Govt forms task force to boost leather exports

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government has formed a 31-member task force to recommend measures and prepare an action plan for developing the country's leather industry, with a focus on boosting production capacity, diversifying products and expanding export markets.

The industries minister will head the task force, while the commerce minister and the environment, forest and climate change minister will serve as members, according to a notification published on November 2.

The committee also includes the chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, the principal secretary to the prime minister, secretaries of several ministries, representatives of Bangladesh Bank, the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), and industry associations.

An additional secretary or joint secretary of the relevant wing of the Industries Ministry will serve as member-secretary.

The task force has been asked to assess the industry's production capacity, rawhide processing, product diversification and preparedness for Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category.

It will also recommend ways to improve the sector's competitiveness, attract investment, expand exports and strengthen its position in the global value chain.

Environmental compliance is another key area of focus. The committee will review the performance of the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate and recommend measures to help factories meet international environmental and compliance standards, including those set by the Leather Working Group (LWG).

The task force will also examine ways to introduce traceability across the leather supply chain, from rawhide collection and preservation to finished products, while promoting environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and sustainable supply chain practices.

It will recommend measures to improve access to finance, technology and infrastructure, as well as identify opportunities to expand Bangladesh's presence in international markets through branding and stronger integration into the global value chain.

The committee has been directed to submit a preliminary roadmap, action plan and recommendations to the government within 60 days of its formation.

It may co-opt additional members and form subcommittees to seek expert opinions and carry out its responsibilities. The Industries Ministry will provide secretarial support to the task force.

The move comes as Bangladesh seeks to unlock the export potential of its leather and footwear industry, which has long struggled to translate its raw material advantage into higher-value exports.

Banks cool on buying StanChart's

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The London-based multinational has operated in Bangladesh for 120 years. Five years ago, it had 24 branches and around 90 ATM booths.

It now has 18 branches and 70 self-service terminals, including ATMs and cash recycling machines, according to its website.

When contacted, Bitopi Das Chowdhury, head of corporate affairs, brand and marketing at Standard Chartered Bangladesh, said the bank will not comment because of the need to maintain confidentiality under the NDA with prospective buyers.

Last year, HSBC Bangladesh announced winding down its retail banking operations in the country.

STAFF SEEK 10 YEARS' PAY AS SEVERANCE

Employees of Standard Chartered Bangladesh have formally asked for an enhanced settlement package after the proposed sale of the WRB business to another bank, according to a letter seen by The Daily Star.

In the letter, dated October 5, 2026 and addressed to the bank's chief executive, an "Affected Employee Group" acknowledges that strategic decisions rest with the global group but says the impact on staff warrants transparent and fair talks.

The group demands severance equal to 120 months of last drawn gross salary and full payment of the 5 percent Workers' Profit Participation Fund.

It also demands a waiver of outstanding loans and credit card liabilities, with the bank covering any extra interest once staff lose the employee rate after their loans move to another bank.

It asks for protection of performance bonuses and quarterly incentives for 2026-28, and for settlement of share-plan benefits and gratuity, including for staff with less than five years of service.

The group also wants promotions and fair increments for those who have spent three or more years in one role. During the transition, it says, no employee should be placed on a performance improvement plan or terminated, except for disciplinary reasons.

It wants standard messaging for clients about the transfer and direct consultations with affected employees before any final arrangements are made.

Auditors question

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He said the company should be given special consideration, taking into account its status as a corporate entity and the sharp decline in market demand.

"A listed company should be entitled to some special benefits," he added.

Meanwhile, the company is trying to minimise costs to improve its financial situation, he said.

BPMPLC's long-term bank loans stood at Tk 2,149 crore, while its short-term borrowings amounted to Tk 601 crore, according to the company's financial report for FY26.

Similarly, Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co, auditor of The Peninsula Chittagong, a four-star hotel, raised concerns about the hotel's ability to continue as a going concern.

The well-known hotel in the port city of Chattogram has long-term bank loans of Tk 219 crore and short-term borrowings of nearly Tk 30 crore.

It incurred a net loss of Tk 2 crore in the financial year ended June 30, compared with a profit of Tk 69 lakh in the previous year.

Md Shamsul Arefin Maruf, company secretary of The Peninsula Chittagong, said the hotel was already receiving an extension of its loan repayment tenure from one lender.

He expressed hope that the company would be able to turn around if such extensions are provided by others.

Regarding GSP Finance, its auditor, SK Barua & Co, cited persistent losses and indicators such as negative equity, a negative capital adequacy ratio and negative operating cash flow.

The auditor said the finance company had several financial, operational and other indicators that might cast significant doubt on its ability to continue as a going concern.

GSP Finance's net loss stood at Tk 139 crore in calendar year 2025, compared with Tk 185 crore in the previous year.

Share prices of the three firms remained unchanged yesterday at the DSE.

Inflation edges

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said meeting the target would at least signal progress. However, the latest figures suggested that even reaching that level could be difficult.

Zahid also ruled out strong demand as a major cause of inflation, pointing to weak credit growth despite Bangladesh Bank's policy rate cuts. He said inflation was largely being driven by higher production and operating costs rather than rising consumer demand.

He also blamed weak market oversight for allowing additional costs to build up, including through extortion by influential groups.

Expressing concern over the rapid expansion of Bangladesh Bank's balance sheet and the growth of high-powered money, he warned that any money flowing out of the banking system could add to inflationary pressure.

Md Deen Islam, research director at Dhaka-based think tank RAPID, said weak investment demand and slower wage growth had kept overall demand subdued, limiting inflationary pressure despite higher energy prices.

He cautioned that the full impact of higher energy costs might not yet have been reflected in consumer prices. As economic activity returns to normal, the pressure could become more visible.

Deen also credited favourable weather, good agricultural production and government incentives for farmers for easing food inflation.

A relatively stable exchange rate and steady global commodity prices had helped contain import costs, he added.

"Inflation in Bangladesh depends considerably on global price movements. During this period, the exchange rate remained relatively stable at around Tk 122 to Tk 123 per dollar, while global commodity prices were mostly stable or falling, limiting pressure from imports," he said.

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Directorate of Purchase
Bidyut Bhaban (12th Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka
E-mail: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd www.bpdb.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

The Following International e-Tender is invited in the 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	Last Selling Date and time	Closing Date and time	Opening Date and time
1.	1369173	SYL225-GRL- 34 FY 26-27	27.11. 0000.304. 27.305.26	Procurement of Insulations and Other Necessary Materials for Gas Turbine, Compressor, Combustion Chamber, Diffuser Duct, Different Pipelines etc. with Related Works for Gas Turbine Major Overhauling of Sylhet 225 MW CCPP, BPDB, Kumargaon, Sylhet, Bangladesh.	29.11.2026 13.00	29.11.2026 16.00	29.11.2026 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 (01717713020).

Thanking you

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৩৩৭(২)/০৯/১১/২৬

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

GD-2724

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Rangamati Road Division, Rangamati
Phone: 02333304971
e-mail: eerangarhd@gmail.com

Memo No. 35.01.8400.466.07.004.26-2699 Date: 09-11-2026

Tender Notice (OTM)

This is to notify for all concerns that e-Tender is invited and will publish on 09 November 2026 in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of works for the following Tender. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd.

SL.	Tender ID	Tender Reference No.	Name of Work	Date & Time
01	1358986	RRD/DEV/RMK/WP/01	Widening and Improvement of Rangamati (Manikchhari)-Mohalchhari-Khagrachhari Regional Highway (R-162) to appropriate standard from Ch. 00+000 Km to Ch. 12+000 Km Under Rangamati Road Division.	Last Selling 07.12.2026, 12:00 Closing 07.12.2026, 14:00

09.11.2026
Sabuj Chakma
ID No. 602314,
Executive Engineer (CC). RHD
Road division, Rangamati.

GD-2713

Shwapno plans to reach 5,000 farmers

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standards, while 150 have obtained certification covering 22 crops. The company has brought more than 450 hectares of farmland under Global GAP-aligned practices.

By 2030, it aims to train more than 3,000 farmers on the standards, extend certification to over 300 farmers and 40 crops, and introduce responsible land management across 700 hectares.

Shwapno directly sources around 60 percent of its vegetables, 53 percent of its fish and 47 percent of its chicken through more than 142 sourcing points. This has reduced post-harvest losses from around 25 percent to 5 percent, while generating an estimated 8 percent to 11 percent in value.

The retailer aims to raise direct sourcing to 80 percent of vegetables, 70 percent of fish and 65 percent of chicken by 2030.

Fresh-produce wastage currently stands at around 0.9 percent, supported by demand forecasting and inventory optimisation.

Its "Buy Only What You Need" initiative allows customers to purchase smaller portions. Selling watermelons in portions cut wastage from 5.03 percent to 1.76 percent, a reduction of around 65 percent. The company plans to extend the initiative to pumpkins, papayas and jackfruit.

Store electricity consumption fell 27.5 percent year-on-year in FY2024-25, according to the report. Shwapno has introduced LED lighting, energy-efficient refrigeration and smart air-conditioning, alongside solar power at selected outlets.

By 2030, it aims to reduce electricity consumption intensity by a further 30 percent and explore sourcing 5 percent to 10 percent of its electricity from renewables.

The retailer operates more than 1,000 stores across all eight divisions and 64 districts, employs over 10,120 people and serves more than six million customers monthly.

It has also introduced a 10 percent employment quota for people with disabilities through a programme with the Bangladesh Business and Disability Network and BRAC.

By 2030, it aims to raise women's representation in leadership to 30 percent and strengthen environmental, social and governance monitoring.

Farooq Sobhan, chairman of the CSR Centre Board of Trustees, said sustainability reporting was about transparency, accountability and building trust.

Yoshida Aya, minister and deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh; Kenichiro Kawamoto, country chairperson of Mitsui & Co (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd; Farzanah Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Green Delta Insurance Company Limited; and Shahamin S Zaman, CEO of CSR Centre, also attended.

Panel formed to develop defence industry

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acres of land in Mirsharai, Chattogram, for a Defence Industrial Zone.

The initiative aims to strengthen domestic military production capacity and tap into the growing global defence manufacturing market.

According to the latest Cabinet Division notification, the committee will guide the planning and development of the defence industry and issue directives for implementing its recommendations.

It will also provide policy guidance on the production and export of defence equipment.

The committee will oversee the formulation and implementation of short- and long-term plans and assess the need for defence equipment production and research at different levels.

It will also advise the government on setting up a full-fledged Defence Industry Division.

The committee may co-opt additional members if necessary, the notification said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম।
www.chc.gov.bd
[প্রশাসন শাখা]

নথি নং-এস-৪/২৫/প্রশাসন/যানবাহন অকেজো/২০১৯-২০/৩২৮২৬ (কাস) তারিখ: ০৯/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি.

০৮ (আট) টি অকেজো গাড়ী জরুরি নিলাম বিক্রয়

অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগের ০১-০৯-২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখে যানবাহন ও অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি অকেজো ঘোষণা সংক্রান্ত কমিটির সিদ্ধান্ত মোতাবেক কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রামের নিম্নবর্ণিত অকেজো গাড়ীগুলো যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে আগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর	প্রস্তুতকাল ও প্রস্তুতকারীর নাম	যে স্থানে আছে
১.	চট্ট মেট্রো-ঘ-১১-১৩৪২	মডেল- ২০০৯, Mitsubishi Pajero Jeep-09 তৈরি দেশ: জাপান।	কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম প্রাঙ্গণে।
২.	চট্ট মেট্রো-ঘ-১১-০৪৮৯	মডেল- ২০০৪ Mitsubishi Pajero Jeep তৈরি দেশ: জাপান।	কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম প্রাঙ্গণে।
৩.	ঢাকা মেট্রো-খ-১১-৮৯২৬	মডেল- ২০০০ Mitsubishi -2000 তৈরি দেশ: জাপান।	কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম প্রাঙ্গণে।
৪.	চট্ট মেট্রো-ঘ-০২-০০১৪	মডেল- ১৯৯৫ Mitsubishi Pajero Jeep তৈরি দেশ: জাপান।	কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম প্রাঙ্গণে।
৫.	চট্ট মেট্রো-ক-০২-২৭৭২	মডেল- ১৯৯৬ Toyota Saloon তৈরি দেশ: জাপান।	কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম প্রাঙ্গণে।
৬.	চট্ট মেট্রো-ক-০২-২৭৭৩	মডেল- ১৯৯৬ Toyota Saloon তৈরি দেশ: জাপান।	কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম প্রাঙ্গণে।
৭.	চট্ট মেট্রো-ক-০২-২০৬৬	মডেল- ১৯৯৫ Toyota Saloon তৈরি দেশ: জাপান।	কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম প্রাঙ্গণে।
৮.	চট্ট মেট্রো-ঘ-০২-০৩০২	মডেল- ১৯৯২ Toyota Land Cruiser তৈরি দেশ: জাপান।	কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম প্রাঙ্গণে।

শর্তাবলী:

১. দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ২৫/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে ফেলতে হবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরপত্র দাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) তা খোলা হবে।

২. দরপত্র দাখিলের বেলায় প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে এবং ব্যক্তিগত পর্যায়ে সাদা কাগজে কোটেশন দাতার নাম ও পূর্ণ ঠিকানা (স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান) টেলিফোন নম্বরসহ (যদি থাকে) উল্লেখ করতে হবে। দরপ্রস্তাবের সাথে দরদাতার হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে), আয়কর সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (NID)-এর অনুলিপি দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র দলিল যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করতে হবে এবং দরমূল্য সংখ্যা ও কথায় (TAX ও VAT ব্যতীত) উল্লেখ করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিলযোগ্য হবে। একজন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান একটি অথবা একাধিক গাড়ীর জন্য ভিন্ন ভিন্ন আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবেন।

৩. টেন্ডার সেল এর ক্যাটালগ দরপত্র আগামী ১০/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি. হতে ২৪/১১/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ক্যাটালগ ও দরপত্র দলিলসহ [তফসিলের (সিডিউল) মূল্য প্রতিটি গাড়ির জন্য ৫০০/- (পাচঁশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)] কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস, কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম বরাবর এ চালান (কোড: 1110203102008-110000000-11001000-1422328) মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। পরিশোধিত এ চালান কপিসহ অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস (প্রিভেন্টিভ ও প্রশাসন) বরাবর দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের জন্য আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

৪. এছাড়া, দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) হারে জামানত হিসাবে (ফেরতযোগ্য) কমিশনার, কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম-এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার আকারে প্রতিটি গাড়ীর জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দিতে হবে।

৫. নির্বাচিত দরদাতাকে Letter of Acceptance (LOA) প্রাপ্তির তারিখ হতে ০৭ (সাত) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে সম্পূর্ণ গৃহীত দরমূল্য সরকারি কোষাগারে নির্ধারিত কোডে জমা দিতে হবে এবং প্রচলিত আইন অনুযায়ী প্রযোজ্য VAT, AIT, Sales Tax/অন্যান্য কর ও ফি পরিশোধ করতে হবে। অর্থ জমার চালান ও কর পরিশোধের প্রমাণ দাখিল করতে হবে। যানবাহনের মূল্য অংক ও কথায় স্পষ্টভাবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতা নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের মধ্যে নিলামকৃত যানবাহন সংগ্রহ করতে ব্যর্থ হলে তার জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত হবে এবং পরবর্তী দরদাতাকে নিলামে যোগ্য বিবেচনা করা হবে।

৬. প্রতি কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত যানবাহনগুলো বর্ণিত স্থানে বেলা ১২.০০টা হতে বিকাল ৪.০০টা পর্যন্ত দেখা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য, অকেজো ঘোষিত যানবাহন পুন: রেজিস্ট্রেশন যোগ্য নহে।

৭. কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস সংরক্ষণ করেন।

০৯.১১.২৬
শরীফ মোহাম্মদ আল আমিন
অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস (প্রিভেন্টিভ ও প্রশাসন)
কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস এর পক্ষে
ফোন: ০২৩৩৩৩১৩৯১৮
Email: customhousectg@nbr.gov.bd

GD-2725