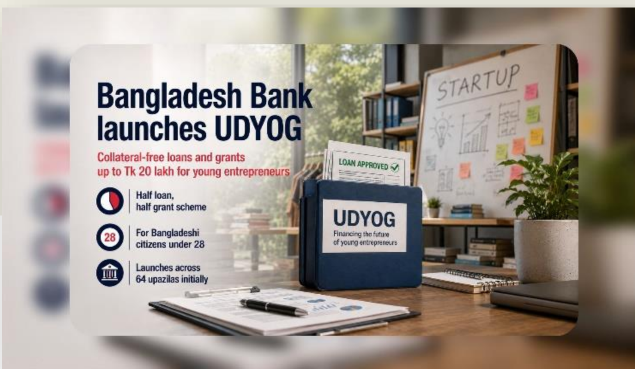
SATURDAY / / SEPTEMBER 05, 2026 / / AWS-26/0016

AMC WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY OF AMC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TEAM



BB to offer up to Tk 20 lakh in collateral-free loans, grants to young entrepreneurs

Bangladesh Bank (BB) is set to launch a programme to provide collateral-free loans to young entrepreneurs to encourage entrepreneurship at the grassroots level and create jobs.

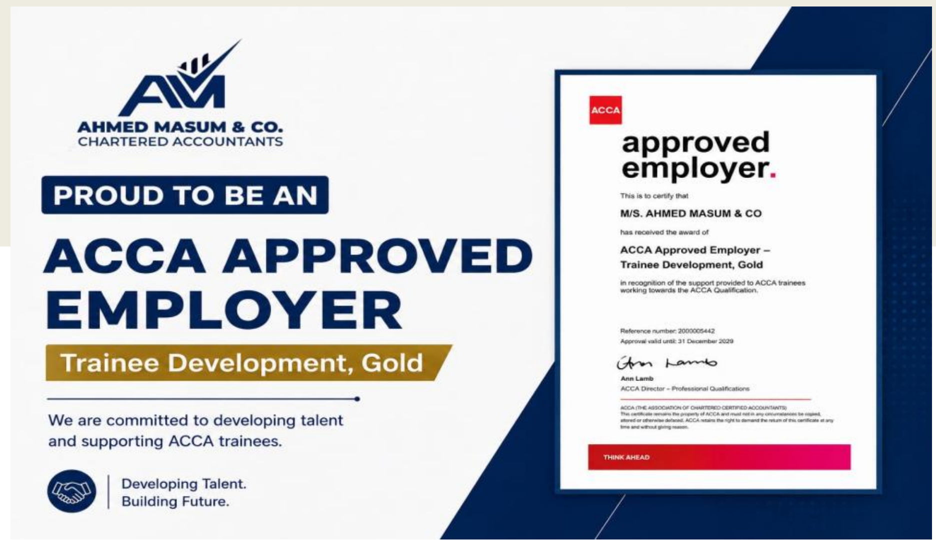
Under the initiative, named UDYOG: Upazila-based Young Entrepreneur Identification, Selection and Financing Programme, banks will use their existing branch networks to identify promising young entrepreneurs at the grassroots level, assess their business ideas and financing needs, and provide financial support, the BB said at a press conference at its headquarters in Dhaka.

Representatives from Bangladesh Bank's media briefing, including its spokesperson and Executive Director Arief Hossain Khan, Md Shahriar Siddiqui, assistant spokesperson, and other officials, were present at the press conference. Each selected entrepreneur will be eligible for up to Tk 20 lakh, depending on their needs. Half of the package will be a bank loan and the other half a grant.

Beyond financing, selected entrepreneurs will receive training, mentorship, assistance with registration and business plans, and market-linkage support to help create jobs and drive economic growth, BB Spokesperson Arief Hossain Khan said. Business initiatives, including agriculture, food processing, handicrafts, fisheries, livestock, tourism, services and technology-based ventures, will be considered.

The BB said it will issue a circular on September 16 in this regard, and applications using a prescribed form can be submitted at any bank branch at the upazila level. Bangladeshi citizens aged 28 or below on the final application date and residing in the relevant upazila will be eligible to apply without prior business experience, provided they have a viable business idea. Applicants will have one month to apply.

The BB said it will launch the programme across 64 upazilas in eight districts — Manikganj, Feni, Naogaon, Jhenaidah, Bhola, Habiganj, Rangpur and Netrokona — selecting 10 entrepreneurs per upazila, for an initial total of 640.



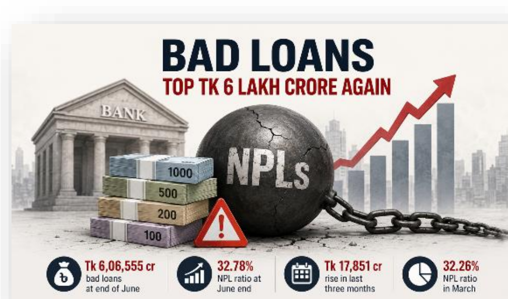
ACCA Approved Employer – Trainee Development, Gold

Ahmed Masum & Co., Chartered Accountants Recognised as ACCA Approved Employer – Trainee Development, Gold

Ahmed Masum & Co., Chartered Accountants (AMC) has been officially recognised by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) as an ACCA Approved Employer – Trainee Development, Gold. This recognition reflects AMC's commitment to providing quality professional development, practical experience, structured training and ongoing support for ACCA trainees pursuing the ACCA Qualification.

As an ACCA Approved Employer – Trainee Development, Gold, AMC is committed to fostering a structured professional environment that supports trainees in developing technical knowledge, professional skills and relevant workplace experience. The recognition also strengthens opportunities for trainees to learn, receive professional support, develop career-ready competencies and progress within the accounting and finance profession.

At AMC, we believe that developing people is fundamental to building a strong and sustainable professional practice. This achievement marks an important milestone in our continued journey towards professional excellence, continuous learning and talent development. We sincerely appreciate ACCA for this recognition and acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our Partners, professional team and colleagues who have contributed to this achievement.



Banks' bad loans surpass Tk 6 lakh crore again

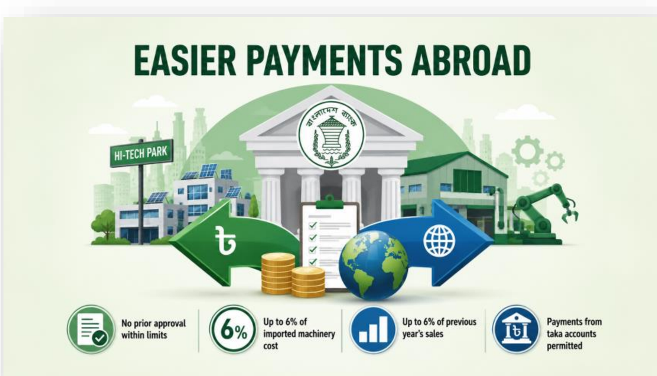
Non-performing loans (NPLs) in the country's banking sector have surpassed Tk 6 lakh crore again, despite a series of initiatives to reduce toxic loans. At the end of June this year, bad loans in the banking sector stood at Tk 6,06,555 crore, which is 32.78 percent of the total disbursed loans, according to the latest data from Bangladesh Bank.

In the last three months until June, NPLs increased by Tk 17,851 crore, as the figure stood at Tk 5,88,704 crore in March this year. The NPL ratio was 32.26 percent. At the end of December 2025, defaulted loans stood at Tk 5,57,217 crore.

Another lifeline for bad debt Earlier, NPLs in the banking sector stood at Tk 6.44 lakh crore, or nearly 36 percent of disbursed loans, at the end of September 2025. Widespread irregularities, scams, and weak oversight in the financial sector in previous years have driven up bad

The central bank will later expand the programme nationwide, targeting 5,000 entrepreneurs annually. The interest or profit rate on the loan portion will range from 4 percent to 7 percent, and borrowers will not need to provide any collateral, the BB said. However, if a borrower fails to repay within the stipulated period, the grant portion will be converted into an interest-free loan.

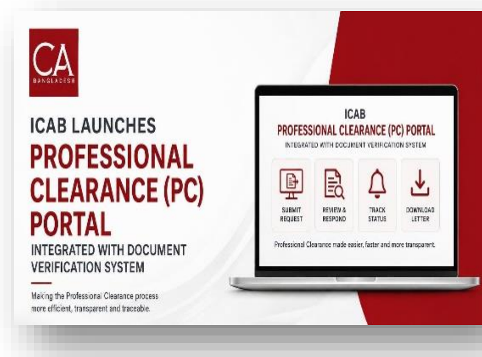
The loan account will then be classified under existing rules, and the borrower will be considered a defaulter and become ineligible for further loans, the BB said. The scheme has an initial fund of Tk 500 crore, with funds to be sourced from the corporate social responsibility (CSR) accounts of banks to establish a separate, regulated grant fund.



BB eases foreign remittance rules for industrial enterprises in hi-tech parks

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has allowed industrial enterprises operating in hi-tech parks to make certain foreign payments from their taka accounts, easing the process of settling royalty, technical know-how and technical assistance fees. According to a circular issued today, banks may facilitate outward remittances within prescribed limits without prior approval from the central bank or the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA). It said prior approval will not be required if the total fees and other expenses do not exceed 6 percent of the cost of imported machinery for new projects. For ongoing concerns, the payments must not exceed 6 percent of the previous year's sales as declared in their income tax returns, according to the circular. The decision will allow businesses to make such payments from their taka accounts with banks, in addition to the previously permitted mechanism involving foreign currency accounts. Before processing the outward remittances, banks shall ensure that the concerned industrial enterprise does not have any source of income in foreign currency.

The BB said the measure has been taken to facilitate the settlement of foreign payment obligations of industrial enterprises operating in hi-tech parks. However, enterprises will still require prior specific approval from BHTPA for royalty, technical know-how and technical assistance fees that exceed the prescribed limits. Such approval will also be mandatory for outward remittances related to other similar legitimate expenses, regardless of the amount. The move is expected to provide greater flexibility to industrial enterprises in hi-tech parks in meeting their overseas contractual and operational payment obligations, said a BB official.



ICAB Launches Professional Clearance (PC) Portal Integrated with Document Verification System

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) has launched the Professional Clearance (PC) Portal, an online platform designed to facilitate the submission, response, tracking and completion of Professional Clearance requests by eligible practicing members.

The PC Portal is integrated with ICAB's Document Verification System (DVS) to make the Professional Clearance process more efficient, transparent and traceable.

Under the new process, the member/firm seeking Professional Clearance will act as the "Clearance Seeker", while the member/firm from whom clearance is sought will be the "Consent Giver." The Clearance Seeker can select the relevant audit entity, enter the Current Audit Period and submit the request through the Portal. The Consent Giver can review and respond to the request through the system.

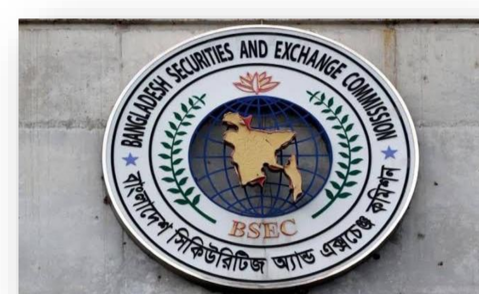
If the Consent Giver does not respond within 14 days from the date of submission, the Professional Clearance will be deemed to have been granted, and the Portal will process the request accordingly. The Portal also provides notifications and request tracking facilities, allowing members to track requests through the "My Seeking" and "My Consent" menus using the Tracking Number, Entity/Company Name or Status. Upon completion, the Professional Clearance Letter can be downloaded directly from the Portal.

For joint audit engagements, the PC Portal currently does not support Professional Clearance requests. Such cases will continue to be handled through the existing/manual process until the joint audit functionality is incorporated into the Portal.

Where Professional Clearance has already been obtained manually or deemed to have been obtained, the relevant information will also need to be updated through the PC Portal to facilitate subsequent DVS issuance.

loans in the sector. Bankers said that many top borrowers became defaulters after the fall of the Awami League-led government in 2024, and the loans of these borrowers are now difficult to recover. They also said that many good loans are showing signs of stress and that the overall banking sector is going through a downturn, which is why NPLs may have increased.

ICAB will separately notify members regarding the procedure and timeline for updating such cases. The Professional Clearance (PC) Portal is operational with immediate effect, and eligible practicing members are requested to use the Portal for Professional Clearance purposes, except for joint audit engagements. Members are also advised to ensure that their mobile number and other relevant information registered with ICAB are up to date for OTP authentication and system notifications.



BSEC to bring back direct listing after 16 years for big firms

Bangladesh is preparing to reintroduce direct listing on the stock market after a 16-year hiatus. Under the proposed 2026 rules, large and established companies would be allowed to list on stock exchanges without going through the traditional IPO process. Instead, existing shareholders could sell 10–20% of their shares to the public. Eligible companies may include government-owned firms, large private and foreign-owned companies, banks, insurers, and qualifying telecom and ICT businesses. The initiative could help bring more large companies into Bangladesh's capital market, increase market capitalisation, improve liquidity and give ordinary investors access to established businesses. However, unlike an IPO, the company would not receive fresh capital from the sale. There are also concerns about share pricing, inflated valuations and potential losses for investors, particularly because similar issues occurred with some direct listings in the past. BSEC will publish the draft rules for public consultation before finalising the framework.