IPO rules to be made easy to attract new listings

BSEC Chairman Masud Khan says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The stock market regulator will bring major changes to its initial public offering (IPO) rules to make it easier for new companies to get listed on the stock market, said Masud Khan, chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).

The new rules would take into account accumulated losses incurred by companies undertaking long-term infrastructure projects, but loss-making companies will not be allowed to be listed, he said.

The proposed changes also include expanding the scope of audits, revising debt repayment requirements for IPO proceeds and adopting international methods for share price valuation.

The draft rules will soon be published on the commission's website for public consultation after being finalised.

The BSEC chairman made the remarks while addressing a seminar as the chief guest at a programme organised yesterday to mark World Investor Week 2026. The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) jointly organised the seminar.

Masud Khan said the rules were being formulated in consultation with market stakeholders to expand companies' opportunities to get listed while protecting investors' interests.

He said the existing IPO rules impose restrictions on the listing of companies with accumulated losses.

However, large infrastructure projects, such as power plants, hotels, cement factories and steel mills, require substantial investment over a long period. It is not unusual for such projects to incur losses before commencing commercial operations. Against this backdrop, the IPO rules are being revised to take accumulated losses into account, he said.



Auditors would be given broader responsibilities in verifying documents under the proposed changes

Masud Khan, Chairman of BSEC

However, this does not mean that any loss-making company will be allowed to enter the stock market, he added.

Masud Khan said auditors would be given broader responsibilities in verifying documents under the proposed changes.

Currently, the DSE and BSEC examine various documents, but the revised rules would introduce a more extensive verification process resembling forensic auditing.

The BSEC chairman also announced plans to revise the debt repayment requirements under the IPO rules. According to him, the commission is considering raising the existing 30 percent requirement for debt repayment.

BSEC Commissioner Nahid Mahtab said technological advances had made stock market investment more accessible. However, fraudsters were also exploiting the same technology to spread misinformation rapidly and target investors.

Artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics can help identify suspicious trading patterns, he said.

However, technology should be used to flag suspicious activities and generate alerts. Human judgement and review must remain integral to the final assessment and any legal action, he added.

Mominul Islam, chairman of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, said false information, investment scams and manipulative campaigns on social media were undermining investor confidence in the stock market.

One of the biggest challenges facing the market is ensuring that accurate, timely and comprehensive information about investment products and projects reaches all investors, he said. The proliferation of social media has added digital fraud to these challenges.

Is Bangladesh's

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According to the BGMEA, women made up roughly 80 percent of Bangladesh's garment workforce between 1980 and 1994. The figure fell to 70 percent by 2005 and to around 53 percent in both 2021 and 2023, according to studies by the Ethical Trading Initiative, GIZ, BRAC University and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Industry insiders say younger workers increasingly prefer occupations such as driving auto-rickshaws or operating small shops, which they perceive as offering "greater flexibility and a more comfortable lifestyle".

Automation and artificial intelligence are adding another dimension to the challenge, as factory owners adopt new technologies to reduce costs and remain competitive. Meanwhile, some female garment workers have moved to countries such as Jordan, attracted by higher salaries, greater dignity and better employment benefits.

Despite these difficulties, Bangladesh has made significant progress in workplace safety and compliance. Inspections and remediation initiatives under the Accord and Alliance have improved factory safety standards, helping strengthen the country's international reputation.

However, improved compliance alone will not guarantee continued competitiveness. Exporters must also contend with rising costs, supply-chain disruptions and the risk of losing preferential access to major markets.

THE WAY FORWARD

Bangladesh retains important advantages, including substantial installed production capacity and a large, experienced workforce capable of serving international retailers and brands.

The challenge is to build on these strengths while reducing dependence on price competition in basic garments.

One option is to diversify export destinations. Markets such as India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Brazil and Argentina could help reduce dependence on traditional Western markets.

Bangladesh has been pursuing trade agreements to preserve preferential access after LDC graduation. These initiatives include an Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan and a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with South Korea, alongside negotiations with other countries.

According to BGMEA's Mahmud, international buyers had become concerned about concentrating too much of their sourcing in Bangladesh, prompting them to diversify their supply chains.

Nevertheless, Bangladeshi exporters are increasingly targeting Asian markets, particularly Japan, India and South Korea.

He added that the BGMEA had lobbied the Ministry of Commerce to negotiate FTAs with countries such as Brazil and South Africa, where Bangladeshi exports face tariffs exceeding 25 percent. Such agreements could help exporters secure zero-duty access.

The association has also urged the government to negotiate with the United States to waive the 10 percent duty on garments using US cotton and man-made fibres. Expanding exports of higher-value man-made fibre products could further improve the sector's prospects.

However, market diversification and trade agreements will need to be accompanied by improvements in domestic production conditions.

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), said the garment industry was confronting numerous domestic and international challenges, with rising business costs being a central concern.

He emphasised that Bangladesh must strengthen its competitiveness by reducing production expenses, increasing prices per unit through value addition, ensuring adequate energy supplies and lowering logistics costs.

The sector's long-term sustainability will ultimately depend on whether Bangladesh can move beyond its traditional reliance on low-cost production, according to the economist.

Modernising factories, upgrading products, diversifying markets and securing favourable trade arrangements will be crucial as the country navigates the post-LDC era, he said.

Bangladesh

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Khosru said, "Our cooperation with the World Bank under the partnership is not only about existing projects. A global disaster is going on in the energy sector, and we need a cushion for this."

The 2026 annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank began in Bangkok yesterday and will run until October 18 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre. More than 15,000 delegates from around the world are attending the week-long discussions on the global economy.

Speaking at an event during the meetings, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said strong investment in artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure is helping to keep global economic growth at around 3 percent, with major benefits for Asia. However, she warned that the technology also foreshadows a "slow-moving tsunami" that can massively disrupt labour markets, taxation and education.

Kristalina said the AI investment boom is already delivering a "demand shock, an investment shock". It could lift growth by half to one percentage point in advanced Asian economies and by 0.2 to 0.8 percentage points in emerging Asian economies.

"AI, love it, or hate it, it's already here," she said.

"That shift into higher gear is what is keeping the world economy growing at around 3 percent, despite the fact we are being dragged down by the energy supply shock," she said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা)
বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ
আইইবি ভবন (লেভেল ৯ ও ১০), রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০
www.sreda.gov.bd

নং: ২৭.০২.০০০০.০২২.১৮.০০১.২২-২৭৫ তারিখ: ১২ অক্টোবর ২০২৬ খ্রিঃ

৯ম জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ আইন, ২০১২ এবং জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষা প্রবিধানমালা, ২০২৩ অনুযায়ী বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানির বৃহৎ ব্যবহারকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে জ্বালানির দক্ষ ও সাশ্রয়ী ব্যবহার চিহ্নিত এবং নিশ্চিত করতে দেশে পর্যাপ্ত সংখ্যক জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক তৈরী করা স্রেডার একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কার্যক্রম। এ প্রেক্ষিতে, স্রেডা ৯ম জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষা আয়োজন করতে যাচ্ছে। উক্ত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে আবেদন আহবান করা হচ্ছে।

২। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণকে আগামি **২২ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ খ্রিঃ** তারিখের মধ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং আবেদন ফি প্রদান সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।

৩। যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হওয়া সাপেক্ষে জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক সনদ প্রদান করা হবে। পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্য সম্বলিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী জানতে ভিজিট করুন www.sreda.gov.bd ওয়েবপেজ।

অনলাইন আবেদন ফরমের লিংক: https://forms.gle/rGkDV6bQz3TLrXNk7

স্বা/=
(মোঃ আব্দুল্লাহ আল মামুন)
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জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষা ও এক্রিডিটেশন

GD-2476

ISLAMIC FOUNDATION PRESS
Islamic Foundation
Ministry of Religious Affairs
Agargaon, Sher e Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

Memo No: 16.01.0000.012.04.114.25-155 Date: 12 October, 2026

Re-Tender Notice

A number of e-Re-Tenders have been invited through the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following goods as Stated below:

Tender Id	Description of Tender	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date with Time
1351972	Purchase of 80 GSM Roll-Fed White Offset Printing Paper (Width 30") for Web Offset Printing Machine	12 October 2026 at 17:00	26 October 2026 at 14:00	26 October 2026 at 17:00
1351182	Purchase of Sheet-Fed White Offset Printing Paper of Different Sizes and Thicknesses	12 October 2026 at 17:00	26 October 2026 at 14:00	26 October 2026 at 17:00

This is an online Re-Tender process in which only e-Tenders submitted through the National e-GP Portal will be accepted. No offline or hard copies of tenders will be accepted. Tenderers are required to register with the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to submit their e-Tenders. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal shall be deposited online through any registered bank branch.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System and from the e-GP Helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all e-Tenders.

(Md. Mohiuddin)
Press Manager
Islamic Foundation Press

GD-2484

Rice prices

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According to Shaon, transporting a truckload of rice from Kushtia to Dhaka previously cost Tk 20,000, but the expense has risen to Tk 24,000 following the fuel price hike.

Mamunur Rashid, another wholesaler at the same market, said the end of the season was also contributing to the price rise, as harvesting of Aman paddy had only recently begun in several districts.

Rice prices, however, remain slightly lower than at the same time last year, he added.

According to media reports and TCB data, coarse rice sold for Tk 55-65 per kg around the same time last year, while fine rice cost Tk 75-85, depending on quality.

Mohiuddin Sarker Saiful, a wholesaler and retailer at Karwan Bazar, also cited higher transportation and paddy costs as factors behind the increase.

The latest round of fuel price adjustments in the third week of September raised the prices of diesel, petrol and octane by Tk 20 per litre amid volatile global market prices and rising subsidies.

Traders and millers in Kushtia and Naogaon, two important rice-producing and trading areas, also reported increases, citing higher paddy prices, transportation costs and seasonal factors.

Joynal Abedin Pradhan, general secretary of the Bangladesh Auto Major and Husking Mill Owners Association in Kushtia, said mill-gate prices of rice had increased by Tk 1-2 per kg over the past month.

Mill-gate prices are the rates at which millers sell processed rice to wholesalers, before transportation and other trading costs are added further along the supply chain.

Depending on the variety, fine rice was now selling for Tk 55-67 per kg at the mill gate, Joynal said.

He attributed the increase to higher diesel and paddy prices. Paddy prices had risen from Tk 1,120 to Tk 1,240 per maund over the past month, he said.

At this time of year, paddy is dried more thoroughly, reducing its moisture content and weight, which can increase the effective cost of the raw material, he added.

Nirod Boron Saha, a rice miller and president of the Rice and Paddy Stockists and Wholesalers Association in Naogaon, said wholesale prices of fine rice had risen by Tk 30-50 per maund over the past five days.

Fine rice was selling at Tk 2,050-2,080 per maund (37.32 kg) in the local wholesale market, he said.

Nirod said prices of different rice varieties had increased by Tk 1-1.50 per kg in recent days as the season neared its end, describing the rise as normal for this time of year.

[Our Kushtia correspondent, Anis Mondol, contributed to this report.]

Two Beximco

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As a result, Beximco LPG Unit-1 could not obtain credit from banks or financial institutions, making it difficult for the company to continue its operations.

The central bank has now relaxed the restriction for the company, subject to several conditions. The conditions include that the government and the central bank will bear no liability for the new credit facilities.

Besides, National Bank will not be able to claim any financial assistance from the government or the Bangladesh Bank in the future in connection with these facilities.

To qualify for the new credit facilities, Beximco LPG Unit-1 must deposit all its income into a designated bank account. It must then use that income to repay its dues to National Bank regularly on a proportional basis, according to the central bank circular. A similar exemption has been granted to Shinepukur Ceramics, which has defaulted on loans from state-owned Sonali Bank.

The Bangladesh Bank said the legal restriction would be relaxed to allow the renewal of the company's existing working capital limit of Tk 105 crore, despite its loan-default status. The central bank said the concession has been provided in the public interest.

Shinepukur Ceramics will also have to meet conditions similar to those imposed on Beximco LPG Unit-1 to receive the renewed credit facility.

The Bangladesh Bank informed the managing directors and chief executive officers of all banks about the legal exemptions granted to the two Beximco companies.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Medical Education & Family Welfare Division
Integrated Development Project of DGME NIPORT and DGNM
National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)
13/1 Sheikh Shaheb Bazar, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205
www.niport.gov.bd

Ref. No: 59.12.0000.000.003.14.0007.26-126 Date: 12/10/2026

e-Tender Notice

Director General, National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) is inviting e-Tender in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of the following work described below:

Sl. No	Name of Work	Tender ID	Scheduled Tender/ Proposal Publication/ Selling/Downloading Date and Time	Tender/Proposal/ Closing and Opening Date and Time
1.	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS)-2026 Collaboration with Renowned International Universities/Organizations.	1352330	13-Oct-2026 11:00 AM	03-Nov-2026 11:00 AM

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no Offline/Hard copies will be accepted.
2. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd).
3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal to be deposited through any branch of the scheduled bank.

12-9-26
(Hero Dhar)
Assistant Project Director
Phone- 02-226683610
E-mail: adtraining1@niport.gov.bd

GD-2481

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Narsingdi.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: -46.02.6800.000.07.001.26- 2047 Date: 11.10.26

e-Tender Notice-12/2026-2027

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for 5 Nos Packages under GoBM FY 2026-2027 for District: Narsingdi.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of Scheme (Package Number)	Last selling date & time	Closing & Opening date & time
1	1345453	LGED/GOBM/NSD/26-27/RW-17 Rehabilitation (Uni-Block) of Mahmudabad R&H-Ramnagor Bazar - Gouripur Road from Ch. 00m-685m under Raipura Upazila, District: Narsingdi. [Road ID: 368644067]	25-10-2026 16.00	26-10-2026 13:00
2	1345454	LGED/GOBM/NSD/26-27/RW-18 Rehabilitation (Uni-Block) of Sumit Power Station (RHD)-Madhabdi G.C (Nayapara) via Rainadi Pry. School Road from Ch. 600m-1710m under Narsingdi-S Upazila, District: Narsingdi. [Road ID: 368604052]	25-10-2026 16.00	26-10-2026 13:00
3	1345455	LGED/GOBM/NSD/26-27/RW-19 Rehabilitation (Uni-Block) of Shekerchar Bazar (Seven Storied Mour)-Shekerchar Zobo Nagar Model School Road from Ch. 00m-500m under Narsingdi-S Upazila, District: Narsingdi.	25-10-2026 16.00	26-10-2026 13:00
4	1345456	LGED/GOBM/NSD/26-27/RW-20 Rehabilitation (widening) of Taltoli R&H to Rampur Bazer Gazaria UP Road from Ch. 4278m-4800m under Palash Upazila, District: Narsingdi. [Road ID: 368633010]150	25-10-2026 16.00	26-10-2026 13:00
5	1345457	LGED/GOBM/NSD/26-27/RW-21 Rehabilitation (widening) of Fauji Jute Mill-Chalana RHD from Ch. 00m-998m under Palash Upazila, district: Narsingdi. [Road ID: 368634001]	25-10-2026 16.00	26-10-2026 13:00

(i) Micro and Small Enterprise: In the last three years (counted from the date of publication of tender), total value of the contract awarded under public procurement is less than or equal BDT 1 crore.
(ii) Women-owned Enterprise: An Enterprise owned by a Woman.
(iii) New Enterprise: An Enterprise formed in the period of last 2 years (counted from the date of publication of 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 System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. It will be available online after 14 October, 2026.
The Tender Security have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 26 October 2026 12:00PM for all tenders of this notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Mohammad Fulkam Badshah)
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GD-2478