

Bring down corporate tax for private sector

Business leaders say Bangladesh should remain competitive with regional peers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The corporate tax rate for the private sector should be reduced to remain competitive in attracting foreign investors and supporting industrial growth, business leaders said yesterday.

"Bangladesh should reduce the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 25 percent to remain competitive with regional economies such as Vietnam, India, and Indonesia, which attract investment through favourable tax policies," said Tarek Rafi Bhuiyan Jun, president of the Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI).

He made the remarks at a press conference organised by the chamber at Ascott The Residence in Baridhara, Dhaka, yesterday.

Lower corporate tax would spur industrial expansion, create jobs, and boost long-term revenue through increased economic activity, he said.

The trade body urged the government to restore the 15 percent corporate tax rate for the textile sector, which was raised to 25 percent in FY2025-26, saying the higher rate could hurt export competitiveness and business sustainability.

"The opportunity lies in expanding the tax base and modernising the revenue administration, rather than just increasing the burden on existing compliant taxpayers,"

Bhuiyan said. Simplifying VAT procedures and rationalising tax deducted at source (TDS) rates would improve compliance and ease cash-flow constraints on small and medium-sized enterprises, he added.

Maria Howlader, secretary general of JBCCI, stressed the need for a more predictable and investment-friendly tax regime.

Japan-Bangladesh Chamber urges government to restore the 15 percent corporate tax rate for the textile sector, which was raised to 25 percent in FY26

Highlighting the chamber's direct tax proposals, Howlader said the recommendations focused on corporate tax rationalisation, reforms to TDS, adjustment of advance tax provisions, minimum tax rationalisation, and faster tax refunds.

She also called for relaxing some conditions tied to the 20 percent tax rate for listed companies, saying the existing requirement of maintaining at least 10 percent public shareholding through IPOs and specific banking transaction conditions was impractical.

"Bangladesh has made notable progress, but structural bottlenecks continue to increase the cost and time of doing business, directly

affecting trade flows, foreign investment and supply chain reliability," said Asif A Chowdhury, former president of JBCCI.

According to him, logistics costs in Bangladesh account for around 12 percent to 15 percent of GDP, compared to 8 percent to 10 percent in competing economies.

Focusing on maritime connectivity, Chowdhury said Chittagong Port Authority should introduce 24-hour operations, including nighttime vessel navigation, to reduce congestion and overall costs.

"Targeted reforms in logistics and trade facilitation can significantly reduce the cost of doing business, improve reliability and position Bangladesh as a more attractive destination for foreign trade and investment," he said.

Manabu Sugawara, former president of JBCCI, expressed optimism over the upcoming national budget, saying the country now has an opportunity to strengthen investor confidence following the signing of the Japan-Bangladesh Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Sugawara said the EPA had reached a crucial stage and was now awaiting ratification by the parliaments of both countries.

He stressed that focus should not be limited to tax collection alone, adding that the effective utilisation of tax revenues was equally important for sustaining economic growth and attracting foreign investment.

Restaurant owners demand tax relief



PHOTO: STAR/FILE

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association (BROA) has called on the government to keep VAT and tax rates at a reasonable level in the upcoming national budget while also expanding the tax net to ensure wider compliance.

Although VAT on restaurants was reduced from 15 percent to 5 percent, businesses are still under pressure due to supplementary duties, source tax and other charges, said Imran Hassan, secretary general of BROA, at a press conference held at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

He demanded the withdrawal of the source tax and proposed a fixed 5 percent VAT for canteen and catering services.

Imran also warned that around 80 percent of restaurants in the country remain unregistered, with many allegedly bypassing health and tax regulations while offering cheaper food. According to him, this situation poses risks to both public health and the formal restaurant sector.

He urged authorities to bring all restaurants under the tax system, cautioning that compliant businesses may be discouraged from paying taxes if the imbalance continues.

On the energy situation, Imran identified LPG shortages as a major challenge disrupting restaurant operations and pushing up food prices. He

called for increased LPG imports, improved supply management and stronger market monitoring. He also urged the resumption of new pipeline gas connections for restaurants and the introduction of LPG cards for business owners.

He further said that complex licensing procedures and weak coordination among government agencies are making food safety enforcement difficult. He noted that opening a restaurant currently requires around 10 to 12 different certificates, a process that can take two to six months and significantly increase costs.

He proposed a "one-stop service" to simplify licensing, reduce delays and cut expenses, alongside stronger food safety monitoring.

Imran also criticised what he described as harassment during regulatory inspections, suggesting that representatives from the business community should be included in inspection teams. He called for simple digital systems for licensing and renewals, an end to unfair fines and more business-friendly policies to support investment and job creation.

He warned that the rapid expansion of large corporations is putting pressure on small and medium enterprises and weakening fair competition. He urged the government to introduce policies to prevent monopolies and ensure equal opportunities across the sector.

Broadband sector

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That surge helped many small and medium ISPs grow into large-scale operators, creating employment for engineers, technicians and support staff.

Aminul Hakim, president of the Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB), said at least seven or eight companies now directly employ more than 1,000 people each.

"If you include their partner companies, more than two dozen companies now have over 1,000 employees each," he said. According to industry estimates, the sector now supports around 6 lakh to 7 lakh jobs, including graduate engineers, technicians, customer support staff and field workers.

Hakim said the number of authorised ISP connections stands at around 48 lakh, though the actual broadband

footprint is considerably larger owing to unauthorised operators.

Industry stakeholders estimate Bangladesh has nearly 90 lakh broadband connections serving more than 3 crore users, consuming around 60 percent of the country's nearly 10 Tbps international internet bandwidth and generating annual revenues of Tk 7,000 crore-Tk 8,000 crore.

THE RESELLER PROPOSAL

According to BTRC officials, between 7,000 and 8,000 unlicensed ISP operators are currently active across Bangladesh, leaving much of the sector unregulated and depriving the state of significant tax revenue.

To streamline the sector and attract investment, the BTRC and the telecoms division have agreed in principle to introduce a reseller model.

Under the proposed

framework, unlicensed operators could register with the BTRC and operate legally without holding a full ISP licence.

Maj Gen (Retd) Md Emdad Ul Bari, chairman of the BTRC, said that resellers would not own licences, they would simply sell services provided by licensed ISPs.

However, several industry leaders are unconvinced.

ISPAB President Hakim said legalising resellers could allow politically connected illegal operators to rapidly capture local markets, undermining compliant ISPs.

He said the model could also reduce service quality in remote areas, create pricing irregularities and expose customers to exploitation. Small and medium entrepreneurs who had invested heavily over the years might struggle to survive against locally influential groups.

"I believe introducing a reseller model at this stage could create long-term instability in the broadband sector," he said.

He added that unclear accountability between ISPs and resellers could complicate maintenance, technical support and cybersecurity management. Without strong regulation, the model risks producing unhealthy competition, fragmented infrastructure and reduced network reliability.

However, a senior BTRC official said many of the unregulated small ISPs, including politically connected ones, are already purchasing bandwidth and riding on the infrastructure of larger ISPs.

"In reality, they already exist in the ecosystem. Bringing them under at least a minimum regulatory structure would improve oversight and accountability," the official said, preferring anonymity.

Japanese EZ

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"Once the zone was handed over, the Japanese side moved very quickly with development," he said.

Chowdhury noted that foreign partners typically operate with clear commercial targets, enabling faster decision-making and higher execution standards.

"They have experience running economic zones elsewhere, and that reflects in both speed and quality," he added.



Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রয়ী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No: 28.16.9100.098.07.001.26.648

Date: 10-05-2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following International Tender published through the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) as stated below:

SL. No.	Tender ID, Package No & Tender Publication Date	Description	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
01.	Tender ID: 1270691 Tender Package No: 28.16.9100.098.07.001.26.06 Tender Publication Date: 10-May-2026 Time: 15:00	Procurement of Gas Pipeline Fittings	21-June-2026 Time: 16:00	22-June-2026 Time: 15:00	22-June-2026 Time: 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. Interested tenderers may visit the website <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to obtain the detailed tender notice and tender documents.

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GD-1077



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গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রয়ী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

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Ref. No: 28.16.9100.163.00.001.26.47

Dated: 10-05-26

e-Tender Notice

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Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of the Work	Tender Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01.	Tender ID :1271128 Package No: JGTDSL.IT.PPS-01 Date Of Publishing : 10-May-2026, 15:45	Installation, Testing & Commission of Central Internet and Data Management System and Related Service for 46 locations including Head Office, 17 Regional Distributional Office (RDO), important establishment (DRS, TBS) at JGTDSL franchise area.	Last Selling Date: 25-May-2026, 12:00 & Time Closing Date: 25-May-2026, 15:00 & Time Opening Date: 25-May-2026, 15:00 & Time

The interested person/firms may visit the web site <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch.

Further information and guideline are available in the e-GP system portal/ e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1073

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Rapid Action Battalion-5 Rajshahi, Mollapara

Invitation For e-Tender

For financial year 2026-2027, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of :

SL	Tender ID No & Referecne No	Description of goods.	Last selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time
1.	1272821 RAB-5/53333/1/Ration/01 Date: 05/05/2026	Fresh Ration	25 May 2026 09:00	25 May 2026 12:00
2.	1272822 RAB-5/53333/1/Ration/01 Date: 05/05/2026	Supply Of Fire Wood	21 May 2026 09:00	21 May 2026 12:00
3.	1272823 RAB-5/53333/1/Ration/01 Date: 05/05/2026	Wheat Crushing	21 May 2026 09:00	21 May 2026 12:00
4.	1272824 RAB-5/53333/1/Ration/01 Date: 05/05/2026	oods, Dry Ration Load/Unload	21 May 2026 09:00	21 May 2026 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Tender having clarity requirements are requested to contact at 01777-710503 (Assistant Director. Adj. RAB-5)

MONJURUL KABIR PIAL
Major
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For Commanding Officer
RAB-5, Rajshahi

GD-1081