফিস সন্মুখীন পর্যন্ত)।
১১. দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়: আগামী ১৮/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রি: তারিখ দুপুর ১১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২. দরপত্র খোলা, সূচনামানের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান: আগামী ১৮/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রি: তারিখ দুপুর ১১:০০ ঘটিকার সময়ে কক্ষ (গেট ভাঙা), বাংলাদেশ প্রাণিসম্পদ গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, সভার, ঢাকা-তে উপস্থিত দরদার (যদি কেউ থাকেন) সম্মুখে বাসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র খোলা ও সূচনামান করা হবে।
১৩. বিধি নির্দেশনা:
 - ক) দরপত্র গ্রহণের দিন কোন দরপত্র বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।
 - খ) প্রাকৃতিক দুর্ভাগ্য বা অন্য কোন কারণে কার্য নিবন্ধ হইলে পরবর্তী কার্য বিধিরে নির্ধি সমসূচী অনুযায়ী বর্নিত স্থানে নিলাম দরপত্র সক্রিয় কার্য সম্পাদন করা হইবে। এই জন্য আলাদাভাবে কোন বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারী করা হইবে না।
 - গ) নিলামযোগ্য প্রাণির সংখ্যা কমবেশী হতে পারে।
 - ঘ) দরদার দরপত্র সাফল্য রান্নাযোগে বা সুরিয়ার সার্ভিস যোগে নির্ধারিত স্থানে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যেই স্ব স্ব অফিসের দরপত্র উক্ত অফিসে দাখিল করতে পারবেন।
 - ঙ) অগ্রহী ক্রেতামণ আগামী ১০/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রি: তারিখ হইতে প্রাণিসম্পদ সূচনামান হইবে। যথাসময়ে সূচনামান হইলে সেদিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে।
 - চ) কোন কাল দরদারকে বাতিলের যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা তৎকালীন সূচনামান হইবে।

স্বাক্ষর: (৩'১০ কলাম)


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