Business

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Over 2cr LPG cylinders left idle

Consumers and distributors pay extra as major operators lose import capacity, leaving active companies short of cylinders to meet demand

ASIFUR RAHMAN

More than 2 crore empty liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders are lying idle across the country, either in warehouses owned by distributors or in consumers' homes, as several major operators have lost their ability to import the cooking gas and other companies cannot refill cylinders carrying rival brands.

The problem is adding to costs for both distributors and consumers. People often have to pay for cylinders from different brands even when empty cylinders from other operators remain unused for months.

Market insiders said several major LPG operators had been unable to import the fuel for nearly two years following the 2024 uprising, as financial difficulties and banking restrictions prevented them from opening letters of credit (LCs).

As a result, their market shares have shrunk, while other companies have increased imports to fill the gap.

But the brand-specific cylinder system prevents active operators from refilling cylinders belonging to competitors, leaving lakhs of cylinders outside the regular supply chain.



According to Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) data, Bashundhara, Beximco, Orion, Greentown, Unitex, JMI and Universal either stopped importing LPG or sharply reduced their imports over the past two fiscal years compared with fiscal year 2023-24.

In FY2023-24, Unitex imported 1.55 lakh tonnes of LPG but brought in none in FY2025-26, according to BERC data. Bashundhara, the second-largest importer in FY2023-24, brought in 1.38 lakh tonnes that year, but its imports fell to just 10,027 tonnes in FY2025-26.

Of the seven companies, all except JMI dropped out of the list of importers in the last fiscal year. JMI imported only 8,800 tonnes in FY26, compared with more than 50,000 tonnes in each of the previous two fiscal years.

LPG companies generally take security deposits from distributors against the cylinders they supply. Distributors and retailers, in turn, collect deposits from customers for their first cylinder and exchange empty ones for refilled cylinders when they buy LPG again.

However, when a particular brand becomes unavailable, consumers may be unable to exchange their empty cylinders for refilled ones from other operators. They may then have to pay for another brand's cylinder, while their original one remains unused.

The country currently consumes around 1.5 lakh tonnes of LPG a month, equivalent to approximately 1.25 crore refills of 12kg cylinders.

READ MORE ON B3

BB autonomy remains elusive amid IMF reform demands

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Thailand ended amid growing pressure on the global economy, particularly on low-income and fragile countries, from conflicts, trade tensions, energy insecurity and the uneven impact of artificial intelligence.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) stressed the importance of central bank independence for price stability and credible policymaking. Mohammed Aljadaan, chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, also called for credible medium-term fiscal plans and structural reforms at a press briefing on October 17.

When the IMF approved a $4.5 billion support programme for Bangladesh in 2023, it included around half a dozen reform conditions, including ensuring central bank independence.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The BNP-led government decided in May this year to leave the programme eight months before its scheduled expiry. It later sought a new package, according to a June 3 statement by Ivo Krznar, the IMF's mission chief for Bangladesh. Central bank independence could again be a condition of the new programme.

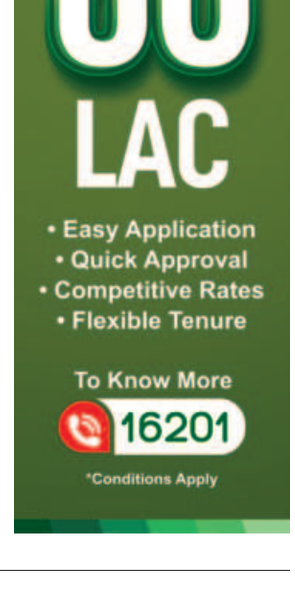
A STALLED REFORM

The political changeover in August 2024 exposed deep-rooted weaknesses in the banking sector, which had been hit by scams during the Awami League-led government's 16-year rule. The central bank's lack of independence was widely seen as a major factor behind the problems.

The interim administration, under then Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor Ahsan H Mansur, moved to amend the Bangladesh Bank Order 1972 to strengthen the central bank's autonomy. BB sent a draft amendment to the finance ministry, but it remained pending until the February 12 national election.

Then finance adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said the next government would pass it.

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WB gives $450m to strengthen financial sector

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh has signed a $450 million financing agreement with the World Bank to strengthen the financial sector's safety net, improve supervision and support banking sector reforms.

The agreement, equivalent to 328 million Special Drawing Rights (SDR), was signed on Friday under the Financial Sector Support Project II.

Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) are international reserve assets created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1969 to supplement member countries' official reserves.

The SDR is not a currency; its value is based on a basket of five major currencies: the US dollar, euro, Chinese renminbi, Japanese yen and British pound sterling.

Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky, secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Jean Pesme, World Bank division director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides, according to an ERD press release issued yesterday.

The financing carries an annual interest rate of 1.5 percent on the amount withdrawn. A commitment fee of up to 0.50 percent a year may also apply to the undisbursed amount

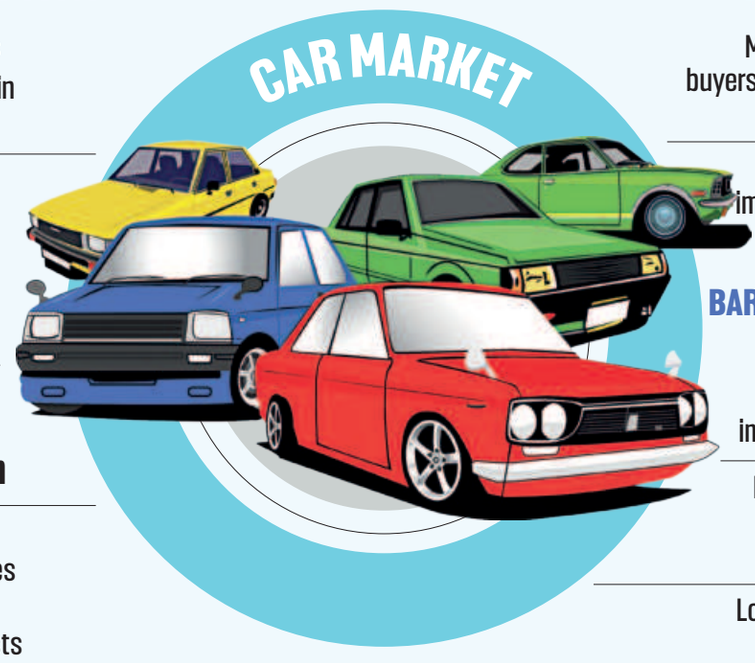
The project will run for five years, from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031. Bangladesh Bank will implement it under the Financial Institutions Division of the Ministry of Finance.

The financing carries an annual interest rate of 1.5 percent on the amount withdrawn. A commitment fee of up to 0.50 percent a year may also apply to the undisbursed amount.

However, the World Bank has waived the commitment fee for Bangladesh for many years, including the current fiscal year.

The loan has a repayment period of 25 years, including a five-year grace period.

The World Bank is Bangladesh's largest multilateral development partner. Its financing supports the country's economic and social development, institutional reforms, infrastructure and energy sector development, the ERD said.



Economic slowdown drags down car market

Reduced purchase capacity and taka's depreciation major reasons, say BARVIDA leaders

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Economic slowdown, rising vehicle prices and the depreciation of the taka against the US dollar have reduced car imports and weakened demand in Bangladesh's Tk 20,000 crore automobile market, according to reconditioned-car importers.

"Vehicle import costs have increased by around 30 percent over the past two years due to currency depreciation," Reaz Rahman, secretary general of the Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association (BARVIDA), said yesterday.

He was responding to a journalist's question at a press conference at the association's office ahead of the BARVIDA Car Expo 2026.

The slowdown is reflected in Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) data, which show that only 5,458 private passenger cars were registered between January and August this year, averaging around 682 a month.

At this rate, registrations could reach around 8,187 for the full year, nearly 13 percent lower than the 9,387 recorded in 2025.

Private passenger-car registrations have declined for three consecutive years, falling from 16,695 in 2022 to 10,784 in 2023, 10,499 in 2024 and 9,387 in 2025.

Saiful Islam (Somrat), BARVIDA vice-president-1 and acting president, said the depreciation of the taka against the US dollar had significantly increased import costs.

The dollar had appreciated by nearly 40 percent at one point, he said, adding that the price of an entry-level car had risen from Tk 16 lakh to around Tk 24 lakh.

He also cited the Toyota Axio, a popular choice among middle-income buyers. Importers have to pay around Tk 15 lakh in duties and taxes for a non-hybrid model, compared with Tk 11.5 lakh for a hybrid version.

Higher vehicle prices, coupled with persistent inflation, have made private cars increasingly unaffordable for middle-income consumers, he said.

The slowdown is also reflected in reconditioned-car imports. Bangladesh imported 21,337 such vehicles in FY25, down from 21,519 in the previous fiscal year, Saiful said.

Importers are also facing higher sourcing costs in Japan, where rising auction prices have added to their expenses, he added.

Reaz said lower imports had also reduced government revenue.

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SPOTLIGHT

Toyota Tsusho to invest additional Tk 141cr in Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Toyota Tsusho Corporation, the trading arm of Japanese carmaker Toyota Group, is investing an additional Tk 141 crore, or 1,815 million yen, in its Bangladesh subsidiary to expand and strengthen its automotive business here.

In a stock exchange disclosure dated October 30, Toyota Tsusho announced that it would inject the amount into Toyota Bangladesh Ltd, raising the subsidiary's capital to Tk 604 crore (7,770 million yen).

The announcement came a day after Prime Minister Tarique Rahman visited Toyota's Motomachi plant in Nagoya as part of his four-day visit to Japan. Earlier in October, a delegation led by Toyota Tsusho Vice Chairman Ichiro Kashitani met the PM in Dhaka and informed him of the company's plan to establish a Toyota vehicle manufacturing plant in Bangladesh, according to a UNB report.



Toyota also informed the PM that it would begin work in 2027 to establish a hybrid electric vehicle manufacturing facility in an economic zone under the development vision of "With Bangladesh, for Bangladesh", with full-scale production targeted for 2029, the report added.

In its stock exchange filing on October 30, Toyota Tsusho did not disclose specific plans for the additional investment but added that, following the investment, Toyota Bangladesh would become a specified subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho, as its capital would exceed 10 percent of the Japanese company's capital.

Toyota Tsusho Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, a Singapore-based subsidiary of the Japanese group, holds 99 percent of Toyota Bangladesh, while Toyota Tsusho directly owns the remaining 1 percent.

Established in August 2025, Toyota Bangladesh serves as Toyota Tsusho's base for expanding its mobility business in the country. Its operations cover the import, wholesale and retail of Toyota vehicles and spare parts, alongside after-sales services.

Toyota Bangladesh reported

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Use LDC deferment to diversify exports, raise productivity

AmCham president says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should use the deferment of its graduation from the least developed country category to raise productivity and diversify exports, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) said on Friday.

In a statement, Syed Mohammad Kamal welcomed the United Nations General Assembly's decision to defer graduation until November 24, 2029.

He said the extra three years should help shift competitiveness from one partly sustained by LDC preferences to one driven by productivity, quality, innovation and investment.

Citing recently reported estimates, the AmCham chief said about 73 percent of Bangladesh's merchandise exports benefit from LDC-specific preferences, and exporters may encounter higher duties and more demanding rules of origin as these arrangements eventually expire, subject to each market's transition rules.

To ease that transition, he urged Bangladesh to prepare for the European Union's GSP+ eligibility requirements and engage Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada and ASEAN economies on trade arrangements.

As readymade garments accounted for 81 percent of merchandise exports in FY2025-26, according to BGMEA data, Kamal called for diversification into pharmaceuticals, medical technology, ICT and digital services, leather goods, light engineering and agro-processing.

On the domestic front, he cited IMF data showing tax revenue at 6.9 percent of GDP in FY2024-25, and pressed for broadening the tax base, improving compliance through digitalisation and strengthening banking-sector governance.

As RMG accounted for 81 percent of merchandise exports in FY26, according to BGMEA data, Kamal called for diversification into ICT and digital services

To tie these measures together, Kamal said a time-bound, measurable Smooth Transition Strategy was needed, guided by the government and informed continuously by the private sector.

He said the first year of the strategy should map sector-wise tariff and compliance exposures, the second should deliver visible improvements in customs, energy, logistics and other areas, and the third should test business readiness.



Mahmudul Hoque elected Jamuna Bank chairman

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Mahmudul Hoque has been elected chairman of Jamuna Bank PLC, returning to the position he previously held in 2012.

He was unanimously elected at the bank's 486th board meeting held on October 28, according to a press release.

Before his election, Mahmudul was a member of the bank's board executive committee. He is also one of the sponsor directors of the bank.

Mahmudul has nearly 40 years of business experience spanning textiles, power generation, banking, education and real estate.

He founded Anlima Yarn Dyeing Ltd in 1994. The company is listed on both the Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges. He also leads Anlima Group, which has several sister concerns operating in different sectors.

He has been involved in various social organisations and charitable activities, with a focus on corporate social responsibility and socio-economic development, the press release said.



Nayeem Chowdhury, vice-chairman of Indetechs Software Ltd, and Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution network of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Prime Bank signs payroll banking deal with Indetechs Software

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC recently signed a payroll banking agreement with Indetechs Software Ltd, one of the leading software companies in Bangladesh, to offer comprehensive payroll banking services.

Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution network of the bank, and Nayeem Chowdhury, vice-chairman of the software company, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, employees of Indetechs Software Ltd will enjoy exclusive payroll banking facilities, including salary accounts with competitive rates, dual-currency debit cards with fee waivers and lifestyle benefits, customised loan and credit card facilities, and a wide range of consumer banking products and services on preferential terms.

They will also have access to PrimePay, the bank's omni digital platform, which enables seamless and automated salary disbursement, along with convenient, round-the-clock corporate payment solutions.

Hasina Fardous, senior vice-president and head of payroll banking at the bank; Golam Iftikhar Hussain, assistant vice-president and business development manager of payroll banking; and Tasneem Rahman, assistant vice-president and head of payroll services, attended the signing ceremony.

Md Romenio Nimerin, chief operating officer of the software company; Mohammad Nurul Islam Khan Ashan, head of human resources; and Marwa Nur Sany, human resources and office associate, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the ceremony.

Citizens Bank opens branch in Khatunganj

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Citizens Bank PLC has opened a new branch in Khatunganj, a major commercial hub in Chattogram, to expand its banking services for local businesses and residents.

Chowdhury Mohammed Hanif Shoeb, chairman of the bank's board of directors, inaugurated the branch, according to a press release.

The bank's Managing Director Alamgir Hossain, Deputy Managing Directors Md Mostafizur Rahman and Md Abdul Latif, and other senior officials attended the ceremony. Local businesspeople, clients and invited guests were also present.

Speaking at the event, the bank's officials reaffirmed their commitment to supporting local businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), through customer-focused banking services.

They said the branch would provide tailored financing, working capital support, trade finance and business advisory services to help entrepreneurs expand their operations and improve competitiveness.

It would also offer retail banking services, including deposit schemes, consumer loans, remittance facilities and digital banking solutions.

The bank expects the new branch to improve access to financial services, encourage entrepreneurship and support economic activities in the area.



Chowdhury Mohammed Hanif Shoeb, chairman of Citizens Bank PLC, inaugurates the bank's new branch in Khatunganj, Chattogram recently. Senior bank officials, local businesspeople, clients and guests were present. PHOTO: CITIZENS BANK

Midland Bank partners with CG Runner for BYD car loans

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with CG Runner BD Ltd, an automobile company and authorised distributor of BYD vehicles in Bangladesh, to provide attractive auto financing facilities to customers purchasing BYD vehicles.

Imtiaz U Ahmed, managing director of the bank, and Amid Sakif Khan, managing director of the automobile company, signed the agreement at a ceremony held in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, eligible customers will enjoy competitive interest rates, flexible repayment options and convenient auto financing facilities for purchasing BYD vehicles.

Midland Bank will offer auto loans ranging from Tk 4 lakh to Tk 80 lakh, covering up to 80 percent of a vehicle's value, with repayment tenures of up to six years.

The bank will also facilitate loan processing within three working days of receiving all required documents, subject to its credit approval policies.

The partnership aims to simplify vehicle financing, enhance customer convenience and promote access to modern, environmentally friendly vehicles in Bangladesh.

Mohd Javed Tarek Khan, head of the institutional banking division at the bank; Muhammed Noorunnabi, head of operations, international division and offshore banking; Muhammad Majidul Haq Patwary, vice-president and unit head of the institutional banking division; and Mohammed Rashadul Anwar, head of the public relations division and coordinator of the retail distribution division, attended the signing ceremony.

Md Ferdowsur Rahman, chief financial officer of the automobile company, and Methun Bhattacharjee, head of business development, along with other officials from both organisations, were also present.



Amid Sakif Khan, managing director of CG Runner BD Ltd, and Imtiaz U Ahmed, managing director of Midland Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing a memorandum of understanding at a ceremony in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

Yeahia, Nazrul elected PR assoc president, secretary

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Yeahia Mirza, head of public relations and media at City Bank PLC, has been elected president of the Public Relations Association of Banks (PRAB), an organisation of public relations professionals working in the country's banking sector, for a two-year term (2026-2028).

Nazrul Islam, head of public affairs and brand communication at Dutch-Bangla Bank, has been elected general secretary, according to a press release issued by PRAB on Friday.

The new leadership was announced at a get-together organised by Daily Bonik Barta at a hotel in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Founded in 2011 by professionals working in the branding and communication departments of the country's banks, PRAB is governed by a 33-member executive committee, which serves a two-year term.

Heads of public relations and branding departments of leading commercial banks, along with senior public relations officials of Bangladesh Bank, serve in various positions on the committee.

Moniruzzaman Tipu, founding general secretary of PRAB, announced the names of the new leaders.



Yeahia Mirza



Nazrul Islam

Eastern Bank trains bankers on AML, CFT compliance

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL), as the lead bank, yesterday organised a daylong training workshop on Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) at Baywatch hotel in Cox's Bazar.

The workshop aimed to strengthen regulatory compliance and enhance professional expertise among banking professionals. Representatives of scheduled commercial banks operating in the district attended the programme.

A T M Kamrul Kabir Bhuiyan, director of the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Prevention Department at Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Addressing the participants, Kamrul stressed the importance of continuous training and knowledge-sharing in strengthening AML/CFT compliance across the banking sector.

He commended EBL for taking the initiative as the lead bank to bring together banking professionals from across Cox's Bazar.

Sajjad Hossain and Amitabh Chakraborty, additional directors of the central bank, and Sudipta Ghosh, a joint director of Bangladesh Bank, along with Md Shahjahan Ali, deputy CAMLCO, conducted sessions as expert resource persons.

The sessions covered emerging money laundering risks, regulatory requirements, effective AML and CFT risk management, credit-backed and trade-based money laundering, and sanctions compliance.



A T M Kamrul Kabir Bhuiyan, director of the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Prevention Department at Bangladesh Bank, attends the workshop organised by Eastern Bank PLC (EBL), the lead bank, at Baywatch hotel in Cox's Bazar yesterday. PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

Meghna Bank gets approval for Tk 400cr subordinated bond

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Meghna Bank PLC has received regulatory approval to issue a seven-year subordinated bond worth Tk 400 crore (Tk 4 billion) to strengthen its capital base and support business expansion.

The bank has secured approval from Bangladesh Bank and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to issue the bond, which will be included in its Tier-2 capital to help maintain capital adequacy and expand lending and investment activities, according to a press release.

The bond will carry a variable coupon rate based on the average of the highest six-month fixed deposit rates offered by commercial banks in Bangladesh, excluding specialised, Islamic and foreign banks, plus a margin of 3 percentage points.

As of September 30, 2026, the coupon rate stood at 12.05 percent per annum, comprising a reference rate of 9.05 percent and an additional margin of 3 percentage points. The rate will fluctuate in line with changes in the reference rate.

Each unit of the bond will have a face value of Tk 5 lakh and will be issued through private placement to eligible individual and institutional investors. The bond will be listed on the main board of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, allowing investors to trade it in the secondary market.

NRBC Bank's earnings per share rose in Jan-Sept

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NRBC Bank PLC's consolidated earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk 0.58 in the first nine months of 2026, up from Tk 0.10 in the same period a year earlier.

On a solo basis, EPS increased to Tk 0.69 from Tk 0.16 over the same period.

The bank disclosed the figures in its unaudited financial statements for the third quarter of 2026, approved at its 252nd board meeting held at the bank's head office on October 28, according to a press release.

NRBC Bank's consolidated net asset value per share rose 4.36 percent to Tk 17.47 as of September 30, 2026, from Tk 16.74 at the end of 2025. Its total consolidated net asset value increased by Tk 60.15 crore to Tk 1,447.28 crore during the period.

According to the bank, higher income from investments and a lower requirement for tax provisions contributed to the growth in EPS and net asset value.



NRBC Bank PLC Chairman Md Ali Hossain Prodhania chairs the bank's 252nd board meeting at its head office on October 28. Managing Director and CEO Md Touhidul Alam Khan, was also present, along with directors, committee chairmen and senior executives. PHOTO: NRBC BANK

Bangladesh, Japan seek to diversify financing ties

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh and Japan are exploring alternative financing mechanisms beyond foreign direct investment (FDI) to strengthen bilateral economic ties and expand investment cooperation.

The issue came up at a meeting in Tokyo on Friday between Bangladesh's Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama and Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs Atsushi Mimura.

The meeting was held at the Japanese finance minister's office, according to a press release issued by Bangladesh's finance ministry.

Both sides recalled the longstanding economic ties between the two countries and discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation, with particular emphasis on alternative financing, infrastructure development and trade expansion in Bangladesh.

They also agreed to take steps to strengthen existing economic relations and explore opportunities for cooperation in new sectors, the press release said.

Tanvir Shahriar Ghani, special assistant to the prime minister for investment and capital market affairs, and senior officials from both countries attended the meeting.

Japan is one of Bangladesh's major development partners and has financed numerous infrastructure and social development projects. Several Japanese-funded projects are currently under implementation.



Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury shakes hands with his Japanese counterpart Satsuki Katayama after a meeting at her ministry office in Tokyo on Friday. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Policy push could raise electrical equipment exports to $4b: experts

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh could reduce its dependence on imported electrical equipment to 25 percent and earn nearly $4 billion annually from exports over the next decade, provided the government extends policy support to local manufacturers, experts said at a seminar last week.

Currently, imports meet around 75 percent of the country's $4.75 billion domestic demand for electrical equipment, despite more than 100 local companies manufacturing these products. Of them, 33 are members of the Bangladesh Manufacturers' Association of Transformers and Switchgears (BMATS).

The seminar, titled "Power-up Bangladesh: Through Import Substitution and Growing Exports with Electrical Equipment -- Made in Bangladesh", was held at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden on the occasion of BMATS's first annual general meeting.

Local manufacturers have already shown their export potential. Some BMATS member companies collectively export more than $23 million worth of electrical equipment to eight countries, including India, Nepal, Tanzania and several European markets.

Over 2cr LPG

FROM PAGE B1

Private companies account for around 99 percent of the LPG market. Bangladesh imported 17.43 lakh tonnes of LPG in fiscal year 2025-26, with more than 70 percent of the supply coming through just seven companies.

BERC provided licences to 35 companies to import LPG, but the number of active importers has been 10-12 for years.

Industry insiders estimate that three to four physical cylinders are needed for every regular refill to keep the distribution chain running smoothly, as cylinders remain with consumers, retailers, distributors and filling plants.

This means the market needs an estimated 3.75 crore to 5 crore cylinders to maintain the supply chain at current consumption levels.

The seven major importing companies have around 2.5 crore cylinders in the market, according to industry estimates.

While these cylinders are being used to distribute most of the country's LPG supply, more than 2 crore cylinders belonging to operators with little or no imports remain idle, insiders said.

Abu Taher Qureshi, an LPG distributor in Dhaka, said he has around 3,000 cylinders belonging to different companies lying idle in his warehouse. He said the companies are supposed to take the cylinders back, but none has done so.

"I am paying the rent of that godown and staff salary for at least nine months for those but not getting gas," he told The Daily Star.

The issue was raised by distributors and consumers at Thursday's BERC public hearing on proposed increases in charges and commissions for LPG importers, distributors and retailers.

A consumer representative said he had been forced to buy another cylinder after failing to find LPG from the brand he previously used.

While presenting their demand for higher distribution and retail charges to BERC, Selim Khan, president of the LP Gas Traders Cooperative Society Ltd, identified the idle-cylinder problem as one of the main reasons for rising business costs and called for higher charges.

BERC Chairman Jalal Ahmed assured businesses that the commission would hold a separate meeting with them to discuss the issue and sort out what would be the fate of the empty cylinders.

IMPORTERS CITE BANKING, SUPPLY ISSUES

Anup Kumar Sen, chief operating officer of Orion Gas Ltd, said the company's LPG imports declined sharply because of banking constraints, particularly the exhaustion of its credit limit and a change in the cash-margin requirement for LCs.

He said the company previously imported LPG by depositing a 10 percent cash margin under an arrangement with its bank. But after its credit limit was exhausted, the bank began requiring a 100 percent cash margin to open new LCs, which the company could not afford.

"We do not have that much cash available to import LPG by depositing a 100 percent margin," he said, adding that the company is still importing limited quantities.

Mohammed Nurul Alam, chief executive officer of JMI LPG, blamed international supply disruptions following the Middle East war for the decline in imports.

He said the number of international suppliers to Bangladesh fell from several in 2024 to just two major suppliers, Siam and Equinor, in 2025. As JMI has no term contracts or established supply agreements with them, it found it difficult to secure shipments when the market tightened.

The Middle East previously accounted for around 30 percent of Bangladesh LPG supplies, but shipments from the region have since stopped, forcing importers to rely more heavily on larger consignments from the United States and other sources.

Nurul said JMI imported only around 8,000 tonnes in FY2025-26. To maintain supplies, it had to pay premiums of around $300-350 per tonne above the Saudi Contract Price (CP), while competitors with established supply arrangements secured LPG at lower prices.

"We were selling the product at a loss to maintain supplies," he said.

Although JMI had increased its bank credit limit, banking constraints and the international shortage continued to affect its imports, Nurul said.

On the idle cylinders, he said the company has no plans to take them back from consumers or distributors, arguing that they are company assets supplied to customers at nominal prices. JMI remains responsible for maintaining and refilling them and is trying to buy LPG from other importers, even at higher prices, to maintain supplies.

Md Redhwanur Rahman, chief operating officer (sales and marketing) of Bashundhara LP Gas Ltd, said banking restrictions and complications involving LCs were the main reasons behind the company's import difficulties in 2025.

He explained that LPG importers generally need to sign supply contracts with international suppliers around a year in advance, specifying purchase volumes and monthly delivery schedules.

"Due to the restrictions, we could not enter into the necessary supply contracts for that year," he said.

Even after the restrictions were lifted, the company faced difficulties opening LCs for its planned 2026 supply contracts, he said.

The company eventually resolved the complications and opened some LCs this year to buy LPG from the spot market, importing around 10,000 tonnes, said Redhwanur.

However, the Iran war further disrupted international supplies. The shortage of suitable vessels and difficulties securing insurance coverage have made it harder to transport LPG, he said. Even importers with existing term contracts are not receiving their full contracted volumes because of shipping constraints.

On the idle cylinders, he said Bashundhara is willing to take them back from distributors and consumers who no longer want to use its products.

Distributors can return the cylinders to the company for refunds, while consumers can return them through distributors or directly to the company's factory, he said.

BB autonomy remains elusive

FROM PAGE B1

However, central bank autonomy remains elusive. Economists and banking experts have criticised the dual-control system under which BB and the finance ministry's Financial Institutions Division share oversight of the banking sector.

Before taking office, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury pledged, "When we come to power, there will be no dual control in the banking sector."

Arief Hossain Khan, executive director and spokespersonof BB, told The Daily Star that the draft amendment was sent to the finance ministry during the interim administration, but he did not know what happened to it afterwards.

Fahmida Khatun, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said central bank independence was essential to restore good governance in banking, ensure sound policymaking and improve transparency.

"Politically influential people sit on the boards of various banks, so they try to interfere in policymaking," she said. The BNP had pledged to ensure central bank independence before taking office. Given the time that has passed, the government should fulfil that promise and start work immediately, she added.

INDEPENDENCE NEEDS ACCOUNTABILITY

Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, said the need for a merit-based, independent central bank had long been established. The key question now was how to ensure accountability.

Independence means freedom from fiscal dominance, or control by the finance ministry, he said. In the past, finance secretary Abdur Rouf Talukder, who later became BB governor, effectively controlled the central bank.

A truly independent central bank would make policy decisions on technical and merit-based grounds, but it would also need effective accountability mechanisms, Zahid said.

He said amendments to the Bangladesh Bank Order drafted in 2025 were intended to strengthen autonomy. The changes were also required under the IMF programme and linked to the release of the next loan tranche.

According to Zahid, Salehuddin held up the draft for about four months before clearing it in October 2025. However, he returned it without directing anyone to send it to the president for promulgation as an ordinance. Salehuddin later argued that an elected government should take the step, by which time the February election was approaching, Zahid said.

Zahid pointed to the United States, where the Federal Reserve chair can stand firm despite public criticism from the president because the institution faces scrutiny through other channels. These include questions from financial journalists, press conferences, and regular Senate and congressional hearings.

In Bangladesh, the central bank governor is supposed to answer to a parliamentary committee, but the committee rarely meets, perhaps once every three to four months. Lawmakers are often occupied with constituency issues and development allocations, Zahid said. The response to this weakness, he added, was to "cut off the head to cure the headache".

He acknowledged that Salehuddin had a valid concern about weak parliamentary oversight, as the new parliament was not yet fully functional. But accountability should also come from the media, civil society and think tanks.

For instance, the governor could hold quarterly press briefings to explain the Monetary Policy Statement. The IMF programme proposes strengthening existing accountability mechanisms, Zahid said, although it remains unclear how this will be done.

REFORMS CAN BEGIN NOW

Zahid said several steps could be taken immediately, including forming a search committee, preparing a shortlist, holding interviews and requiring the selected candidate to appear before a parliamentary committee, as in the United States.

Bangladesh recently replaced its central bank governor and named a successor within two hours, he noted. Appointments and removals should instead follow a transparent process free from political interference. Legal safeguards are also needed to prevent the government from abruptly dismissing a governor simply because it disagrees with their decisions.

Clear rules on the composition of the search committee and criteria for assessing candidates would prevent arbitrary appointments, Zahid said. He added that these reforms would not conflict with Salehuddin's concerns.

He cited regional examples to show that central bank autonomy can take different forms. India's Reserve Bank does not enjoy the same level of independence as central banks in developed countries, but remains a centre of excellence.

Raghuram Rajan, appointed before Narendra Modi became prime minister, had pledged to act independently of the government but was later pushed to resign, Zahid recalled. The current governor also works independently, backed by strong legal protections, he said.

The central banks of Thailand, South Korea and Vietnam also enjoy considerable autonomy, while Nepal's central bank maintains a reasonable degree of distance from political influence, Zahid added.

Toyota Tsusho

FROM PAGE B1

net sales of Tk 7.5 crore for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2026, while its loss attributable to owners of the parent stood at Tk 1.4 crore.

Its total assets stood at around Tk 90 crore, while consolidated equity was Tk 65 crore during the period, according to the disclosure.

Toyota Tsusho said the additional investment would have a negligible impact on its business performance and financial position for the fiscal year ending March 2027.

An official of Toyota Bangladesh said the company had selected Continental Works Limited in Dhaka and Carboy Private Limited in Chattogram to provide genuine spare parts, engine oil and after-sales services to Toyota customers here.

"Our company is investing in Bangladesh because of the market's strong growth potential," the official said, expressing confidence that demand for Toyota vehicles and related services would increase in the coming years.

The official added that services would not be limited to buyers of brand-new Toyota vehicles. Existing Toyota owners would also be able to access genuine spare parts, engine oil and servicing facilities through the selected partners.

Economic slowdown

FROM PAGE B1

Reconditioned-car imports generated Tk 3,864 crore in revenue in FY25, down more than 6 percent from the previous fiscal year.

Against this backdrop, BARVIDA is organising a three-day car expo at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka from November 5 to 7, aiming to bring dealers and prospective buyers together and revive interest in Japanese reconditioned vehicles.

The expo will showcase popular Japanese models, including the Toyota Prius, Corolla Cross, Harrier, Noah, Voxy and Alphard, allowing visitors to compare models, features, technology and prices under one roof.

The association also aims to facilitate direct communication between buyers and dealers and promote awareness of the quality, reliability and modern technology of Japanese vehicles.

A special exhibition marking 50 years of Japanese cars in Bangladesh will trace their evolution, from earlier generations known for reliability to today's hybrid and technology-driven models.

Reaz said Japanese cars had contributed not only to the country's transport sector but also to employment, entrepreneurship, investment, technological development, international trade and government revenue.

The expo will remain open from 11am to 8pm daily, with no entry fee.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Superintendent
250 Bed District Sadar Hospital, Sunamganj

Memo No- 1684 Date: 29/10/2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Notice is invited in the National e-GP System portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following.

Sl No	Tender ID	Procurement Nature, Title	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening and Closing Date & Time
1.	1362469	Goods, Procurement of Furniture for Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital.	12-Nov-2026 12:00	12-Nov-2026 14:30
2.	1362307	Procurement of Various stationery products for Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital.	12-Nov-2026 12:00	12-Nov-2026 14:30
3.	1362242	Procurement of Cleaning Items for Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital.	12-Nov-2026 12:00	12-Nov-2026 14:30
4.	1361629	Procurement of Non-EDCL Medicine for Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital	12-Nov-2026 12:00	12-Nov-2026 14:30
5.	1359942	Diet supply for Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital	12-Nov-2026 12:00	12-Nov-2026 14:30
6.	1321116	Procurement of Linen Item for Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital, Sunamganj	12-Nov-2026 12:00	12-Nov-2026 14:30
7.	1319379	Procurement of gauge bandage, bandage and cotton for Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital, Sunamganj.	12-Nov-2026 12:00	12-Nov-2026 14:30
8.	1315635	Procurement of Surgical Instrument for Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital, Sunamganj.	12-Nov-2026 12:00	12-Nov-2026 14:30
9.	1362466	Procurement of Surgical consumable items for Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital	12-Nov-2026 12:00	12-Nov-2026 14:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no office/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (https://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 banks, branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

DR. MOHAMMAD ALI ASRAF SUHAG
Superintendent
Sunamganj 250 bed District Sadar Hospital, Sunamganj
Mobile- 01701248248
E-mail: sunamganj@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

GD-2635

Unilever Consumer Care revenue, profit fall in Q1

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Unilever Consumer Care Limited's revenue and profit declined in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, as lower sales and finance income weighed on its performance.

The consumer healthcare and nutrition company's revenue fell 13 percent year-on-year to Tk 88 crore in the July-September quarter, from Tk 101 crore in the same period a year earlier, according to its financial statements released on October 29.

Its profit dropped 33 percent to Tk 16 crore from Tk 25 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Earnings per share (EPS), which measures profit attributable to each share, stood at Tk 8.52 for the three months, down from Tk 12.80 a year earlier.

The company attributed the decline in EPS primarily to a one-off gain recognised in the previous year following a reassessment of trademark and technology royalty obligations.

"Lower finance income and reduced profits due to sales degrowth further contributed to the decline," the manufacturer of Horlicks, Maltova and Boost said in its financial statements.

Meanwhile, net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) stood at Tk 38.17 for the January-September period, compared with negative Tk 16.70 in the same period a year earlier.

The improvement came despite lower net profit, primarily because operating cash outflows declined after most Usance Payable at Sight (UPAS) letters of credit were settled in the previous year, the company said.

UPAS letters of credit allow importers to pay suppliers immediately through bank financing and repay the banks at a later date.

As of September 30, sponsors and directors held 92.82 percent of Unilever Consumer Care's shares, while institutional investors, foreign investors and the general public held the remainder, according to Dhaka Stock Exchange data.

Oil jumps to $117.64

REUTERS, *Houston*

Oil prices jumped more than 2 percent on Friday and settled at their highest levels since the end of April, as traders braced for a potential escalation in the Iran war after the US midterm elections, with an attack on a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz highlighting supply risks.

Brent crude futures for December, which expired on Friday, settled up $2.76, or 2.4 percent, at $117.64 a barrel, after touching a high of $118. The more active January contract gained $2.63 to $113.43.



PHOTO: SHAHRIAR HOSSAIN

Farmers across the southwest are struggling to secure timely veterinary care for their livestock at government facilities. At Gopalganj District Veterinary Hospital, staff treat a calf as another waits its turn. The photo was taken recently.

Nearly half of veterinary posts remain vacant in south

Staff shortages at govt facilities are disrupting animal healthcare, forcing farmers in eight districts to rely on costly private services

SUZIT KUMAR DAS

When Zohura Khatun's 10-month-old calf fell ill, she took it to the government livestock hospital in Jhenaidah for treatment. But with no veterinary surgeon available, an assistant livestock officer treated the animal, which showed no signs of improvement.

Three days later, on September 21, Zohura -- a farmer from Bhutiargati village under Jhenaidah Sadar upazila -- had to bring the calf back to the Jhenaidah Sadar Upazila Livestock Hospital, hoping for better treatment.

She was not alone. That same day, Rebeka Khatun of Bazar Gopalpur village brought her 15-day-old sick calf to the hospital for a second time.

"Treatment here is ineffective without a veterinary surgeon," Zohura said. "We keep returning but get little benefit. It wastes our time and money."

Rebeka shared her frustration.

Their experiences reflect a wider problem across southwestern Bangladesh, where chronic staff shortages at government livestock facilities are leaving farmers struggling to access proper veterinary care.

The Daily Star spoke to more than two dozen livestock farmers in eight districts -- Jhenaidah, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Kushtia, Meherpur, Shariatpur and Madaripur. They described inadequate services, repeated hospital visits and growing dependence on private providers, adding to the cost of raising livestock.

VACANCIES MOUNT AS SECTOR GROWS

Jhenaidah District Livestock Officer Dr ASM Atiquzzaman said the absence of veterinary surgeons was forcing officials to shoulder both clinical and administrative responsibilities, depriving farmers of essential services.

Government data show that 301 of the 677 sanctioned posts for veterinary surgeons, field workers, artificial insemination workers, laboratory staff and support staff across the eight districts are vacant, a vacancy rate of 44.5 percent.

The shortages are disrupting treatment, vaccination, disease prevention, artificial insemination, farm inspections and advisory services.

The problem is nationwide. According to the Department of Livestock Services' (DLS) September 2026 progress report, only 7,261 employees are working against 12,915 sanctioned posts, leaving 5,654 vacancies, or 43.8 percent.

The shortage is particularly acute among veterinary field assistants, with 3,657 of the 6,130 sanctioned posts, or 59.7 percent, remaining vacant.

Khayer Uddin Ahmed, Rajbari Sadar Upazila Livestock Officer, said recruitment to the field assistant post, crucial for field-level operations, had remained suspended for nearly nine years due to administrative complications.

According to BBS data, 43.64 percent of households are involved in livestock and poultry rearing. The sector contributes 1.81 percent to national GDP and 16.56 percent to agricultural GDP

The staffing crisis comes as the livestock sector continues to expand. According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data, 43.64 percent of households are involved in livestock and poultry rearing. The sector contributes 1.81 percent to national GDP and 16.56 percent to agricultural GDP, with growth rising from 3.10 percent in FY2021-22 to a provisional 3.30 percent in FY2025-26.

During the period, the livestock and poultry population increased from 432.379 million to 475.948 million. Milk production rose from 13.074 million tonnes to 15.753 million tonnes, while egg production increased from 23.3535 billion to 25.0941 billion.

FARMERS TURN TO PRIVATE SERVICES

With government facilities struggling to provide adequate care, farmers are increasingly turning to private providers.

Anis Molla, a poultry farmer in Rajbari Sadar, said he now pays around Tk 1,000 per visit to a private veterinarian.

Maruf Hossain, a farmer in Meherpur Sadar, said treatment costs Tk 500-2,000 per cow, while good-quality semen from private providers costs Tk 1,200-2,000.

Aklima Khatun, a homemaker in Faridpur Sadar, said inadequate veterinary advice often resulted in animal and poultry deaths, causing financial losses to her family.

In Gopalganj, Mohammad Monu Molla, 30, said he could not get the necessary tests for his cow, which had a broken leg, despite the district livestock office having X-ray and laboratory facilities. A lack of staff prevented the facilities from operating effectively, he said.

Gopalganj District Livestock Officer Dr Gobinda Chandra Sardar said only one veterinary surgeon served the district's five upazilas, while no veterinary field assistants had been recruited for several years.

Artificial insemination services have also suffered. In Kushtia, farmer Shariful Islam said he paid Tk 500-1,000 for services provided by non-professional volunteers, compared with Tk 200-300 previously charged by government personnel.

None of the district's eight artificial insemination field assistant posts is filled, said District Livestock Officer Dr Md Al Mamun Hossain Mondal.

Meherpur has nearly 60,000 farms, but 30 of its 51 sanctioned livestock department posts are vacant. District Livestock Officer Dr Md Tofozzal Hossain said the departure of project-based employees after several projects ended had worsened the shortage.

Md Tarek Hossain, deputy director (administration) of the DLS, acknowledged that staff shortages were affecting service delivery. He said recruitment notices for 506 office support staff and 32 semen carriers had been published online, while recruitment rules were being revised.

The department aims to fill around half of the vacant posts next year, subject to budget availability. The current recruitment process is expected to be completed by March, he said, adding that demand letters for veterinary surgeon recruitment had been sent for the 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th and 50th BCS.

Regarding the non-functional laboratory facilities in Gopalganj, Tarek said the problem was limited to a few locations and would be addressed after recruitment.

[Our correspondents from Jhenaidah, Gopalganj, Kushtia and Shariatpur contributed to this report.]

How do we achieve our 'trillion dollar economy' target?

MAMUN RASHID

Bangladesh's ambition to become a trillion-dollar economy by 2034 is bold, but ambition alone cannot deliver prosperity. The challenge is to build an economy that produces more value, attracts investment and creates better jobs. Reaching the milestone will require better economic management and stronger institutions. The arithmetic is demanding. The International Monetary Fund's April 2026 outlook estimated Bangladesh's nominal GDP at $510.7 billion in 2026. Doubling that amount by 2034 would require annual growth of about 8.8 percent in dollar terms. But dollar-denominated GDP depends on output growth, domestic prices and exchange-rate movements. A depreciating taka can erode the dollar value of economic gains, even when production increases.

Recent conditions make the task harder. In October 2026, the World Bank projected Bangladesh's growth at 3.4 percent in both FY2025-26 and FY2026-27, citing weak investment, inflation, energy constraints and financial-sector vulnerabilities. Bangladesh must restore economic confidence before it can accelerate growth. The first priority is macroeconomic stability. Persistent inflation reduces purchasing power, raises business costs and discourages investment. Monetary policy must remain credible, while fiscal policy should protect essential social spending without compromising debt sustainability. A predictable exchange-rate framework, supported by stronger export receipts, remittances and adequate reserves, would help businesses plan. Artificially defending the taka is no substitute for competitiveness, just as uncontrolled depreciation is not a growth strategy.

The second priority is repairing the financial system. A banking sector burdened by bad loans and weak governance cannot allocate savings efficiently. The World Bank reported that Bangladesh's non-performing loan ratio reached 33.2 percent in June 2026. Such distress restricts lending,



Bangladesh should treat the trillion-dollar target as a direction, not a deadline to be met through accounting or currency management

undermines depositor confidence and weakens investment. Independent asset-quality reviews, transparent recognition of losses, stronger supervision and accountability for financial misconduct must accompany restructuring of non-viable institutions. Third, Bangladesh needs productive private investment. Investors require reliable electricity and gas, efficient ports, predictable regulations and timely administrative decisions. Public investment should be selected on economic merit, with transparent procurement and rigorous evaluation of costs and benefits. Foreign direct investment can bring technology, management expertise and access to global supply chains, but capital will not flow at scale unless investors trust the rules and their enforcement.

Export diversification must become a practical industrial strategy, not a list of promising sectors. Readymade garments will remain important, but pharmaceuticals, agro-processing, electronics, light engineering and information technology services can broaden the export base. Progress depends on competitive energy costs, skilled workers, international standards, research and development, and stronger links between local suppliers and global markets. None of this is possible without greater productivity. Better technical education, digital skills, modern production methods and stronger management can raise output per worker. Women's participation in the labour force must expand, while small and medium-sized enterprises need better access to finance and technology.

The government must also strengthen revenue mobilisation. The World Bank puts Bangladesh's revenue collection at just 8.3 percent of GDP, leaving limited room to finance infrastructure, healthcare, education and social protection. Broadening the tax base, reducing unjustified exemptions, simplifying compliance and improving administration would create fiscal space without overburdening taxpayers. Ultimately, Bangladesh should treat the trillion-dollar target as a direction, not a deadline to be met through accounting or currency management. Stabilisation must come first, followed by stronger investment and productivity, then structural transformation. Success should be judged not only by GDP, but also by real incomes, job creation, lower poverty and resilience.

The writer is an economic analyst and lead partner at Financial Excellence Limited

Stock brokers seek tax exemption on capital gains until 2030

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) has sought a complete tax exemption on capital gains from listed securities for individual and foreign investors until 2030 to restore investor confidence, boost market liquidity and encourage long-term investment.

The association submitted a proposal to Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Investment and Capital Market Tanvir Shariar Gani, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Masud Khan and National Board of Revenue Chairman Ahsan Habib last week.

Today, the DBA shared the information in a press release.

Currently, individual investors enjoy tax exemption on capital gains of up to Tk 50 lakh from listed securities, while gains exceeding that threshold are generally subject to a 15 percent tax.

The DBA has proposed a full tax exemption for individual investors and a revision of the tax regime for foreign individual and institutional investors.

According to the association, the proposed measure would encourage more trading, reinvestment of profits and productive use of domestic savings, while helping listed companies raise equity financing.

The DBA suggested amending relevant provisions of the Income Tax Act 2023 to make capital gains from eligible transactions tax-exempt, provided the transactions are executed through stock exchanges and settled through the designated central depository system.

The DBA said the proposed tax exemption should remain in force until 2030, when the Central Counterparty Bangladesh Limited (CCBL) is expected to become fully operational.

Once the CCBL becomes fully functional, the calculation of capital gains and the process of determining tax liabilities will become easier, the association said.

DBA President Saiful Islam said a favourable tax regime for individual and foreign investors would help restore confidence in the capital market, encourage long-term investment and expand financing opportunities for listed companies.

He also said the initiative would support the government's plans for developing the capital market. The association urged the relevant government authorities to give the proposal due consideration and take the necessary policy and legal measures.

However, the association has supported retaining the existing tax arrangements for sponsors, directors and institutional investors.

Garment sector faces $4.8b shortfall in green investment

Speakers say at LightCastle, PEB event

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) sector faces a $4.8 billion financing gap against an estimated $6.6 billion investment requirement for 2025-2029, threatening to slow its transition to sustainable manufacturing and undermine its competitiveness in global markets.

The shortfall represents around 73 percent of the total requirement, highlighting the challenge of mobilising funds for green investment, speakers said at an event in Dhaka last week.

The dissemination event, titled "Unlocking Green Finance Pathways for Bangladesh's RMG Sector", was jointly organised by LightCastle Partners and Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB) at a hotel in Gulshan.

The underlying research estimates that around $1.6 billion in financing has been confirmed, with another $175 million in the pipeline, leaving a substantial funding gap.

Speakers said accessible green finance, increased investment and stronger collaboration among the government, financial institutions and industry stakeholders were essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maintain the sector's competitiveness.

They also stressed the need to increase the number of environmentally sustainable factories and improve access to finance for small and medium-sized garment manufacturers.

Hasan Khaled Foisal, additional secretary to the finance ministry, who attended the event as chief guest, emphasised stronger public-private collaboration to expand access to sustainable financing for greening the garment industry.



Experts stressed the need to increase the number of environmentally sustainable factories and improve access to finance for small and medium-sized garment manufacturers. PHOTO: STAR/FILE

The discussion highlighted the need to simplify financing requirements and procedures, introduce government-backed credit guarantees and strengthen partnerships among government agencies, financial institutions, industry owners and development partners.

Speakers also called for greater financial and technical support for smaller factories, which often face difficulties adopting environmentally sustainable production practices.

The investment requirement is linked to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the apparel manufacturing sector. The report's underlying research identifies decarbonisation as essential to the industry's long-term sustainability and competitiveness.

The ongoing global energy crisis has further underscored the importance of energy security and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.