Agri machinery, irrigation receive less than 1% of farm credit

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Banks disbursed less than 1 percent of their total agricultural and rural credit to irrigation and farm equipment during the first quarter of fiscal year 2026-27, falling short of the 2 percent target set by Bangladesh Bank (BB).

Data from the central bank show that of the more than Tk 10,800 crore disbursed by 58 banks during the July-September period, only Tk 91 crore went to farm technology and irrigation combined.

Credit allocated for these purposes accounted for 0.84 percent of total agricultural and rural loans, according to BB's monthly report on agricultural and non-farm rural credit positions released yesterday.

The central bank said farmers received Tk 46 crore in loans for irrigation equipment and Tk 45 crore for agricultural machinery in the three months to September.

Banks provided nearly half of the total loans for crops, amounting to more than Tk 5,000 crore. The amount represented 47 percent of total disbursements but fell short of the 55 percent target set by the central bank.

In contrast, livestock and poultry farming received Tk 3,250 crore, accounting for 30 percent of total disbursements and exceeding the central bank's target. Lenders provided Tk 1,400 crore for fish farming, meeting BB's target.

BB set a Tk 60,000 crore agricultural and rural loan disbursement target for banks for the current fiscal year, with total disbursements reaching 18 percent of the annual target in the first quarter.

Private commercial banks accounted for the largest share of disbursements at 42 percent, followed by specialised banks at 30 percent.

The BB report said total classified loans in the agricultural sector contracted by 5 percent year-on-year to Tk 18,550 crore in September 2026. At the same time, overdue loans dropped 3 percent year-on-year to Tk 21,450 crore.

The central bank said the volume of overdue and classified loans required banks to prioritise loan recovery.

"To achieve efficient agricultural financing, we must remain vigilant about loan recovery and the management of defaulted loans," it said.

Garment wage survey starts next month

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"If they do that properly, it will be useful for the country," he said.

However, he cautioned that industry owners might overstate wages when providing information. Surveyors should therefore include checks in the questionnaire to ensure consistency in the data.

He also suggested conducting an industry demand survey alongside the wage survey to help researchers understand the factors that determine wages.

"If they collect data on industry characteristics, such as demand and cost conditions in textiles, we can analyse what wages depend on. They will have plant-wise data, so we can look at inter-industry and inter-factory differences in wages. A lot of information can be drawn from this," he said.

However, the usefulness of the findings will ultimately depend on the quality of information collected from establishments, he added.

Sayema Haque Bidisha, a professor of economics at the University of Dhaka, said the survey could fill existing data gaps and provide reliable evidence on wage conditions in industries beyond readymade garments.

She stressed the need for proper sampling and standard survey methods to ensure credible findings.

"The findings should be used alongside the Household Income and Expenditure Survey to build a clearer picture of household living costs and wage needs," she said.

Sayema also called for gradually bringing more sectors under the minimum wage framework, taking into account the needs of individual industries and providing incentives to help businesses manage higher wage costs.

She suggested revising minimum wages every year in line with inflation. This would help workers maintain their purchasing power while allowing employers to adjust to wage increases gradually, rather than facing large increases at once.

Bangladesh

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documents with the foreign firms once confidentiality agreements are signed. The firms will then assess whether there are sufficient grounds for legal action and whether funding can be secured.

Tracing and freezing assets abroad and fighting cases in foreign courts could cost several million dollars, he said. The taskforce is therefore exploring third-party litigation funding.

The banks would pay nothing at the start, and the funders would instead receive a share of any money recovered.

Asked about progress on a similar agreement to recover assets of Sikder Group, he said the boards of the banks concerned have given approval in principle. Legal documents are now being prepared.

ORDERS TO FREEZE TK 19,000CR OF OVERSEAS ASSETS REMAIN UNENFORCED

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury recently told parliament that assets worth around Tk 77,000 crore have been frozen.

Asked about the figure, Farhanul said about Tk 58,000 crore of them have been frozen inside Bangladesh. Bangladeshi courts have ordered the freezing of the remaining Tk 19,000 crore, which is held abroad, but the orders have yet to be enforced in the countries concerned.

He said some overseas assets have been temporarily frozen in response to mutual legal assistance requests from Bangladesh, though he did not give their value.

He pointed to the UK freezing about £250m of assets belonging to the former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury. Legal proceedings over those assets are under way.

He said the countries concerned have asked Bangladesh for more information to maintain the freezing orders.

A journalist asked whether money temporarily frozen abroad had been moved to another country because Bangladesh was late in providing the required information.

In response, central bank Spokesperson Arief Hossain Khan said Bangladesh has completed the process within the deadline, but after 30 days the money was moved to another destination. Efforts to trace it continue.

The spokesperson, however, did not disclose the amount or name the countries concerned.

The taskforce does not publish regular updates on its work. Asked why, Farhanul said money laundering is a sensitive issue, and releasing details of every stage of an investigation could alert those involved and let them devise new ways to move or hide their assets.

Reviewing two years of work by the taskforce, he said Bangladesh did not previously have a dedicated unit for asset recovery. There is now a Stolen Asset Recovery Division under the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit. It will continue and coordinate fully on recovery at home and abroad.

"The goal is not only to bring back the money but to reform institutions so no one dares to do this again," he said.

Marubeni

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"The discussions are at an early stage. They have expressed interest in investing in our sugar industry, but have yet to submit a detailed proposal," Shamsuzzaman told reporters after the meeting.

Marubeni is considering modernising existing mills, reopening closed factories and setting up new production facilities. However, the investment amount and locations have yet to be decided. BSFIC suspended production at six sugar mills in December 2020 to reduce losses, triggering protests among workers. The mills are Pabna, Shyampur, Panchagar, Setabganj, Rangpur and Kushtia. The government had said the factories would be modernised to make them commercially viable again.

The plan also includes a tissue culture laboratory and modern farming methods to improve sugarcane yields and sugar content, which are among the lowest in the world, according to the proposal. A distillery would produce alcohol for export as a raw material for the pharmaceutical, cosmetics, paint and other industries.

The project would add around 15 megawatts of electricity to the national grid through cogeneration. It would also establish three 10-bed hospitals for workers and rural communities.

Shamsuzzaman said the discussions also covered ethanol production, electricity generation and organic fertiliser from sugar industry by-products.

As sugar mills typically operate for only three to four months a year, these activities could help generate revenue throughout the year and improve their financial performance, he added.

BSFIC is facing mounting losses, reporting an overall loss of Tk 554.36 crore in FY2024-25, up from Tk 508.24 crore a year earlier, according to its annual report. The figures cover all its establishments, not just the nine operational sugar mills.

Of the nine mills, only Carew & Co (Bangladesh) Ltd posted a profit, earning Tk 97.08 crore during the year.

How startups

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Applications will be assessed by expert committees appointed by the ICT Division. Evaluation will consider innovation, technical feasibility, market potential, scalability and the competence of the founding team. Shortlisted applicants will also have to present their proposals to a selection committee, with winners selected based on their aggregate scores.

SUPPORT BEYOND FUNDING

The policy provides for a panel of mentors comprising entrepreneurs, industry specialists, academics, researchers and technology and venture capital experts to guide startups.

It also envisages incubation and acceleration support, helping ventures develop products, improve business operations, access markets and connect with investors.

Investment-readiness assistance will cover business valuation, financial modelling, pitch-deck preparation, corporate governance, due diligence and investment negotiations.

A National Startup Digital Platform will serve as a single-window system for registration, applications, evaluation, grant management, progress tracking, investor matching and grievance redress.

The policy also requires evaluators to disclose conflicts of interest and refrain from assessing applications where such conflicts exist.

Although the gazette does not specify application deadlines or the online portal, entrepreneurs are expected to receive details through a formal call for proposals. Applications will require relevant identification and registration documents, business and financial plans, a pitch deck and other prescribed information.

BANGLADESH VS PEER COUNTRIES

Startup funding approaches vary across South Asia. India's Startup India Seed Fund Scheme provides grants of up to INR 20 lakh for early-stage development, alongside up to INR 50 lakh in debt or convertible instruments for market entry and expansion through approved incubators.

220MW solar

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26 inverters and two substations equipped with 33/230-kilovolt power transformers, according to the presentation.

The appointment of consultants and the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor is at the final stage, while construction of a dormitory for operations and maintenance personnel is underway.

Speaking at the workshop, Aninda Islam Amit, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, said the government aims to meet 20 percent of the country's electricity demand from renewable energy sources by 2030.

"The project is expected to contribute to the government's target as Bangladesh seeks to increase the share of renewable energy in its electricity mix," he said.

The project will also introduce an agrivoltaic system, allowing agricultural activities and livestock rearing alongside solar power generation on the same land, according to the presentation.

The EGB has also planned livelihood support programmes for around 1,000 unemployed youths and women in the locality. These include training in computer operation, mobile phone repair and sewing, as well as setting up a computer laboratory and installing rooftop solar systems at nearby educational institutions.

The EGB also plans to expand solar power generation in Sonagazi through other projects.

A separate land acquisition project covering 386 acres for a proposed 130MW solar power plant received approval from the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council on September 29.

Natural disasters

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The initiative could also be expanded through government-funded programmes under the Ministry of Disaster Management.

Suman also stressed the need for a disaster risk financing (DRF) strategy to ensure funds are available when disasters strike, instead of forcing the government to scramble for resources after an emergency.

Under this approach, governments arrange financing in advance to cover emergency response, recovery and reconstruction costs. This helps prevent cuts to regular development spending and eases pressure on public finances, he said.

Bangladesh's proposed priorities include building fiscal reserves, improving social assistance programmes, expanding risk transfer and private-sector participation, strengthening institutional capacity and investing in long-term disaster risk reduction.

Kamrul Hoque Maruf, project director of the Jamuna River Sustainable Management Project-1, also attended the event.

Mymensingh City Corporation
Mymensingh
Estd: 2018
Engineering Division
www.mcc.gov.bd

Memo No: -46.21.6100.002.014.05.0340.26.1370 Dated : 15/11/2026

e-Tender Notice- 11/2026-27

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works under Mymensingh City Corporation, Mymensingh:

SL No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of Work	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing and Opening Date & Time
01	ID No. 1367374 & MCC/DPP /03/ PW-45	D-1460: Construction of RCC drain starting from komola's Mia house to Notordame College, D-1461: Construction of RCC drain starting from Bhati Barera Mostu House to Chanu House, D-1462: Construction of RCC drain starting from Moddho Barera Modin House to Ahu House, R-1400: Construction of RCC road starting from Bypass Notordame College Beside Green View Area in ward no-26, R-1398: Development of BC road starting from Moddho Barera Azgor Member House to Barek Bapari House ,R-1399:Construction of BC road starting from Moddho Barera Mosto House to Parail in ward no-26, R-1401:Construction of BC road starting from Uzan Barera Madrasha Mur to Taru Hause by Jamtola no-26, R-1402: Construction of BC road starting from Uzan Barera Bypass Road to Barek Brick Field in ward no-26	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM
02	ID No. 1367376 & MCC/DPP /03/ PW-15	D-1249: Construction of RCC Drain From Beside Engineering College Road to Kazir Gaw Intersection at Maldam Canal, R-1250) Construction of RCC Road & Drain From Arju Driver house to (yousuf khan) Rahamatpur Road via Khan Bari,R-1252) Construction of RCC Road With Drain From RHD Road to Opposite Mosjidlul Noor, R-1256) Construction of RCC Road From Bagerkanda Kalu shop to Motaleb Police via BDR Morshed Alam land,R-1257) Construction of RCC Road With Drain From Morol Bari Road Ripa house to Roton house, R-1258) Construction of RCC Road From Tangail Road to Kismot Main Road, R-1262) Construction of RCC Road with Drain From behind Rowjatul Quran Atimkhana to Aroj Bepari Mur, R-1263) Construction of BC/RCC Road With Drain From Lal Pull to Bagerkanda Bypass, R-1264) Construction of RCC Road From Tangail Road to Nuzrul City-02, R-1260) Construction of RCC Road & Drain From Nijkolpa Uttor-Para Main Road to Wahidusjaman house.	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM
03	ID No. 1367377 & MCC/DPP /03/ PW-27	R-1685) Construction of RCC Road Starting from Colpa Bypass Habildar Bari to Muhammadia Jame Mosque, R-1684) (Part-A): (Part-A): Rehabilitation of BC Road with Both Side Widening from Badekolpa Bypass more to Gohailkandi Lalpul, (Part-B): Construction of RCC Palisading & RCC Culvert in Different Places from Badekolpa Bypass more to Gohailkandi Lalpul,, R-1683) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain Starting from Niz Kolpa Lal-Poll Arif Ullah House to Abdul Malek House, R-1686) (Part-A): Rehabilitation of BC Road with Both Side Widening at Bypass Amtoli More to Uttar Dapuniya High School, (Part-B): Construction of RCC Palisading & RCC Culvert in Different Places from Bypass Amtoli More to Uttar Dapuniya High School.	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM
04	ID No. 1367378 & MCC/DPP /03/ PW-22	R-1731) Construction of RCC Road from Badekolpa Lotus house to Jabal-E-Noor Mosque, R-1732) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Ujan Barera road to Bolaibari Mosque, R-1734) Construction of BC Road with RCC Drain from Badekolpa Barandabari to Bonder bari, D-1737) Construction of RCC Drain from Badekolpa Road to Sahid Sarker house via Mathpar, D-1738) Construction of RCC Drain from Badekolpa Rubel Shaheb house to jame mosque via Khalpar, D-1740) Construction of RCC Drain from Amtola to Bypass, D-1741) Construction of RCC Drain from Uttor Dapuniya High School to Amtoli via Hossain Ali Master's house & Jalal Uddin house, R-1727) Construction of BC Road with RCC Drain from Badekolpa Bypass to Amin house, R-1728) Construction of RCC Road from Badekolpa Karim Fokir's Madrasa to Fatema Johura Mohila Madrasa, R-1729) Construction of BC Road with RCC Drain from Badekola Bypass to Khal Via Kashem Shaheb house.	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM
05	ID No. 1367379 & MCC/DPP /03/ PW-40	R-1529) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain at Akua Dakhhin Lomburi Bari Area, D-1528: Construction of RCC Top Slab Over Exesting Drain at Akua Jubli Qurter Mor Via Dakhhin Par to Surhab Shaheb Mosque, R-1527) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain at Akua East Naya Para Engr. Fazlul Haque House to Ukil Shaheb House, D-1530: Construction of RCC Road from Akua Morol Para Culvert to Munta Mia Petrol Pump, D-1531: Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain At Akua Dakhhin Para Bonder Bari Area With Bylane, D-1532: Construction of RCC Road from Alhaz Abul Hossain House to Liton Councillor Plot, D-1533: Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Surhab Shab House to Tara Member House, D-1474: Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Akua Morol Bari Azahar Shaheb House to Mannan Doctor House.	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM
06	ID No. 1367381 & MCC/DPP/ 03/ PW-115	D-1265) Construction of Internal RCC Drain at Engineering College, D-1266) Construction of RCC Road and both sides drain from Rahamatpur mur to Boisakhamol Canal, D-1267) Construction of both sides RCC drain from Rahamatpur intersection to Ghunti City Heath Center	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM
07	ID No. 1367382 & MCC/DPP /03/ PW-37	R-1485:Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain Starting from Kabir Pagol House to Mr. Altab House, R-1488:Construction of RCC Road starting from Habun Bapari More to Boga's House via Najir Bari Mosque,, R-1489:Construction of RCC Road starting from Jubi Quarter Road with Bylane, R-1495:Construction of RCC Road Starting From Akua Maral Para Sutu Mia Shop to Mr. Shafique Mia House, R-1496:Construction of RCC Road Starting from Akua Moralpara (Dargapara) Mutaleb Driver's house to Badal Mia's house. R-1497:Construction of RCC Road from Akua Moralpara (Dargapara) Chaikkar tea shop to Jahar Mia Bari., R-1498:Construction of RCC Road from Aqua East Moral Bari Main Road to Mufti Mahbub Hujur's house to the corner of Cadet College, R-1499:Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain Starting from Aqua Darbar Sharif Main Road to Mr. Bodor Mia House, R-1502:Construction of RCC Road Starting from Aqua Jubilee Quarter Main Road to Bappi Bari, R-1503:Construction of RCC Road With RCC Drain from Aqua Jubilee Quarter Main Road Mst. Rahima Khatun Garage to Mr. Habibul Islam Plot , R-1504:Construction of RCC Road Starting from Akua Moralpara (Dargapara) Sadeq Sahib's house to Hashem Ostagar, R-1505:Construction of RCC Road Staring from Aqua Jubilee Quarter Main Road to Samad's house,, R-1507:Construction of RCC Road Starting from Aqua Morol Para (Dorgapara) main Road Nuruzzaman's house of Ward no 15 to Hasmot's house, R-1508:Construction of RCC Road Starting from Aqua Morol Para (Dorgapara) main road to Jahed Ali's house, R-1494:Construction of RCC Road Starting from Akua Maral Para Sayed Tea Stall to Mr. Ismaiel House.	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM
08	ID No. 1367383 & MCC/DPP /03/ PW-31	R-1609)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Fulbaria road Oapda gate Chan Mia's shop to South side of Gofur's Pond & Chan Mias Vatiji house to north side of SI Kalam shaheb house south side of Minto Sir house, R-1610)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Shamim Shop to Mintu Mia's house at Fulbaria Road, R-1611)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Fulbaria road Commercial College Boundary to Mosharaf Sir house & Jalil house to Saiful's Pond, R-1612)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Chan Mia's Garage to Bokul's house at Fulbaria road Oapda Gate, R-1613)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Shohel Shop to Moylakanda Road via Mostofa house at Fulbaria road Oapda gate ,1617)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from west side of Borobari Mosque Motaleb Member house to north side of Rajob Ali Fakirs house, 1618)Construction of RCC Road bari house R-1619)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain at Chukaitola Landi Potti, R-1599)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from DM Road Lalu Morol house to Gazi Suruj house, Shoriful house to Khalper, Sharifuls shop to Khalper and Shamim's house to Nasir house at Aqua Wireless, R-1600)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain Aqua DM Road Dilip house to Dilip sister house, R-1601)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Ovi's house to Fazlu Mia's house at Aqua DM Road, R-1602)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Abul house to Harun house at Aqua DM Road, R-1603)Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Shahid's house to Azahar house at Aqua DM Road and Construction of RCC Road & RCC Drain under ID No. 1605,1606,1607, 1608,1620,1593,1594,1595,1596 and 1597.	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM
09	ID No. 1367384 & MCC/DPP /03/ PW-28	R-1652) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Aqua Dakkhinpara Bonderbari Shamsu house to Khalpar New Bridge in ward no-28, D-1653) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Aqua Dakkhinpara Bonderbari Shamsu house to Khalpar New Bridge in ward no-28, R-1691) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Dapunia Hargujirper Hazrats house to Insun Alis house via Hanifs house and Jamadar bari to Hargujirpar Al-Hadis Jame Mosque in ward no-29., R-1654) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Aqua Fulbaria main road to Ronju Chairman house in ward no-28 ,R-1655) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Aqua Fulbaria main road to Moshawar Shaheb house in ward no-28, R-1656) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Akkas Ali house to Hazrat Mia house at Aqua Wireless Paschimpara in ward no-28, R-1657) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from Anisur Rahmans house to Monirujjaman house at Aqua Chukaitola Cantonment Boundary road in ward no-28, R-1658) Construction of RCC Road with RCC Drain from freedom fighter Abu Taher House to Khaledur Rahmans house at Aqua Chukaitola Cantonment Boundary road in ward no-28, R-1692) Construction of BC Road with Both Side Widening from Bypass Aroj Bepari more to Ghunti RHD Road in Ward no-30	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM
10	ID No. 1367385& MCC/DPP/ 03/ PW-117	GB-1572) Construction of 30 m long RCC Girder Bridge over Nalgoria Canal at Char Dakhhin Kalibari in Ward No. 32, GB-1579) Construction of 24 m long RCC Girder Bridge at Char Gubodia Canal in Ward No. 33, GB-1581) Construction of 11 m long RCC Girder Bridge over the Canal situated beside Ujan Barera Sheba Brick Field in Ward No. 29	17/11/2026 10.00AM	09/12/2026 16.00PM	10/12/2026 13.00PM

This is an Online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in 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 Banks branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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