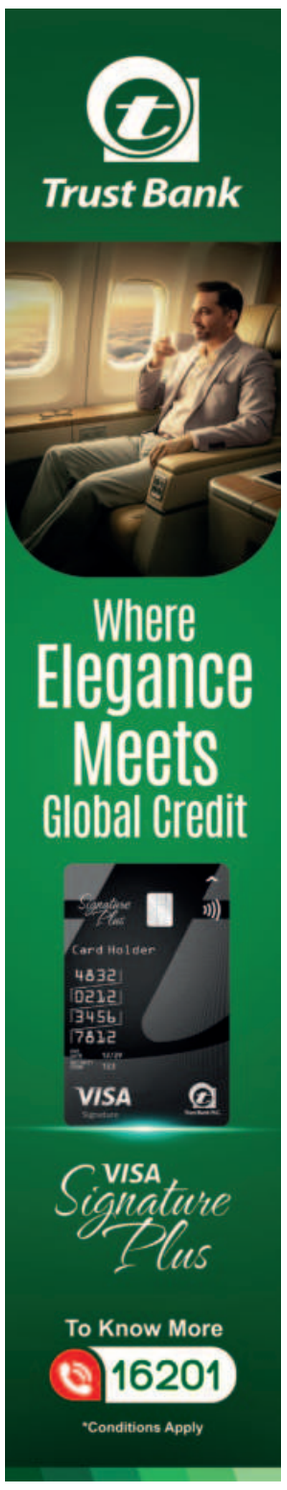
DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2026, ASHWIN 29, 1433 BS
starbusiness@thedailystar.net

Business



B3

OLYMPIC INDUSTRIES TO BUY MORE LAND IN NARAYANGANJ



Sonali Bank lends Tk 7,000cr to National Bank with BB guarantee

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

State-owned Sonali Bank PLC has lent Tk 7,000 crore to financially distressed National Bank PLC to help the private lender meet customers' withdrawal demands.

The Bangladesh Bank has provided a 100 percent guarantee for the three-month loan, Md Shawkat Ali Khan, managing director of Sonali Bank, confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday.

The loan carries an interest rate of 10 percent, he said, adding that the transaction had been completed.

"We face no risk here because Bangladesh Bank is providing the guarantee," Shawkat said, explaining that if National Bank fails to repay the loan within the stipulated period, the central bank will repay Sonali Bank.

He expressed hope that the funds would help restore depositors' confidence but stressed that National Bank must use the money for the intended purposes.

"The National Bank needs to use this money properly. It must be utilised for the right purposes," he said.

Prof Melita Mehjabeen, chairman of National Bank, said the bank was preparing to resume full banking services on October 15, allowing customers to withdraw their deposits. The bank has already started taking withdrawal requests as part of its preparations to restore customer services.

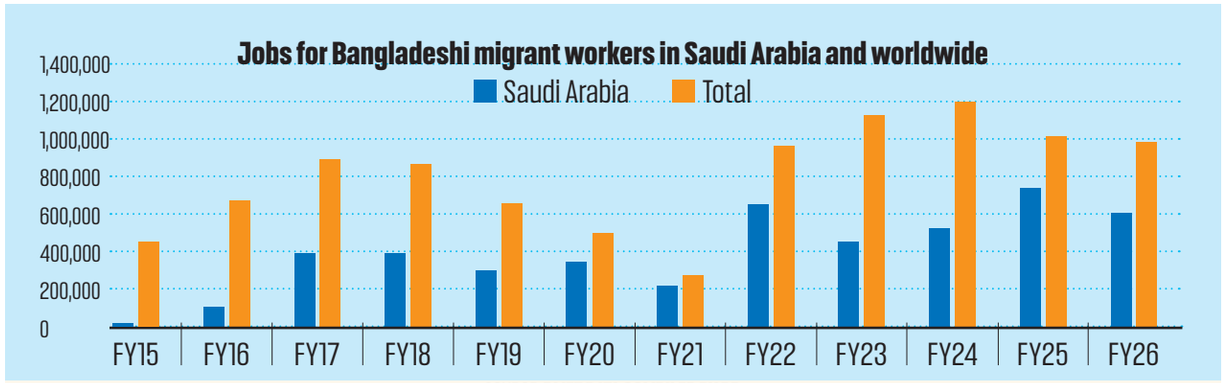
It had received nearly 7,000 requests as of yesterday, Melita said.

"We are making arrangements to ensure that funds reach every branch by tomorrow. From the day after tomorrow, we will try to provide services to all our customers," she said.

National Bank's top executives had met Bangladesh Bank Governor Md Mostaqur Rahman to seek support last week. The central bank assured the lender of liquidity assistance to help it repay depositors.

READ MORE ON B3

What attacks on Saudi Arabia mean for Bangladesh's economy



SOURCE: **BMET DATA COMPILED BY BB**

Key points

- Saudi remittance: $6b
- Total remittance in FY26: $36b
- Saudi share of remittances: 16%
- Exports to Saudi Arabia in FY26: $340m

JAGARAN CHAKMA

The country's remittances, energy and fertiliser imports, and exports face fresh risks as Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis fire ballistic missiles and drones at Saudi Arabia.

Trade leaders, manpower exporters and economists say the escalation, which comes as the US-Israeli war on Iran widens amid stalled diplomacy, exposes the economy to the risk of a fresh external shock.

Since fiscal year 2014-15, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has employed around half of the 96 lakh Bangladeshis who went abroad for work. So, the attacks put Saudi jobs at risk and, in time, the country's overall remittance inflow.

Ali Haider Chowdhury, former secretary-general of the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA), said that a prolonged conflict centred on Saudi Arabia could delay recruitment, raise migration costs and weaken demand for workers.

"At least 800,000 Bangladeshis travel to Saudi Arabia for work each year, and any slowdown would hit prospective migrants and the families who depend on their earnings," he said.

Of the 969,000 workers who went abroad in fiscal year 2025-26, Saudi Arabia hired more than 600,000, over 60 percent of the total. Remittances provide the foreign exchange the country needs to meet external payments, including for imports, and Saudi Arabia accounted for the largest share last year, at 16 percent.

In the July-September period this year, Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia sent home nearly $2 billion, almost one-fifth of the total, according to the Bangladesh Bank.

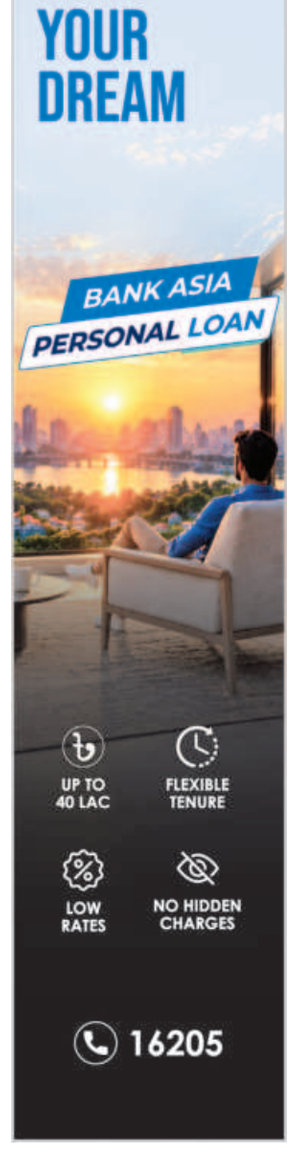
After the latest Houthi attacks on the Kingdom, Ali Haider said that they were yet to see any impact on remittances. "It would take a few months to assess the consequences," he said.

The Gulf and the wider Middle East employ more than three-quarters of the country's migrant workers. The Iran war and its spillover across the Gulf have already left millions of Bangladeshi workers in the region uncertain about their future.

Fewer Bangladeshis have been leaving for work in the region since the war broke out in February this year.

This week the Houthi attacks disrupted at least 61 flights from Dhaka airport to the Kingdom, affecting at least 8,381

READ MORE ON B3



Green energy shift needs private, foreign financing

SANEM's Selim Raihan says at policy dialogue

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Economist Selim Raihan has called for greater involvement of the private sector and international partners, including global buyers and investors, in financing Bangladesh's green energy transition and supporting green growth. He made the remarks at a policy dialogue in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh needs $230 billion between 2023 and 2050 to adapt to climate change, but the required funding has yet to be secured, said Raihan, a professor of economics at the University of Dhaka and executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM).

Mobilising such a large amount would be challenging, making private investment and international financing

Bangladesh needs $230 billion between 2023 and 2050 to adapt to climate change, but the required funding has yet to be secured, Selim Raihan said

essential to meeting the country's climate goals and supporting the transition to cleaner energy, he said.

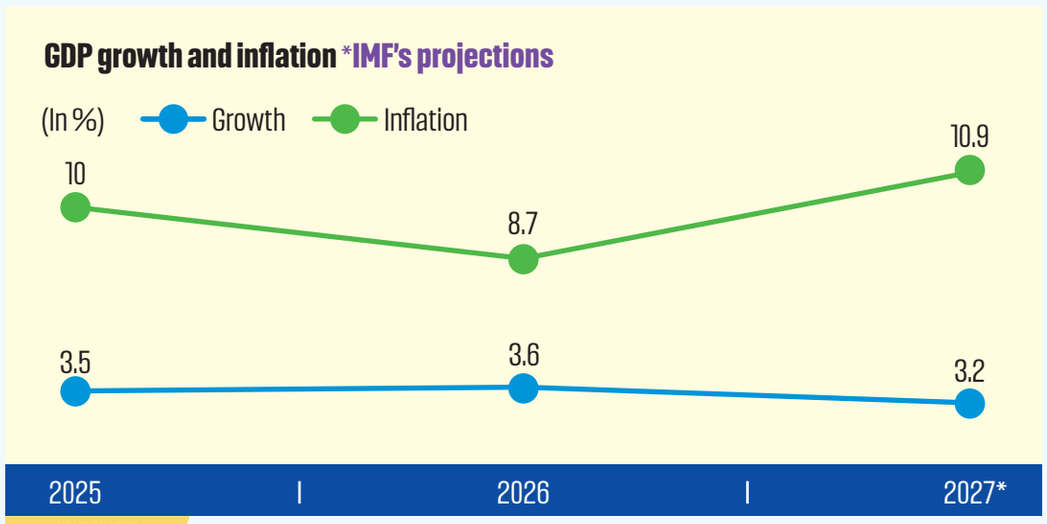
Selim made the remarks while presenting a keynote paper at SANEM's policy dialogue titled "Can Green Growth Drive Bangladesh's Next Phase of Development?" at the Sheraton Dhaka in the capital.

Businesspeople, economists and government officials attended the event, where discussions also focused on rooftop solar integration, grid stability, battery storage and disposal, and financing green growth through green bonds and carbon markets.

Monzur Hossain, member (secretary) at the General Economics Division of the Bangladesh Planning Commission, said the government was focusing on generating solar electricity from rooftops, particularly in areas along riverbanks.

However, integrating rooftop solar power into the national grid could create instability and imbalances, he said. Establishing isolated grids in some areas could be one solution, and work was underway to address the challenges.

READ MORE ON B3



SOURCE: **IMF**

IMF cuts Bangladesh growth outlook, raises inflation forecast

Downgrade comes after WB, ADB lower forecast

REJAUL KARIM BYRON *and* MD MEHEDI HASAN

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut its economic growth forecast for Bangladesh in the current fiscal year (FY2026-27) to 3.2 percent from the 4.3 percent projected in April, joining other major development partners in downgrading their outlooks amid persistent economic challenges.

It also projected an increase in average inflation in Bangladesh to 10.9 percent in the current fiscal year, reversing the easing seen in FY26, when average consumer price inflation fell to 8.7 percent from double digits, according to the IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released yesterday at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank Group in Bangkok.

The IMF's inflation projection is higher than the World Bank's forecast of 8.6 percent for the current fiscal year, FY27, made earlier this month. However, both multilateral lenders have cut their economic growth forecasts for the South Asian country.

The World Bank has recently revised down its forecast for Bangladesh's economic growth to 3.4 percent this year, while the ADB trimmed its growth projection for Bangladesh to 4 percent in September.

It would be the fourth consecutive year of slowing economic growth, as energy shortages, banking sector vulnerabilities, subdued credit growth and tight fiscal constraints continue to weigh on Bangladesh's economy.

The downgrade in the economic outlook for the South Asian economy comes as the IMF expects the global economy to grow by 3.1 percent in 2026, down from 3.5 percent last year, with the war in the Middle East and a surge in artificial intelligence-related investment pulling economies in different directions.

It projects that advanced economies will grow by 2.1 percent this year and emerging and developing economies by 3.7 percent. The Middle East and Central Asia region is expected to be the hardest hit, contracting by 0.3 percent.

In South Asia, India is projected to grow by 7 percent in both FY27 and FY28, among the fastest rates in the region. Pakistan's economy is projected to expand by 3.6 percent in FY26 and 3.5 percent in FY27.

The IMF said the global outlook masks growing disparities, with 32 economies expected to account for 95 percent of global growth, down from 54 in April. About 47 percent of economies have had their growth forecasts downgraded.

Countries less exposed to the energy shock and more closely connected to the technology supply chain are holding up better, it said.

Energy-importing economies outside that supply chain, including many low-income countries, face higher import bills, currency pressures and weaker incomes. The IMF said oil prices will average

READ MORE ON B3

SPOTLIGHT

BSEC tightens dividend rules for listed firms

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to tighten compliance with dividend distribution rules by requiring listed companies to keep declared cash dividends in separate bank accounts to prevent their misuse.

It has also decided to simplify the process of reappointing independent directors.

The decisions were taken at a commission meeting chaired by BSEC Chairman Masud Khan, according to a press release issued yesterday.

Under existing directives, listed companies declaring annual or final cash dividends must deposit the full amount in a separate dividend account at least one day before their annual general meeting (AGM).

They must also obtain a bank certificate confirming the deposit. The certificate must be certified by the managing director, chief financial officer and company secretary before being presented at the AGM and submitted to the stock exchanges.

READ MORE ON B3

Govt to review Saint Martin's tourism rules

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government will reconsider the duration of the tourism season, the daily visitor limit and the departure point for tourist ships to Saint Martin's Island, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Abdul Awal Mintoo said on Monday.

The review will take into account the island's environment and biodiversity, tourist safety and transport management, he said while chairing an inter-ministerial meeting at the Secretariat.

The island was closed to tourists for nine months from February 1 this year as part of conservation measures to protect its fragile ecosystem and biodiversity. The previous tourism season ended on January 31, with tourism scheduled to resume on November 1.

Monday's meeting discussed tourism management for the 2026-27 season, including visitor numbers, overnight stays and measures to protect the island's environment.

Under a notification issued on October 22, 2025, tourists can visit the island during the day in November but must return the

READ MORE ON B3

BSCIC job fair in Chattogram employs 323

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, *Chattogram*

A job fair organised by the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) in Chattogram yesterday secured immediate employment for 323 jobseekers, while 3,147 applications and resumes were submitted for 2,200 vacancies.

The BSCIC Job and Career Fair 2026 was held at the World Trade Centre in Agrabad from 11:00am to 5:00pm, bringing employers and jobseekers together for recruitment and interviews. It was organised by the corporation's Chattogram regional office.

By 4:00pm, applicants had submitted their resumes and job applications for positions at industrial estates under BSCIC, according to the organisers.

The fair connected candidates with employers across several industries, including textiles, food processing, pharmaceuticals, packaging, plastics and chemicals.

Among those recruited was Mohammad Asaduzzaman, a resident of Tongi in Dhaka, who secured a position as a chemist at Samara Plastic Industry in the Noakhali BSCIC Industrial Estate. Tarekur Rahman, from Muradpur in Chattogram city, was hired as a supply chain officer at Lub-rref (Bangladesh) PLC in the Faujdarhat BSCIC Industrial Estate.

The organisers also plan to take initiatives to create job opportunities at more than 30 additional companies operating in BSCIC industrial estates.

Participating companies were based in industrial estates in Kalurghat, Faujdarhat, Sholoshahar, Patiya, Cumilla, Noakhali, Charipur in Feni and Khadimnagar in Sylhet.

A total of 44 stalls were set up at the fair, including a dedicated career counselling stall offering guidance on career planning and professional development.

At the inaugural ceremony, BSCIC Chairman Benazir Ahmed said the corporation had long focused on developing entrepreneurs, but its industrial estates were now being adapted to meet the needs of modern industries.

Infrastructure development, technology adoption and stronger links between entrepreneurs and buyers were key priorities for boosting employment, he said. Initiatives such as trade fairs and job fairs could help BSCIC become a new driving force in the domestic economy.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mohammed Amirul Haque described government-led job fairs as a relatively new initiative and said the chamber would support similar efforts by BSCIC in the future.

Chattogram Development Authority Chairman Engineer Belayet Hossain said creating employment opportunities for young people was a government priority. He added that the growth of small and large industrial groups could expand employment and accelerate economic progress.

Prime Bank partners with Enlightened Academy for self-defence training benefits

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed an agreement with Enlightened Academy, an online tutoring and self-defence training organisation in Bangladesh, to offer discounts on self-defence training programmes to the bank's customers, including Neera customers, employees and their spouses and children.

Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability and wealth management at the bank, and Sharmin Salim Tuli, chairman of the training organisation, signed the agreement at a ceremony held recently at the bank's corporate office in Gulshan, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, eligible Prime Bank customers and employees, along with their family members, will be able to enjoy exclusive benefits on self-defence training programmes offered by Enlightened Academy.

The initiative reflects Prime Bank's commitment to promoting safety, confidence and well-being among its customers, employees and their families, the release added.

Fatema Akter, first assistant vice-president and business development and proposition manager for Women Banking Neera at the bank, and Md Waliur Rahman, managing director and chief instructor of the training organisation, along with senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the signing ceremony.



Sharmin Salim Tuli, chairman of Enlightened Academy, and Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability and wealth management at Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the bank's corporate office in Gulshan recently. PHOTO: **PRIME BANK**

Uttara Bank holds managers' conference



Azharul Islam, chairman of Uttara Bank PLC, attends the bank's "Managers Conference-2026" at Sea Pearl Beach Resort & Spa in Cox's Bazar on Saturday. PHOTO: **UTTARA BANK**

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Uttara Bank PLC on Saturday held its "Managers Conference-2026" at Sea Pearl Beach Resort & Spa in Cox's Bazar.

Azharul Islam, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Md Abul Hashem, managing director of the bank, presided over the conference, which was attended by the bank's branch managers from across the country.

Badrunnesa Sharmin Islam, director of the bank; Maksudul Hasan, additional managing director; and Md Rezaul Karim, Khandaker Ali Samnoon and Md Rafiul Islam, deputy managing directors, were also present at the conference, along with the bank's executives and branch incumbents.



Anjana Khan Mojlish, joint secretary and member (finance) at Bangladesh Power Development Board, and Md Shaheen Iqbal, additional managing director and head of wholesale banking at BRAC Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the BPDB head office in Dhaka on Monday. PHOTO: **BRAC BANK**

BRAC Bank to collect BPDB electricity bill

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank PLC has signed a partnership agreement with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to facilitate postpaid electricity bill payments through its nationwide distribution network and digital banking platforms, offering greater convenience to residential, commercial and industrial customers.

BRAC Bank is the first private commercial bank to secure BPDB's central account alongside a state-owned bank, according to a press release.

Md Shaheen Iqbal, additional managing director and head of wholesale banking at the bank, and Anjana Khan Mojlish, joint secretary and member of finance at BPDB, signed the agreement at the latter's head office in Dhaka on Monday.

At the event, Anjana said, "We are pleased to welcome BRAC Bank as a partner for online bill collection and look forward to a successful collaboration that will bring greater convenience to our customers."

Commenting on the partnership, Shaheen said, "This partnership reflects our continued focus on making everyday banking and payment services more accessible and convenient. By combining our nationwide distribution network with digital banking capabilities, we aim to simplify electricity bill payments for BPDB customers."

"We look forward to expanding similar partnerships with public- and private-sector organisations to deliver seamless payment solutions," he added.

Under the agreement, BPDB customers will be able to pay their postpaid electricity bills through BRAC Bank's branches and sub-branches, its retail banking app Astha and its corporate digital banking platform CORPNET.

BRAC Bank will also establish application programming interface (API) connectivity with BPDB to enable real-time updates of bill payment records. The integration will help streamline payment processing and reconciliation, making bill payments more convenient and efficient for customers.

Dutch-Bangla Bank organises strategic conclave in Cumilla

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC recently held a strategic conclave for its Noakhali and Cumilla regions to formulate business strategies for branches and strengthen customer service.

The conclave was held in a hybrid format at BURO Training Centre in Cumilla, with Md Ahteshamul Haque Khan, managing director and chief executive officer of the bank, attending as the chief guest.

In his speech, the CEO said the bank had undertaken various strategies to become a trusted financial solutions partner for its customers. He highlighted several strategic priorities, including a client-caring mentality, to ensure service excellence.

Branch managers from the two regions presented their respective business strategies and assured the management that they would achieve their targets and improve customer service.

The bank's senior management team also shared their observations and provided guidance on enhancing customer service and meeting business targets.

Officials from branches and sub-branches, regional heads of Rocket and agent banking, and alternative delivery channel (ADC) supervisors from the two regions also joined the conclave online.



Dutch-Bangla Bank's MD and CEO Md Ahteshamul Haque Khan poses with participants at a strategic conclave for the bank's Noakhali and Cumilla regions at BURO Training Centre in Cumilla recently. PHOTO: **DBBL**

Government Of The People's Republic Of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of Superintendent of Police
Industrial Police-5, Mymensingh.

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is being invited for the purpose of appointing contractor for the procurement of Fortified Soybean Oil for distribution to Industrial Police-5, Mymensingh and other Ration recipients during the (2nd Quarter of the 2026-2027) financial year (from October/2026 To December/2026).

1.	Ministry/Department	Ministry of Home Affairs
2.	Department/Organization	Bangladesh Police
3.	Name Of The Collecting Entity And District	Superintendent of Police, Industrial Police-5, Mymensingh
4.	Memo No & Date	Memo No-788, Date-13/10/2026
5.	APP Code	APP-2026-27(IP-5, Mymensingh)
6.	Tender Method	OTM (Re-Tender)
7.	Source of Fund	GoB
8.	Publication Date And Time	14/10/2026 10:00
9.	Last Date And Time Of Tender Sale	27/10/2026 18.00
10.	Tender Closing Date And Time	28/10/2026 15:00
11.	Tender Opening Date And Time	28/10/2026 15:00

12. Tender Package description:

Lot. No	Package Description	Tender ID	Time Period
1.	Procurement Of Fortified Soybean Oil (2nd Quarter) FY-2026-2027 (October/2026 To December/2026)	1331727	01 October-2026 To 31 December-2026

This is an Online tender, where only e-tender will he accepted in the national e-GP portal and no off-line/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 national e-GP portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of Registered bank. Further information and guide lines are available in national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd)

13.10.2026
(MD. ANSAR UDDIN)
BP-7608121650
Superintendent of Police
Industrial Police-5, Mymensingh
E-mail-dip5@police.gov.bd

GD-2492

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
Joy Pahar Estate, Sarson Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram-4203.
www.bpc.gov.bd

Ref: 28.03.0000.000.045.01.0021.26/ *Date: 14 October 2026*

e-Tender (OTM-ICT) Notice

e-Tenders have been invited in the national e-GP System portal for procurement of the goods as stated below:

Sl#	Tender ID	Description of Goods & related service	Tender Doc Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing, Opening Date & Time
1	1350775	Procurement of 3.5808-3.8046 Million Barrels (480000-510000 Metric Ton) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' and 0.72-0.96 Million Barrels (90000-120000 Metric Ton) of Jet A-1 during January-June, 2027.	03-Nov-2026 23:59	04-Nov-2026 12:00
2	1350776	Procurement of 3.1332-3.3570 Million Barrels (420,000-450,000 Metric Ton) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' and 1.20 Million Barrels (150,000 Metric Ton) of Jet A-1 during January-June, 2027.	03-Nov-2026 23:59	04-Nov-2026 12:00
3	1351157	Procurement of 0.2238-0.4476 Million Barrels (30,000-60,000 Metric Ton) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' during January-June, 2027.	03-Nov-2026 23:59	04-Nov-2026 12:00
4	1350779	Procurement of 0.4476 -0.6714 Million Barrels (60,000-90,000 Metric Ton) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' during January-June, 2027.	03-Nov-2026 23:59	04-Nov-2026 12:00
5	1350777	Procurement of 250,000-350,000 High Sulphur Furnace Oil during January-June, 2027.	03-Nov-2026 23:59	04-Nov-2026 12:00
6	1350778	Procurement of 0.860- 1.075 Million Barrels (100000-125000 Metric Ton) of Gasoline 95 Unleaded during January-June, 2027.	03-Nov-2026 23:59	04-Nov-2026 12:00
Procuring Entity Contact Details: Mohammad Zahid Hossain, General Manager (Com & Ops) Phone: 01713755377; Email: gm_com_bpc@yahoo.com				

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted through National e-GP Portal https://www.eprocure.gov.bd and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal 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's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Zahid Hossain
General Manager (Commercial & Operation

GD-2498

Olympic Industries to buy more land in Narayanganj

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Olympic Industries has decided to buy 32.87 decimals of land in Narayanganj for Tk 1.15 crore to expand its operations.

The leading biscuit and confectionery maker decided to make the purchase at a board meeting on Monday, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

The land is located in Changain mouza under Kanchpur in the Sonargaon area of Narayanganj.

The company will also bear the registration costs, including value-added tax, other taxes and related charges.

This is the second time in a month that Olympic Industries has decided to buy land in the same district. On October 11, the company disclosed plans to purchase land in Narayanganj for Tk 3.38 crore.

In fiscal year 2025-26, the company's revenue rose by more than 6 percent to Tk 2,955 crore.

However, net profit edged down to Tk 199 crore from Tk 201 crore a year earlier, which the company attributed to higher income tax expenses, according to a price-sensitive disclosure.

Olympic Industries has recommended a 35 percent cash dividend for the year ended June 30, 2026, up from 30 percent a year earlier.

The company's shares remained unchanged at Tk 139.40 at the end of trading yesterday on the DSE.

Sponsors and directors held 37.38 percent of the company's shares as of September 30, 2026, while institutional and foreign investors held the remainder, according to DSE data.

What attacks on Saudi Arabia mean

FROM PAGE B1

passengers, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CCAB). Two Bangladeshis were killed, and 27 were injured in an attack on Riyadh airport reported on October 10.

As the Houthis escalate their attacks and threaten shipping in the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, energy and fertiliser shipments to Bangladesh face long reroutes amid the Iran war choking maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a major artery for global energy and fertiliser shipments.

Disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have already hampered trade and pushed up oil and fertiliser prices globally. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts that oil will average around $96 a barrel throughout 2026, compared with $68 in 2025.

Bangladesh, a net petroleum importer, is facing spiralling bills for oil, gas and fertiliser. To pay the higher energy costs and cushion the economy against the conflict, the government plans to seek about $4 billion in budget support from multilateral and bilateral lenders in the current fiscal year.

Meanwhile, fertiliser supplies appear to have remained unaffected so far by the escalation.

Preferring anonymity, a senior official of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) said fertiliser supplies from Saudi Arabia are uninterrupted so far, with four lots already received and no indication of a suspension of the fifth consignment.

The Saudi supplier has assured BADC that, if any disruption occurs there, fertiliser could be shipped through Duqm Port in Oman, the official said.

Riaz Uddin Ahmed, executive secretary of Bangladesh Fertilizer Association, said imports have not been affected by the recent attacks on Saudi Arabia, and suppliers have provided no negative updates regarding existing orders.

He said that ships are taking detours due to the situation around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, but that he does not expect the recent attacks to disrupt fertiliser supplies.

He added that suppliers have not raised any concerns about the orders already booked.

Apart from manpower, Saudi Arabia is also a major market for Bangladeshi apparel and processed food. The Kingdom imported $340 million worth of Bangladeshi goods in fiscal year 2025-26, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and chief executive of PRAN-RFL Group, the country's largest agro-processed food exporter, said the company has found alternative routes to keep deliveries going to Middle Eastern markets.

"Previously, we transported our products through the Strait of Hormuz. Now, we are using alternative shipping routes involving containers, despite the sharp increase in shipping costs to $5,000 per container from $1,500 previously," he said.

The higher costs have cut margins by nearly two percentage points. PRAN-RFL has also moved its plastic-resin sourcing from the Middle East to China, and orders from Middle Eastern markets have fallen by about 40 percent from pre-war levels, said Ahsan.

Taskeen Ahmed, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), said the Middle East conflict is raising import costs, fuelling inflation and weakening export competitiveness.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman and chief executive of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, identified four potential risks arising from the Houthi attacks.

Those are disruption to Saudi employment and remittances, higher oil prices, weaker global demand because of inflation, and shipping delays and higher freight costs if attacks spread near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Asif Ibrahim, former president of the Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), urged the government to set up a crisis task force, secure alternative fuel supplies, maintain reserves and dollar liquidity, support exporters and small businesses, ease port and customs bottlenecks, protect migrant workers and speed up renewable energy projects under a time-bound plan.

[The Daily Star Staff Correspondent Sukanta Halder contributed to this report.]

IMF cuts

FROM PAGE B1

around $96 a barrel in 2026, compared with $68 a year ago.

The fund said global inflation would rise to 4.7 percent this year from 4.1 percent in 2025, driven mainly by energy and food prices.

The multilateral lender warned that a prolonged conflict in the Middle East and weather disruptions linked to El Niño could push energy and food prices higher. A reassessment of expected returns from artificial intelligence investment could also trigger a sharp market correction.The IMF urged governments to rebuild fiscal buffers, avoid broad fuel subsidies and price controls, and keep any support temporary and targeted, preferably through cash transfers.

Green energy shift needs

FROM PAGE B1

While the government was considering these issues in its commercial projects, private-sector initiatives involving direct electricity sales to the government required strict quality control to protect public interests, Monzur added.

Md Fazlul Hoque, administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), also raised concerns about the practical challenges of implementing solar power projects, particularly battery storage and disposal.

Installing solar systems without batteries can reduce costs, but electricity generated during the day cannot be used at night unless it is stored, he said. However, lower nighttime demand warrants an assessment of whether battery-free systems could remain viable.

Fazlul also highlighted the environmental and technical challenges of battery disposal, particularly in the garment sector, where compliance requirements are stringent.

"Where will the batteries be disposed of? This is a major issue. It is highly technical and potentially very risky," he said.

Drawing on his 12 years of experience with solar energy projects, Fazlul said implementing solar power initiatives was far more complicated than it might appear.

Fahmida Khatun, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said green growth had become imperative for Bangladesh rather than a matter of choice.

"For Bangladesh, it is no longer a matter of choice; it has become an imperative," she said.

The key challenge is to advance green growth through domestic policies and actions alongside international engagement, Fahmida added.

She also urged Bangladesh to explore green bonds and carbon markets to mobilise financing, saying both remained underutilised.

"Financing is an important issue. Bangladesh could explore green bonds and opportunities in carbon markets, areas that we have not explored sufficiently," she said, adding that greater emphasis on market-based mechanisms was necessary because public resources were limited and faced competing demands.

BSEC tightens

FROM PAGE B1

However, some companies have failed to comply with these requirements, prompting the commission to take measures under the relevant securities laws and regulations.

The commission also decided to amend the existing directives to require companies to deposit the full amount of their declared dividends in a separate bank account and obtain the required bank certificate before placing dividend-related proposals at their AGMs.

Companies that fail to meet these requirements will not be allowed to place dividend-related proposals at their annual general meetings, according to the press release.

In another decision, the BSEC agreed to simplify the appointment and reappointment of independent directors at listed companies under the Corporate Governance Code 2018 and its amendments.

The move aims to simplify the appointment and reappointment process and ensure the smooth continuation of administrative activities at listed companies.

The commission decided that approval for reappointing existing independent directors would be granted, subject to the submission of an updated Credit Information Bureau (CIB) report from Bangladesh Bank.

The BSEC also clarified how waivers granted under the Corporate Governance Code 2018 apply.

If an independent director was previously granted an exemption or waiver regarding qualification and experience requirements, that waiver will automatically apply if the director is newly appointed to another listed company or reappointed to the same company.

In such cases, a fresh exemption will not need to be obtained, the press release added.

Govt to review

FROM PAGE B1

same day. Overnight stays are allowed in December and January, when the average number of visitors must not exceed 2,000 a day. Tourist visits are suspended in February.

The ministry said the existing rules would be reviewed and further decisions announced later.

Minister Mintoo said the island's carrying capacity, waste management, availability of safe drinking water and tourism's impact on marine ecosystems must be considered before decisions are made.

State Minister for Environment Shaikh Faridul Islam stressed the need to buy travel passes and QR code-based tickets through web portals recognised by the Bangladesh Tourism Board and to follow environmental guidelines.

He also called for preventing visitors from carrying banned polythene, discouraging single-use plastics and encouraging tourists to bring their own water flasks.

Existing restrictions to protect marine turtles, birds, coral and other wildlife will remain in force. These include restrictions on lighting beaches and adjacent areas at night, creating noise or holding barbecue parties, entering keya forests or collecting and trading keya fruit, and riding motorcycles or similar vehicles on beaches.

Sonali Bank

FROM PAGE B1

At the meeting, Governor Mostaqur said protecting depositors would remain the regulator's priority.

He instructed National Bank to take the necessary measures to ensure that depositors could withdraw money according to their needs from all branches and ATM booths.

"Depositors must not be turned away under any circumstances. From October 15, they will get their money back. In this regard, the bank will be provided with liquidity support as needed," BB Executive Director and Spokesperson Arief Hossain Khan said after the meeting.

Melita said while the Bangladesh Bank instructed National Bank to reopen and resume operations, the regulator had not specified the exact mechanism through which assistance would be provided.

National Bank incurred losses of nearly Tk 9,000 crore in the four years since 2022. In 2025, the bank posted a loss of Tk 2,430 crore, up 41 percent from Tk 1,722 crore in the previous year, according to its annual report.

Its non-performing loans accounted for 59.69 percent of total outstanding loans at the end of 2025.

The latest liquidity support comes after four National Bank depositors approached the High Court last month seeking access to their savings.

One of Bangladesh's oldest private lenders, National Bank, has received uncollateralised liquidity support from Bangladesh Bank over the past several years amid funding shortages and a high level of non-performing loans.

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Mymensingh.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.6100.000.07.002.26-4659 Date: 13-10-2026

e-Tender Notice No : 38/2026-2027

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http:/www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of

So. No	Package No & Scheme Name	Tender ID	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time
1	2	3	4	5
01	MRIDP/MUK/RD-94 Improvement of Jonka Bazer-Tanmohistara Road. by BC at Ch. 1975m - 2440m under Muktagacha Upazila, District: Mymensingh (Road ID: 361655111)	1352555	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 12:00	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 14:00
02	MRIDP/MUK/RD-45 Improvement of Roghunathpur Puraton Bazar-Milongonj Bazar Road by BC at Ch. 00m - 1000m under Muktagacha Upazila, District: Mymensingh (Road ID: 361655147).	1352554	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 12:00	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 14:00
03	MRIDP/FULB/RD-52 Improvement of Keshoregonj-Balughat via Shibpur Road by BC at Ch. 1409m - 2609m under Fulbaria Upazila, District: Mymensingh (Road ID 361203014)	1352553	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 12:00	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 14:00
04	MRIDP/TAR/RD-78 Improvement of Bogirpar Bottola-Md. Motahar Hossan bari (Daruga bari) Road by BC at Ch. 00m - 880m under Tarakanda Upazila, District: Mymensingh (Road ID 361185219)	1352552	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 12:00	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 14:00
05	MRIDP/NAN/RD-95 Improvement of Shaildhara to Modhupur Eidgah Field via Mohaboi Road by BC at Ch. 00m - 1770m under Nandail Upazila, District: Mymensingh (Road ID: 361725338).	1352550	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 12:00	Date-: 29-Oct-2026 Time: 14:00

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 (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The e-Tender Security Submitted last Date & Time from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP hellp desk (helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd)also from E-mail: xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd or Cell to 02-996664365. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders/Proposals / Pre-Qualifications / EOIs

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

13/10/26
(Humayon Kabir)
Executive Engineer
Phone: 02-996664365
xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd

GD-2501

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of The Commandant (Additional DIG).
RRF, Chattogram.
web: www.police.gov.bd

Memo No:-Admin/2026-27/1617/1st/ RRF, Ctg. **Date:** 13/10/2026

Invitation for Tenders (IFT) - 02/2026-27
e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under Range Reserve Force (RRF), Chattogram. It is to be noted that bidders with up-to-date and valid enlistment under the Commandant (Additional DIG), RRF, Chattogram, are eligible to participate in this procurement process.

Tender ID	Package No	Name of Work	Procurement Method	Tender Document Price (BDT)	Tender Security Amount (BDT)	Tender Selling Last Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1347767	E Tender/ Repair/ 2026-27 - A	Comprehensive repair and painting work of the SI (Armed)residential quarters within the RRF Police Lines, Chattogram.	LTM	500	25000	27-Oct-2026 11.30	27-Oct-2026 12.00
1347843	E Tender/ Repair/ 2026-27 - B	Comprehensive repair of the TRC dining hall of RRF, Chattogram, including the tin roof and painting of the entire building.	LTM	500	10000	27-Oct-2026 11.30	27-Oct-2026 12.00
1347853	E Tender/ Repair/ 2026-27 -C	Comprehensive repair and painting work of the entire office building of the Commandant (Additional DIG), RRF, Chattogram.	LTM	500	25000	27-Oct-2026 11.30	27-Oct-2026 12.00
1347854	E Tender/ Repair/ 2026-27 -D	Repair work of three washrooms—located in the existing conference room and the adjacent classroom—for the use of officers and force members of RRF, Chattogram.	LTM	500	25000	27-Oct-2026 11.30	27-Oct-2026 12.00
1347858	E Tender/ Repair/ 2026-27 -E	Comprehensive repair and painting work of the semi-pucca building of the Transport Branch, RRF, Chattogram.	LTM	500	6000	27-Oct-2026 11.30	27-Oct-2026 12.00
1348338	E Tender/ Repair/ 2026-27 -F	Repair of the existing ramp for washing government vehicles at RRF, Chattogram.	LTM	500	10000	27-Oct-2026 11.30	27-Oct-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 (http://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's branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Jahangir Alam)
BP: 8510126925
Deputy Commandant (Police Super)
For Commandant (Additional DIG)
Range Reserve Force (RRF), Chattogram.
Mobile: 01320-116901, Phone: 02-334419875
E-Mail: rrf.ctg.dcom@police.gov.bd

GD-2495

A PUBLIC-INTEREST YOUTH ENTERPRISE EXPLAINER

IDEAS INTO ENTERPRISE

UDYOG

Upazila-Driven Youth Opportunity for Growth

A BANGLADESH BANK PROGRAMME

FACILITATION PARTNER BRAC BANK আস্থা অবিচল



A workable idea + a clear business plan

THE 50:50 FUNDING PACKAGE

Up to Tk 20 lakh

Total package based on need and assessment

Tk Up to Tk 10 lakh BANK LOAN + Tk Up to Tk 10 lakh CONDITIONAL GRANT

Amount depends on business need and bank assessment.
Collateral may be waived; confirm rate and terms.

Grant requires approved use and on-time loan repayment.

01 WHO CAN APPLY?

01 An adult aged 28 or under
Age is measured on the application deadline.

02 A local resident
Permanent resident of the upazila where you apply.

03 Your own workable idea
New or existing legal business with a realistic plan.

NOT ELIGIBLE
If previously borrowed from a bank or financial institution for business activities, are a loan defaulter, or work in a government, semi-government or autonomous institution.

02 WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS?

New and existing legal businesses are considered equally.

- Farming & food
- Making & crafts
- Services & tourism
- Tech & clean energy

PHASE 1 · 64 upazilas in Manikganj, Feni, Naogaon, Jhenaidah, Bhola, Habiganj, Rangpur and Netrakona.
Applicants get financial literacy; selected founders can get mentoring, training and market links.

03 HOW TO APPLY

PHASE 1 DEADLINE · 15 OCT 2026

1 GET THE OFFICIAL FORM
Download it from BRAC Bank or collect it at a scheduled bank branch.

2 WRITE THE BUSINESS PLAN
Include customers, sales, costs, risks, jobs and the funding you need.

3 SUBMIT IN YOUR UPAZILA
Use a scheduled bank branch in a covered upazila; ask for a tracking number.

YOUR APPLICATION PACK

- Completed form and business / funding plan
- NID or birth-registration certificate copy + 2 passport-size photos
- Local citizenship / residency certificate
- Education and training certificates, if any

A prior account at the receiving bank is not required.

SCAN FOR FORM

04 AFTER YOU SUBMIT

REVIEW
Idea, market, finances, skills and job potential are assessed.

CREDIT DECISION
Final selection does not itself guarantee a bank loan.

IF APPROVED
Loan and matching grant go together into a bank account.

Tk USE THE FUNDS AS APPROVED. KEEP RECEIPTS. REPAY ON TIME.
No personal spending, land or vehicle purchases. Missed payment or misuse turns the grant into a loan; a post-dated cheque is required.

Source: Bangladesh Bank SMESPD Circular 05 (13 Sep 2026), application form and programme leaflet · Form and FAQ: bracbank.com/bn/page/-udyog-application-form

BRAC BANK আস্থা অবিচল

BRAC BANK SME TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF MILLIONS ACROSS BANGLADESH

SERVING **20 LAKH** SME CUSTOMERS

CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF **2 CRORE FAMILIES**

BDT 2 LAKH CRORE SME LOANS DISBURSED

Register for Udyog

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