

Agricultural workers harvest paddy in Manda upazila of Naogaon as the government keeps its Aman procurement targets unchanged, raises the paddy price and cuts rice prices. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Aman procurement prices revised, targets unchanged

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has kept its Aman paddy and rice procurement targets unchanged from last year but revised the prices, raising the rate for paddy by Tk 1 per kg and cutting those for both types of rice by Tk 1.

For the 2026-27 fiscal year, the government plans to buy 3 lakh tonnes of paddy, 5 lakh tonnes of parboiled rice and 50,000 tonnes of non-parboiled rice at Tk 35, Tk 49 and Tk 48 per kg, respectively.

A food ministry press release said paddy procurement would begin on November 14 and rice procurement on December 1. Both programmes will continue until February 28, 2027.

Food Minister Afroza Khanam announced the decision after a meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) at the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday.

The committee finalised the procurement plan after reviewing the country's overall food situation, farmers' interests, production costs and market conditions, among other factors, she said.

The paddy procurement price was set by adding a fair profit margin to farmers' production costs, with priority given to ensuring that they did not suffer losses, the minister said.

Ensuring fair prices for farmers' produce is the government's main objective, she added.

The government is also prepared to buy more paddy than the announced target if farmers want to sell additional quantities. No farmer will be turned away because of the procurement limit, and necessary arrangements will be made to buy the additional paddy, Afroza said.

However, agricultural economist Jahangir Alam Khan, a former director general of the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, believes both the procurement targets and prices should have been higher, given the rise in production costs this season.

Production expenses have increased by 15 to 20 percent due to higher diesel and fertiliser prices. The paddy procurement price should have been raised by at least Tk 2 to Tk 3 per kg to ensure a fair return for farmers, he told The Daily Star.

Don't waste the LDC

FROM PAGE B1

said graduation was celebrated for political gain under the previous government while the country failed to prepare for what comes next.

He said that the extension this time should not become another excuse for complacency. The next two and a half years are particularly important for addressing the country's weaknesses.

According to him, Bangladesh faces significant disadvantages, including lengthy port turnaround times, high borrowing costs and weak global branding. Shipping delays could leave it trailing competitors such as China, particularly in fast fashion, where buyers demand shorter delivery times.

"We are lagging behind our global peers by at least two weeks because of our geographical location. At the main port in Chattogram, the average turnaround time for ships is around two weeks," he said.

"Chinese exporters can send goods within two weeks because of efficient port management and logistical support. On the other hand, it takes at least 45 days to send goods from Bangladesh to the US," he added.

"Improvement is necessary here," he noted, adding that the government has made some progress from its political side.

"It appears political leadership is serious and sincere about implementing reforms, but I have every doubt about the bureaucratic side. They need to be more proactive and show more sincerity."

Fazlul commented that bureaucratic inertia could undermine policy commitments.

Public officials must become more proactive, and get tasks done in one day that previously took seven.

"Because the ultimate delivery will come from the bureaucratic part, not the political side," he added.

He also urged the apparel sector to diversify its products, boost productivity and get better at bargaining with foreign business counterparts.

Faisal Samad, director of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said neither the government nor the private sector can manage LDC graduation alone.

Coordinated efforts are needed to protect export competitiveness, he said, and the extension must be used to implement long-overdue reforms.

Faisal said Bangladesh is losing ground to competitors such as India. The neighbouring country has secured free trade agreements with many countries and trading blocs, and it is strengthening its textile and apparel industry through policy support, including subsidies for workers in some states.

He said opportunities from the "China Plus One" sourcing strategy, under which buyers add suppliers outside China, are increasingly going to India when Bangladesh could have attracted them. International buyers make sourcing decisions years in advance and position their supply chains accordingly.

He said the government has prepared a 25-point action plan, but its success will depend on proper implementation and monitoring.

Faisal urged the government to give businesses specific deadlines for gas and electricity connections, saying investors cannot commit money to factories without certainty over utility supplies.

He also called for investment in domestic fabric production, particularly for the woven sector, and for foreign direct investment to strengthen domestic supply chains.

The upcoming minimum wage decision will also be an important consideration for local and foreign investors in assessing production costs, he said.

Mostafa Abid Khan, chief executive officer of the Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute, said the extension of the preparatory period for graduation is not simply a blessing. Bangladesh has been given this time to prepare for a smooth transition to a developing country.

He said various measures are needed to cut costs and improve the business climate. Import Registration Certificates (IRCs) and Export Registration Certificates (ERCs) are unnecessary, he argued, and should be scrapped.

Citing the government's push to sign free trade agreements to secure market access after graduation, he said domestic policies must change so Bangladesh can negotiate better.

Mostafa also stresses that companies must be nimbler, improving their own efficiency and productivity rather than relying solely on financial incentives. Pointing to rising production costs and wage pressures, he said policymakers should look at the overall cost of doing business rather than focus narrowly on revenue collection.

Aminul Huda Aman, country economist at IGC Bangladesh, said Bangladesh should focus on institutional reforms and policy implementation rather than assume that LDC graduation will spell trouble for the RMG industry.

He said the next three years offer an opportunity to address long-standing weaknesses, including macroeconomic instability, inefficient markets and poor implementation of existing policies.

"We have volumes and volumes of policy papers. What we need is implementation and accountability," he said.

Aminul named securing market access after graduation, ensuring reliable energy supplies and speeding up customs and port reforms as key priorities.

He also said subsidies and concessional loans cannot continue indefinitely at the expense of taxpayers and depositors, and the government must address rising energy costs and supply-chain bottlenecks as part of its preparations.

Aminul stressed the need for targeted social protection for workers who may lose their jobs as some product lines become less competitive after graduation.

Discrepancies

FROM PAGE B1

Earlier, the interim government's white paper committee had also questioned the quality of data published during the Awami League regime.

Saki said questions had arisen over whether past GDP estimates accurately reflected the country's economic fundamentals.

"We now need to establish the truth with evidence," he said.

He said the government was committed to preventing data manipulation and political interference in official statistics.

As part of the reforms, the SID is now collecting Consumer Price Index (CPI) data in real time through computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). The figures are published directly from the database without ministerial approval.

"Previously, the data had to be sent to the minister for his signature and approval before publication. Now, that is no longer necessary," Saki said.

"The government has decided that there will be no political interference in the publication of statistical information. We are utilising all available modern technological tools to ensure this," he added.

Speaking as chief guest, Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury stressed the importance of reliable data in policymaking.

"There should be no room for ambiguity or arbitrary interpretation. If information is not measurable, transparent and clearly defined, it is impossible to formulate policies," he said.

"Any government that manipulates data is essentially deceiving itself," he added, describing government data as its most valuable asset and essential for successful policy implementation.

On the forensic audit, he said it was not intended to find fault with any previous government.

"We have to conduct this audit because, unless we get to the root of a problem, finding a solution is impossible. We need to understand the problem in depth. Once we identify its root causes, that is where our journey towards finding solutions will begin," he said.

Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, finance and planning adviser to the prime minister, said statistics had been used as a powerful tool to construct a particular narrative and mislead people.

"We want to move away from that practice," he said.

Referring to shortcomings in previous social safety net programmes, Titumir said many eligible people had been excluded while ineligible people received benefits, resulting in inefficient use of limited public resources.

He said the government was working to introduce scientific, evidence-based beneficiary selection, alongside a Digital Public Infrastructure that would enable different government databases to exchange information.

On data accessibility, he said the government was moving towards an Open Data Policy, which would be developed through consultations.

Others who spoke at the event included Prime Minister's Political Adviser Zahir Uddin Swapan, BIDS Director General AK Enamul Haque, Dhaka University Professor Syed Shahadat Hossain, SID Secretary Md Firoz Sarker, BBS Director General Md Shamimul Haque and BBS Director Kabir Uddin Ahmed.

Foreign

FROM PAGE B1

more shares than they buy in Bangladesh for several years, for reasons that go well beyond the stock market.

Repeated sovereign credit rating downgrades have raised Bangladesh's risk premium, while mismanagement and outright misappropriation of funds have severely damaged the banking sector, he said.

In 2024, Moody's Ratings, one of the world's three major credit rating agencies, downgraded its outlook on Bangladesh to negative from stable, citing heightened political risks and weaker growth prospects. It revised the outlook to stable from negative last month as acute political and external pressures eased.

Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings, the other two major agencies, also revised their outlooks on Bangladesh to negative from stable.

Moniruzzaman, also a senior vice-president of the DBA, said GDP growth forecasts for Bangladesh are at multi-decade lows, while weak fiscal governance limits the government's ability to respond to economic challenges.

The sharp depreciation of the taka and difficulties in taking money out of the country have also reduced the dollar returns foreign investors receive, he said.

The Bangladesh Bank moved away from market-based exchange rate pricing by administering the exchange rate, dictating spreads and capping rates, he noted, adding that this created exchange rates that foreign investors could not trust.

"The previous BSEC commission's floor price policy trapped investors in the market, and global funds have not forgotten it," he said.

Moniruzzaman also criticised the poor financial reporting of listed companies, weak returns on equity across the market and limited free floats.

Few quality companies are entering the market, he said.

He said an end to the Iran-Israel and Russia-Ukraine conflicts would ease oil and commodity prices, giving the country's external balance much-needed relief.

However, foreign investors will return only if that relief is accompanied by credible banking reforms, a stable exchange rate, a firm commitment against floor prices and better disclosure by listed companies, he added.

"If we can get the status of an emerging market, we will fetch investment from global fund managers. The government is pursuing that route," he said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়
সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বিভাগ, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

"সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস ২০২৬ উপলক্ষ্যে সেনামালঞ্চে প্রীতিভোজের খাবার এবং অন্যান্য দ্রব্যসামগ্রী সরবরাহের জন্য দরপত্র আহবান"

১। সশস্ত্র বাহিনী দিবস ২০২৬ উপলক্ষ্যে সেনামালঞ্চে প্রীতিভোজের খাবার (কাচ্চি বিরিয়ানি) এবং অন্যান্য দ্রব্যসামগ্রী সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে ট্রেড লাইসেন্সধারী প্রকৃত ডিলার/কোম্পানির নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।
২। আগামী ১০ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ হতে ১১ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ পর্যন্ত কর্মদিবসে ০৯০০-১৪৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বিভাগ, প্রশাসনিক কোম্পানি হতে প্রীতিভোজের তারিখ, জনবল, মেন্যু এবং দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় দরদাতার ২০২৬-২০২৭ অর্থ বছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, আয়কর প্রদানের সনদ, এ ধরণের কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ, ব্যাংক সচ্ছলতার সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র এবং পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি এবং সকল দলিলাদির সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি জমা দিতে হবে। কালো তালিকাভুক্ত দরদাতার সিডিউল বাতিল ঘোষণা করা হবে। দরপত্রে কোন কাটা ছেঁড়া গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
৪। সিডিউল মোতাবেক দরপত্র সীলকরা বন্ধ খামে ১২ নভেম্বর ২০২৬ তারিখ বেলা ১২০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বিভাগের অভ্যর্থনা কেন্দ্রে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে জমা দিতে হবে। একই তারিখে ১২৩০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা হবে। দরপত্র খোলার পর যাচাই-বাছাই ও বিশ্লেষণ শেষে গ্রহণযোগ্য দরপত্র দাখিলকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে পত্রের মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।
৬। সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বিভাগ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দাখিলকৃত যেকোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

তারিখঃ ০৫ নভেম্বর ২০২৬
আইএসপিআর/বিবিধ/৪০৫

আবু বিন ফয়সাল
মেজর
প্রিন্সিপাল স্টাফ অফিসারের পক্ষে

GD-2709

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Directorate of Purchase
Biddut Bhaban (12th Floor),
1 No Abdul Goni Road, Dhaka-1000.
Email: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd.

e-Tender Notice

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

SL. No	Tender ID No.	Package No	Reference No.	Description of Goods/ Works	Tender Document Last Selling Date and time	Tender Closing Date and time	Tender Opening Date and time
01.	1367392	CC-GRL-01 Fy-26/27	27.11.0000.30 4.27.104.26 Date. 05/11/2026	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Desktop Computers with Monitors, UPS, Laptops, Laser printers, A4 Size Scanners and Legal Size Scanner for different Offices of BPDB.	03-Dec 2026 13.00	03-Dec 2026 16.00	03-Dec 2026 16.00

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 Branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
For more details, please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

বিদ্যুৎ / জন-৩২৯(২)/০৮/১১/২৬

(Md. Shahedul Azim)
ID No.1-01460
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka.

GD-2707

REHAB demands

FROM PAGE B1

REHAB cited a recent investigative report that found that, as of September 30, 2026, some 9,823 fraud cases related to land share-based housing projects were pending in court, involving roughly Tk 12,000 crore.

The association said the figures expose the lack of buyer protection and effective oversight in the sector.

REHAB presented six demands: a ban on such activities or strict regulation following a legal review; no fundraising unless land ownership, registration, liabilities and project approvals are confirmed; urgent independent technical and legal audits of existing projects; investigations into alleged multiple sales of the same land and forged deeds; transparent accounting of funds and construction costs; and the appointment of qualified architects, engineers and other professionals for every project.

Ali said REHAB does not oppose legitimate joint ownership or transparent investment arrangements, but no business should operate in the name of land partnerships or joint ventures if it offers no guarantee of ownership and handover of a specific flat or fails to pay government revenue properly.

BB eases LC

FROM PAGE B1

Banks have also been advised to give priority to opening import LCs for these products to maintain supply in the domestic market.

The circular takes effect immediately and will remain valid until March 15 next year.

The circular refers to two earlier directives. In September 2024, the central bank required a 100 percent cash margin for opening LCs for certain imported goods.

In November 2025, it instructed banks to keep the margin at the minimum level for some essential food imports ahead of Ramadan. That instruction remained valid until March 31 this year.

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
Website: www.agranibank.org

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ১০/২০২৬ তারিখঃ ০৮/১১/২০২৬

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এ অফিসার (IT) (গ্রেড-১০) (Job ID-10229) পদে ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় (বিএসসিএস), বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ৪৩ (তেতাল্লিশ) জন প্রার্থীকে প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচন করা হয়েছে। প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীর রোল নম্বরসহ নামের তালিকা ও নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত নির্দেশাবলী সম্বলিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এর ওয়েবসাইট https://www.agranibank.org এর career লিংক এ প্রদর্শন করা হয়েছে। নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের "চরিত্র ও প্রাক পরিচয় যাচাই প্রতিবেদন" (Police Verification Report) সংগ্রহের নিমিত্ত career লিংকে প্রদর্শিত Police Verification Button এ ক্লিক করে ১৫/১১/২০২৬ তারিখের মধ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি ইনপুট/আপলোড করতে হবে।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক
এইচআর প্ল্যানিং, ডিপ্লয়মেন্ট এন্ড অপারেশনস্ ডিভিশন
অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৯ডি দিলকুশা বা/এ
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০।

GD-2706