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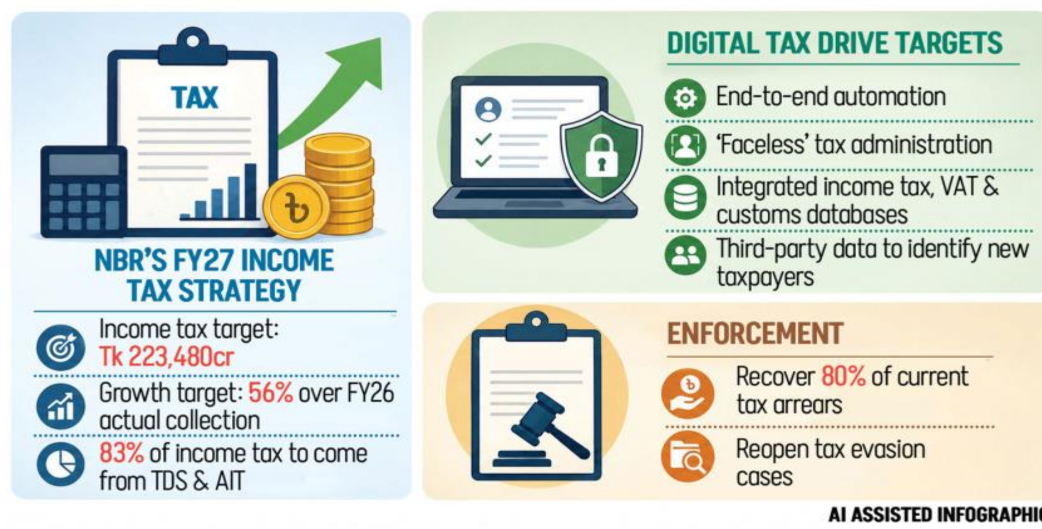
AMC WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY OF AMC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TEAM



Why are businesses opposing minimum tax system?

The construction of the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone (CEIZ) in Anwara, Chattogram officially commenced on 27 July 2026, marking a significant milestone in Bangladesh–China economic cooperation and the country's industrial development.

Spanning approximately 800 acres, the Government-to-Government (G2G) initiative is expected to attract around USD 1.3 billion in investment and generate more than 100,000 employment opportunities. Developed by Bangladesh CEIZ Company Limited (BCCL), the project is a joint venture where BEZA holds a 30% stake and China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) holds 70%.

The event featured the signing of several sub-lease agreements, inauguration of the CEIZ One Stop Service Centre, and the ceremonial launch of construction through a tree plantation programme.

To support the zone, the Government has approved a BDT 41.89 billion supporting infrastructure project, including roads, a multipurpose jetty, CETP, gas and water facilities, power substations, and modern waste management systems. With its strategic location near the Karnaphuli Tunnel, Chattogram Port, and Shah Amanat International Airport, CEIZ is expected to become a major destination for export-oriented industries and foreign direct investment.

Source tax, AIT to deliver 83% of income tax

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) plans to collect 83% of Bangladesh's income tax through tax deducted at source (TDS) and Advance Income Tax (AIT) in the current fiscal year. It has set a target of collecting Tk 1.86 lakh crore from these two sources, including Tk 1.54 lakh crore from source tax and Tk 32,000 crore from AIT, as part of its goal to increase overall income tax collection by 56%. To strengthen revenue collection, the NBR will introduce end-to-end automation, a faceless tax administration system, and digital integration of the income tax, VAT, and customs wings. These measures are expected to improve transparency, identify untaxed individuals and businesses, and increase compliance without raising tax rates.

The authority is also focusing on recovering tax arrears, increasing travel tax collection, and strengthening enforcement against tax evasion. However, economists and business leaders have expressed concern over the growing reliance on source tax. According to a BUILD study, most source tax deductions are effectively non-refundable, increasing business costs that are often passed on to consumers through higher prices, potentially adding to inflationary pressure.

Govt. eyes AI-powered analytics to safeguard essential commodity supply

The government plans to introduce an AI-powered data analytics system to forecast shortages of essential commodities before they occur. The platform will analyse ten years of data on production, imports, exports, and global market trends to support faster and better-informed decisions.

According to Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir, the system will integrate data from different ministries, identify potential supply risks, recommend the best import sources and timing, and help ensure a stable supply of essential goods while strengthening market management and protecting consumers.

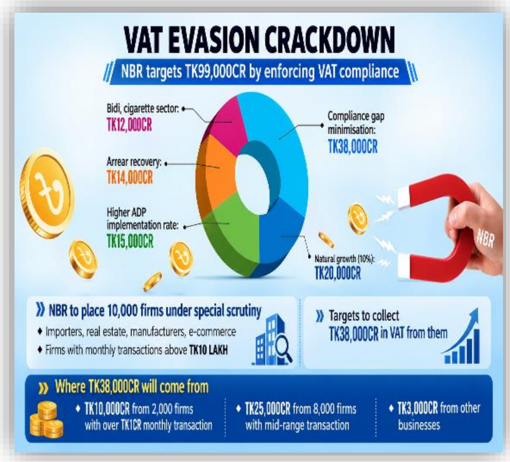
Bangladesh Bank Introduces Bank-Intermediated Cross Border Digital Payment Framework

Bangladesh Bank has issued FEPD-1 Circular No. 25, dated 29 July 2026, introducing a Bank-Intermediated Cross-Border Digital Payment Framework. The initiative aims to modernise cross-border payment services, promote digital financial inclusion, and facilitate international trade in services.

Under the new framework, Authorised Dealers (ADs) can partner with approved Cross-border Digital Payment Service Providers (CDPSPs) to facilitate both inward and outward digital payment transactions. Eligible individuals will also be able to use Digital Value Accounts (DVAs) for approved cross-border payments, while all transactions remain under the supervision and control of authorised banks.

The framework introduces Digital Value Accounts (DVAs) linked to bank-managed Master DVAs and enables bank-supervised cross-border digital payments with robust KYC, AML/CFT, audit trail, and regulatory reporting requirements. It supports eligible payments such as travel-related foreign exchange, online purchases, membership fees, IT expenses, visa processing fees, and hotel bookings within prescribed limits.

Exporters and e-commerce businesses may also use approved DVAs for eligible foreign exchange transactions, subject to existing regulations. In addition, all transactions must be settled through Authorised Dealers to ensure transparency, compliance, and effective regulatory oversight.This framework marks an important milestone in strengthening Bangladesh's digital payment ecosystem by enabling secure, transparent, and compliant cross-border financial transactions.



NBR targets over 10,000 firms to plug Tk38,000cr VAT leakages

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has launched an enforcement initiative to recover an additional Tk38,000 crore in VAT during FY27 by strengthening compliance and tackling tax evasion.

The drive will focus on over 10,000 businesses identified as high-risk for VAT leakage, particularly those with monthly transactions exceeding Tk10 lakh.

The targeted sectors include importers, manufacturers, real estate companies, e-commerce businesses, and other VAT-registered entities.

The NBR plans to recover Tk25,000 crore by identifying VAT evasion among 8,000 high-risk businesses, while a separate initiative targeting 2,000 large VAT-paying businesses is expected to generate an additional Tk10,000 crore. Further compliance measures are projected to contribute another Tk3,000 crore.

The initiative forms part of the NBR's broader FY27 revenue mobilisation strategy and reflects its increased focus on improving VAT compliance, reducing revenue leakages, and strengthening tax administration.

Key highlights: The NBR will focus on more than 10,000 businesses identified as high-risk for VAT leakage, particularly those with monthly transactions exceeding Tk10 lakh.

The initiative aims to recover Tk38,000 crore in additional VAT during FY27 through enhanced enforcement and improved compliance. Targeted sectors include importers,

manufacturers, real estate companies, e-commerce businesses, and other VAT-registered entities. The drive also includes a dedicated initiative for 2,000 large VAT-paying businesses and forms part of the NBR's broader strategy to strengthen revenue mobilisation and reduce tax evasion.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has instructed banks not to provide any policy support or incentives to borrowers until they withdraw the lawsuits they have filed against the government, the central bank, or the banks concerned.

The central bank issued a circular in this regard today, saying that the directive aims to reduce litigation in the banking sector and ensure that policy support reaches borrowers without ongoing legal disputes with public authorities or banks.

The circular said Bangladesh Bank has introduced various policy measures to stimulate private investment, employment generation, and sustainable economic growth by increasing credit flow to productive sectors.

As part of these initiatives, borrowers in export-oriented industries, agriculture, cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs), and other sectors have been receiving different forms of incentives and policy support through banks.

However, the central bank observed that some borrowers have been availing themselves of such policy support while simultaneously pursuing writ petitions and other legal cases

Depositors of five merging banks can now withdraw up to Tk10 lakh

Depositors of the five merging Islamic banks will now be allowed to withdraw up to Tk 10 lakh not only for their own medical treatment but also for other emergency needs.

The central bank took a decision in a board meeting held at the Bangladesh Bank headquarters in Dhaka today. Previously, withdrawals under the central bank's special scheme were limited to a depositor's own medical expenses.

Under the revised policy, funds can also be withdrawn for the treatment of immediate family members, including parents, spouses, children, and siblings, as well as for other urgent necessities. The decision applies to the five banks that are merging to form Sammilito Islami Bank PLC: First Security Islami, Social Islami, Union, Global Islami, and EXIM.

According to Bangladesh Bank officials, the revision was made after depositors sought access to their savings for emergencies beyond medical treatment, such as family healthcare or other pressing financial needs.

A senior official of the central bank said that its board also decided to suspend the haircut system on depositors' profits, and that depositors will receive their profits as per Shariah law. He also said that the merging process is likely to be completed by September this year, and that the administrator teams of the five banks will be withdrawn soon.

The five banks collapsed after years of large-scale irregular lending under the control of business groups linked to the previous Awami League government. To protect depositors, the interim government merged the banks last year and introduced a phased repayment scheme.

The merged bank has a paid-up capital of Tk 35,000 crore, including Tk 20,000 crore provided by the government. Depositors will receive shares against the remaining Tk 15,000 crore.

In addition, the Deposit Insurance Fund is paying up to Tk 2 lakh per depositor, while the central bank is gradually repaying the remaining deposits through a separate scheme.

Officials of the central bank said that, so far, Tk 3,887 crore has been repaid to more than 822,000 depositors under the scheme.

As of December last year, the five banks had outstanding loans of Tk 195,000 crore, of which only Tk 47,900 crore, or 24.56 percent, was backed by collateral. Their non-performing loans stood at Tk 170,500 crore, accounting for 87.43 percent of total loans.

🔊 NBR Targets Tk52,000 Crore in Additional Source Tax Collection

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has outlined a plan to collect an additional Tk52,000 crore in source tax during FY27 as part of its strategy to achieve a 56% increase in income tax revenue. The initiative includes stricter monitoring of organisations responsible for deducting tax at source and enhanced enforcement to reduce compliance gaps.

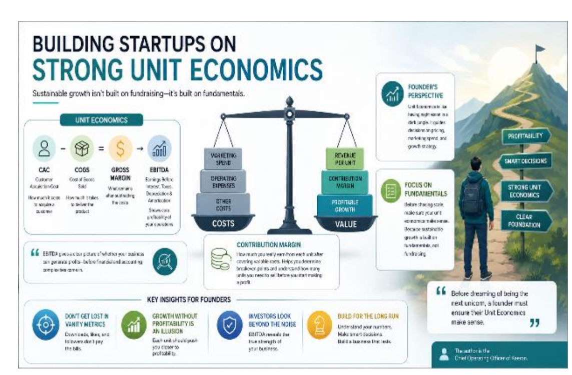
While the NBR maintains that the measures are aimed at curbing tax evasion, business associations have expressed concerns that increased enforcement powers could lead to harassment over minor compliance errors and create additional challenges for businesses. The initiative reflects the NBR's broader focus on strengthening tax compliance and improving domestic revenue mobilisation.

against the government, Bangladesh Bank, and the respective banks.

Under the new instruction, banks must verify whether an applicant has any pending writ petition or other lawsuit against the government, Bangladesh Bank, or the bank concerned before extending any incentive package or policy support announced by the government or the central bank.

If such cases exist, the borrower will have to withdraw them before the application can be considered. Banks have also been asked to obtain an affidavit from applicants declaring that they have no pending legal cases against the government, Bangladesh Bank, or the relevant bank.

Where cases have been withdrawn, applicants must submit a list of those withdrawn cases along with their application. The directive has been issued under Section 45 of the Bank Companies Act, 1991, and takes immediate effect.



🔊 Why Every Startup Founder Should Understand Unit Economics

Unit economics is a critical foundation for every startup's long-term success. By understanding key metrics such as Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC), Cost of Goods Sold (COGS), Gross Margin, Contribution Margin, and EBITDA, founders can evaluate profitability, improve decision-making, and build a more sustainable business model.

Strong unit economics not only supports scalable growth but also gives investors confidence in the company's ability to create long-term value. Growth is important, but sustainable growth is built on strong financial fundamentals.