Customs intelligence alleges Tk 85cr revenue evasion by UAGM BD

Company denies allegations

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Customs intelligence officials have accused UAGM BD Limited of evading Tk 85.21 crore in revenue by misusing bonded warehouse facilities, citing idle machinery and discrepancies between declared production and electricity consumption at its factory in Siddhirganj, Narayanganj.

Jashim Uddin Gazi, managing director of the company, denied the allegations, saying all its goods had been exported.

"All our goods have been exported. There is nothing wrong with that," he told The Daily Star over the phone.

In a press statement yesterday, the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) said a team raided the factory on September 9 and found inadequate arrangements for regular production.

The company, a deemed exporter under the Customs Bond Commissionerate, Dhaka (South), had been importing raw materials duty-free under the bonded warehouse facility and declaring exports through back-to-back letters of credit (LCs), the statement said.

The directorate alleged that the company obtained Utilisation Permissions (UPs) and showed exports on paper while selling the imported duty-free raw materials in the domestic market. Acting on confidential information, a preventive team raided the factory at Mijmiji Dakshin Para in Siddhirganj, the agency said.

Officials found production machinery lying idle in heaps and electricity consumption that was grossly inconsistent with the declared production volume, according to the statement.

Inflation outpaces

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Economists blame deeper labour market problems: widespread informality, weak bargaining power, more jobseekers than jobs, and stagnant investment.

INVESTMENT AND JOBS

Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairperson of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), said the long gap between wages and inflation reflects economic stagnation and a shortage of productive employment.

"Wage growth is not increasing because investment is not taking place, and employment opportunities are not being created. We are not seeing productive employment," he said.

Pay rises are not set by market forces alone, he noted.

"It is not simply a question of supply and demand. It is also a question of institutional bargaining power," he said, adding that workers' leverage is weakened by an abundant labour supply and by state repression of collective organising.

Prolonged erosion of real wages could push more people into poverty, he warned.

"There is also a growing risk that people who were previously above the poverty line could fall back into poverty," he said.

NO SYSTEM TO PROTECT WAGES

Sayema Haque Bidisha, a professor of economics at the University of Dhaka, said the problem starts with the absence of a wage protection system.

"Overall, the main issue is the absence of a system for minimum-wage legislation and regular wage adjustments," she said.

"Informality often means workers lack bargaining power," she said. A union need not be formally registered, but workers need some platform to raise concerns collectively, and that is often missing.

The slowdown has made things worse. "When demand weakens, workers have less bargaining power," she said.

The market is also oversupplied, she said. New entrants each year are joined by earlier jobseekers who found no adequate work and by the underemployed.

"If we consider all these groups, labour supply is substantially greater than the demand for labour," she said.

Demand is weakening too. "Moreover, demand is weakening because employment elasticity is low, particularly in the manufacturing sector," she said.

WHAT THE DATA MAY MISS

Bidisha cautioned that official figures may not show the full picture. The WRI mainly tracks daily wage workers, and while their pay may be rising, others may be doing worse.

"But if we consider the labour market as a whole, wages may actually be declining in many places," she said.

"There may be groups of workers whose wages are actually declining, but we do not necessarily know whether or to what extent this is happening because the available data do not capture the entire labour market."

"INDIVIDUAL CHANGES, REMUNERATION DOES NOT"

Wage stagnation is particularly pronounced in the informal sector, where workers often receive no pay increase even when they change jobs, a BBS official said.

"The individual changes, but the remuneration does not," the official said, pointing to brick kilns, poultry farms and other labour-intensive sectors where employers can readily replace workers without raising wages.

Some daily labourers receive fixed weekly or monthly payments, which can leave them earning less than they would under a daily payment arrangement, the official said. Workers who seek higher wages or leave over mistreatment can be replaced by others willing to accept the same pay.

Garment workers have a formal wage structure, but many in agriculture, poultry and other sectors lack similar protections, the official said.

More women are also taking up farm work as some men move into other jobs, including driving auto-rickshaws, but women are often paid less.

"If you look at places where men previously accounted for perhaps even 80% of the workforce, that proportion is declining. Women are increasingly taking up those agricultural jobs, but their wages are lower than men's," the official said.

Available data do not show where workers go when they leave agriculture, whether to industry or services, and that needs further research, the official said.

Take growth

FROM PAGE B1

increases government borrowing; and greater government borrowing can further restrict financing for private investment."

Selim said the slowdown should not be treated as a cyclical downturn, because it reflects structural and institutional weaknesses built up over many years.

According to him, reviving growth will take more than new credit schemes or investment incentives.

The immediate task, he said, is to win back the confidence of private investors. Businesses need predictable energy supply, greater certainty over taxes and tariffs, better access to finance, improved law and order, and assurance that economic policies will not change abruptly.

He said domestic gas exploration should be accelerated, energy imports diversified and taxes and duties on fuel imports reviewed, so that energy prices can be kept at a tolerable level without creating unsustainable subsidies.

"Revenue reform is equally urgent, but additional revenue should come from broadening the tax base, reducing unjustified exemptions and improving tax administration rather than repeatedly increasing the burden on compliant taxpayers," added the economist.

'SEEK SUPPORT FROM DEVELOPMENT PARTNER'

PRI Principal Economist Ashikur said his team saw this coming. "Our team warned of the stagflationary risks facing Bangladesh eleven months ago."

"My assessment is that we are confronting more than a temporary slowdown: banking distress, energy shortages and weak fiscal capacity are constraining investment and production, while persistent inflation continues to erode household purchasing power. The World Bank's latest assessment reinforces this diagnosis."

He said weak banks are impairing credit and investor confidence, while energy shortages and high production costs deter investment and inflation squeezes consumption.

Ashikur said global uncertainty is making matters worse but is not the sole cause. The inflation outlook is particularly uncertain because of energy costs and supply pressures, and further external shocks would weaken growth while raising prices.

The central difficulty, he said, is that the banking sector needs financial support on a scale the state is not currently equipped to provide.

"Restoring bank capital, protecting small depositors and restructuring distressed institutions require resources, yet the government already faces severe competing demands on a narrow revenue base. In my assessment, financing the banking-sector clean-up entirely from domestic public resources would risk undermining other essential spending."

He said emergency lending can help manage immediate funding pressures but cannot replace capital lost through bad loans. "Prolonged central-bank support to weak banks risks adding to inflation and exchange-rate instability. We must therefore distinguish between keeping banks temporarily liquid and restoring their long-term financial viability."

Bangladesh needs stronger, coordinated support from the IMF, World Bank, ADB and bilateral partners, he said.

"The government should seek concessional budget and balance-of-payments financing, alongside technical assistance for bank restructuring."

"Such support should create room to repair the financial sector while preserving essential public investment and targeted assistance to vulnerable households, not finance an unconditional bailout of bank owners," added Ashikur.

He said, "Without strong development-partner support and decisive fiscal and financial-sector reforms, I do not see a credible route out of the stagflationary trap. External financing can give us the resources and time to manage the adjustment; reforms must ensure that we do not return to the same crisis."

'SPEED UP PUBLIC SPENDING'

BIDS Research Director Iqbal said high interest rates and low investment, both public and private, are likely to bring economic growth down. But it is hard to tell the extent.

"The only way to push the growth rate is to boost public investment in the short run," he said, adding that ADP implementation is the key.

Fertiliser subsidy

FROM PAGE B1

Higher fertiliser prices would immediately raise cultivation costs, while farmers would recover those expenses only after harvest. Their ability to do so would depend on yields, crop prices and access to finance.

Sharecroppers and farmers leasing land face additional pressure. The World Bank estimates that three-quarters of marginal rice farmers consume more rice than they produce, leaving them dependent on market purchases to meet their food needs.

The bank warns that abrupt price increases could force cash-strapped farmers to reduce fertiliser use or struggle with higher costs.

Higher prices would not automatically reduce output or fuel food inflation, however. The impact would depend on the scale of the increase, current fertiliser application rates and whether compensation reached farmers in time.

Launched in April, the government's farmer-card programme aims to provide digital identification and access to agricultural inputs, subsidies and financial assistance.

The FY27 budget allocates Tk 1,062.5 crore to distribute 42.5 lakh cards across 100 upazilas. Eligible landless, marginal and small farmers are to receive Tk 2,500 annually.

On September 30, Agriculture Minister Mohammed Aminur Rashid said 100,047 farmers were scheduled to receive assistance in the first phase, while a database covering around 43 lakh farmers was being developed.

The World Bank recommends linking digital farmer registries to electronic vouchers so assistance can be targeted according to farmers' circumstances and input needs.

But registries based mainly on land ownership could miss landless farmers who cultivate leased plots. Fertiliser requirements also vary by cultivated area, crop and cropping frequency, making a uniform payment an imperfect substitute for existing subsidies.

The Tk 2,500 annual assistance has not been designated as compensation for fertiliser price increases, and no published calculation shows how much of any additional cost it would cover.

The World Bank's e-voucher pilot documentation also identifies beneficiary selection, dealer participation, digital infrastructure, legal requirements and monitoring as issues that need to be addressed before implementation.

A World Bank study based on 2019 survey data found that farmers paid an average of 27 percent above official fertiliser price ceilings.

The Daily Star has also reported farmers paying inflated prices when authorised dealers could not meet demand. Despite reports of adequate national stocks, local shortages and disruptions to the dealer network have left some farmers facing higher prices.

Electronic vouchers could improve the traceability of subsidies, but they would not solve distribution problems on their own. Farmers would still need functioning dealers and timely access to fertiliser.

On October 5, Bangladesh signed a $300 million financing agreement with the World Bank to maintain fertiliser supplies during critical planting periods amid global price volatility and supply disruptions.

The Emergency Support for Food Security Project will run from July 2026 to June 2027, supporting fertiliser imports and smallholder farmers. The Finance Division will implement it in coordination with the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation and the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation.

The financing addresses immediate supply risks, not compensation for higher fertiliser prices. It also does not specify how a replacement voucher system would work. Bangladesh is therefore seeking external financing to maintain fertiliser availability even as international lenders press for changes to the subsidy system.

The World Bank's recommendations point to four requirements for reform: gradual price adjustments, reliable identification of eligible farmers, timely assistance and adequate fertiliser supplies.

Larger farms receive more subsidy in absolute terms because they cultivate more land. That alone does not establish whether their support is excessive or how reducing it would affect production. Nor do aggregate subsidy figures reveal how individual farmers would fare under a replacement system.

The government has yet to announce whether it will adopt market-based fertiliser pricing. If it does, the central question will be whether targeted support reaches small and marginal farmers before they face higher costs.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Memo No.: 35.01.1800.409.05.001.26- 1966 Dated: - 14/10/2026

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID	Tender No and Description	Last selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
1349436	e-GP/CHURD/07/2026-2027. Construction of Rigid Pavement from Ch. 0+000 Km (Chuadanga Rail Station) to Ch 0+198 Km (Chuadanga Rail Station) Length=198.00m of Chuadanga Rail Station - Court More Road (Chuadanga Old Town Road) (Z-7407) under Road Division. Chuadanga, during the year 2026-2027.	25-Oct-2026 16:00	26-Oct-2026 11:00

- 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 Member of Schedule Banks for e-GP.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Shakirul Islam) 14/10/26
ID No. 602272
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Chuadanga.
01730-782778.

GD-2509

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Chittagong Road Division, Chattogram.
Phone: 88-0233363232
www.rhd.chittagong.gov.bd

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE-02

This is an information for all concern that due to unavoidable circumstances the e-Tender Notice circulated vide this office memo no. 35.01.1541.408.31.002.26-4255, date: 14.09.2026 of Chattogram Road Division has been changed as follows:

Package: e-GP/PMP Bridge/06/EE/CRD/RHD/2025-26 (Tender ID- 1332445)

Previous		Replaced	
Tender Last Selling/ Dowloading Date	: 14.10.2026 16:00	Tender Last Selling/ Dowloading Date	: 18.10.2026 16:00
Tender Closing Date & Time	: 15.10.2026 12:00	Tender Closing Date & Time	: 19.10.2026 12:00
Tender Opening Date & Time	: 15.10.2026 12:00	Tender Opening Date & Time	: 19.10.2026 12:00
Tender Security Submission Last Date & Time	: 15.10.2026 11:00	Tender Security Submission Last Date & Time	: 19.10.2026 11:00

Except the above changes, all other Terms and Conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

14-10-26
(Md. Mohinul Islam)
ID No. 700244
Sub Assistant Engineer,RHD
Chattogram Road Division.

14.10.2026
(Mohammad Yunus)
(ID No. 700158)
Asstt. Engineer, RHD,
(Addl. Charge)
Road Division, Chattogram.

(Md. Maidul Islam)
(ID No. 602361)
Executive Engineer(C.C), RHD
Road Division, Chattogram.

GD-2512

More goods could push UK exports

FROM PAGE B1

He urged businesses to improve product quality, meet international standards, strengthen certification and supply-chain traceability, and invest in packaging and branding.

Better access to market intelligence and stronger compliance would also help exporters compete in the UK, he said.

Taskeen also called for the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers to boost bilateral trade and investment.

James Goldman, acting British high commissioner to Bangladesh, said the two countries have longstanding relations and a growing trade and investment partnership.

He said continued access to the UK market after LDC graduation would help businesses plan ahead, expand operations and make investment decisions with greater certainty. He hoped Bangladeshi businesses would take advantage of the opportunities.

Ellie Parker, regional trade adviser for South Asia, Central Asia and the South Caucasus at the British High Commission, led a technical session on the DCTS.

She covered market access under the scheme, including after LDC graduation, preferential tariff arrangements and the practical steps exporters must take to benefit.

During a panel discussion, speakers from the National Board of Revenue's Customs Bond Commissionerate in Chattogram, the Footwear, Leather Goods and Accessories Exporters Association, Hortex Foundation, Meghna Group, Cupcake Exports Ltd, MUC Foods Ltd and Bangladesh Flexible Packaging Industries Association talked about ways to expand non-RMG exports.

Govt wants to shift from Chinese loans

FROM PAGE B1

Partners agreed the government was addressing a fragile economy transparently and trying to rein in inflation and ease the fuel burden despite the Middle East crisis, and welcomed safety net programmes such as the Family Card and Farmers Card.

He said the tax system would be digitised and harassment reduced without raising rates. The tax-GDP ratio (tax collection as a share of the economy), below 7 percent under the previous government, was showing signs of improvement.

চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন
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স্মারক নং-৪৬.১১.১৬০০.০০২.৩৯.২৬.০১/১০৮ তারিখ- ১২-১০-২০২৬ইং

"পুনঃনিলামে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়	স্থানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়	
০২	এজেন্সী	চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন	
০৩	সংগ্রহকারী সংস্থার নাম	প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন	
০৪	বিজ্ঞপ্তির উদ্দেশ্য		
০৫	দরপত্রের স্বাক্ষর নম্বর	প্রযোজ্য নহে	
প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলী ঃ			
০৬	সংগ্রহকারী পদ্ধতি	ও,টি,এম	
যোগানদাতার বিবরণ ঃ			
০৭	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	প্রযোজ্য নহে	
বিস্তারিত বিবরণ ঃ			
০৮	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ নং	প্রযোজ্য নহে	
০৯	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ এর নাম	নিলাম প্রক্রিয়া	
১০	বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	তারিখ ঃ ১২.১০.২০২৬	
১১	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	তারিখ ঃ ২৬.১০.২০২৬	সময় ঃ ৪ টা
১২	টেন্ডার গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ ঃ ২৭.১০.২০২৬	সময় ঃ ১২.০০টা
১৩	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ ঃ ২৭.১০.২০২৬	সময় ঃ ২.৩০ টা
১৪	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঠিকানা সমূহ	
	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়	প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন	
	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট গ্রহণ	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী ডি-২, কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন।	
	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট খোলা	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ কমিটি, চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন।	
কোটেশন দাতার তথ্যাবলী ঃ			
১৫	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ও অন্যান্য সংস্থার বৈধ তালিকাভুক্ত, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও সদ্য নবায়নের সনদ, আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা, আয়কর, ভ্যাট ও অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। কোন কালো তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদার ও ব্যাংক হইতে দেউলিয়া ঘোষিত এমন দরদাতা অংশগ্রহণ করিতে পারিবে না।	
১৬	কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ	সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকিবে	
১৭	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য ও ধরন	প্রতিসেট ২,০০০/- টাকা (পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট) বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পরবর্তী তারিখের হইতে হইবে।	
১৮	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট গ্রহণ	উর্দ্ধৃত দরের ১০% হারে মেয়র, চসিক অনুকূলে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পরবর্তী তারিখের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট প্রদান পূর্বক সিডিউলের সাথে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। (এম,আই,সি,আর নং বিহীন পে-অর্ডার গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না)	
কাজের বিবরণ ঃ			

১৯	কাজের নং	কাজের নাম	কাজের স্থান	প্রতি সেট দরপত্রের মূল্য	নিরাপত্তা জামানতের পরিমাণ (লক্ষ টাকায়)
		সুগন্ধা আ/এ মুখে স্থিত অফিসার্স কোয়ার্টার জরাজীর্ণ পুরাতন ভবন ভেঙ্গে পুনঃনিলামে বিক্রয় প্রসঙ্গে।	সুগন্ধা আ/এ	২,০০০/-	উর্দ্ধৃত দরের ১০%

দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তা ঃ		
২০		মাহামুদ শাফকাত আমিন
২১		নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী অঞ্চল-২
২২		চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন
২৩	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার ফোন, ফ্যাক্স ও ই-মেইল	

ক) দরপত্র আহবানকারী সংস্থা যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।
খ) দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সুপারিশ ও যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রশাসনিক অনুমোদন পাওয়ার পর নোটিফিকেশন অব এওয়ার্ড প্রদান করা হইবে।
গ) দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণিত আছে।
ঘ) দরপত্রের বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী প্রকৌশল বিভাগ হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।
ঙ) দরপত্রের আর্নেস্টমানি ও নিরাপত্তা জামানতের জন্য জমাকৃত পে-অর্ডার দরপত্রের আহবানের পরবর্তী নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে হইতে হইবে।
চ) কাটাকাটিজনিত ও অসম্পূর্ণ পূরণকৃত বি ও কিউ বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
ছ) নিলামকারীকে ভ্যাট আয়করের টাকা উদ্ধৃত দরের ২৫% হারে আলাদাভাবে উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে।

চসিক/জস-৫৪/২৬-২৭ (৮" X৩)

মাহামুদ শাফকাত আমিন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী অঞ্চল-২
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