RAHMAN'S CHAMBERS

Barristers & Advocates

THIS IS OUR HALF YEARLY LEGAL WRITINGS KNOWN AS "LEGAL INSIGHT", A PART OF OUR LEGAL INITIATIVE. WE HAVE ANALYSED THE MAJOR EVENTS AND CHANGES IN LAWS TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS (JANUARY- JUNE) IN BANGLADESH AND GLOBALLY HAVING AN IMPACT ON BANGLADESH. WE HAVE ORGANIZED IT UNDER NINE HEADINGS AS PER OUR NINE PRACTICE DEPARTMENTS COVERING THIRTY TWO PRACTICE AREAS.

Commercial

The international trade environment for Bangladeshi businesses has become increasingly volatile, presenting acute legal and financial risks. Exporters face significant uncertainty from potential unilateral tariff actions by key trading partners, most notably a proposed 35% reciprocal tariff from the United States that threatens Bangladesh's $8.4 billion export market. This is compounded by regional trade disputes, such as India’s sudden decision in May 2025 to halt imports of Bangladeshi garments and processed foods through key land ports, forcing costly rerouting and stranding shipments. The primary legal risk for exporting clients is contract frustration; these sudden trade barriers can make it impossible to meet delivery deadlines, potentially leading to breach of contract claims and significant financial damages. Domestically, authorities are responding by modernizing trade infrastructure with a five-year Customs Strategic Plan and a new online "a-challan" payment system.[i] However, the introduction of the "Customs Risk Management Regulations, 2025," which will use AI to fight money laundering, creates a new compliance risk where any data irregularities could lead to consignments being flagged, causing significant delays and penalties.

The interim government is pursuing a domestic reform agenda that, while beneficial, introduces new compliance burdens and enforcement risks. In March 2025, an amendment to the Public Procurement Ordinance was approved to enhance transparency by scrapping a rule that cancelled tenders for being more than 10% below estimates. Concurrently, the Competition Commission is amending its 2012 Act to better define and police "dominant players" in the market. The legal risk for clients with significant market share is heightened exposure to antitrust investigations and penalties for practices now deemed anti-competitive.

Furthermore, an entirely new regulated market was created on May 29, 2025, when the BSEC approved regulations for the country's first commodity exchange. For clients in this sector, the legal risk is the need to rapidly master a completely new legal framework for derivatives, licensing, and clearing systems to participate without violating securities laws.

Bangladesh's aviation sector is navigating a severe crisis, creating a high-risk environment. Private airlines are struggling to survive due to high costs and what they describe as outdated regulations from 1984, which they are urgently calling to be reformed.[ii] The most alarming legal and reputational risk stems from internal regulatory failures, including a recent CAAB investigation that revealed serious irregularities in the issuance of at least 144 pilot licences. Such malpractice could attract international scrutiny from bodies like ICAO, risking a downgrade of Bangladesh's aviation safety rating and severe commercial consequences like restrictions on international routes. In response to the sector's challenges, authorities have issued several new legal instruments, including an Air Navigation Order (ANO) for Voice Communication Systems on May 5, 2025, an ANO amendment on cabin crew training on April 29, 2025, and directives in February 2025 to enforce airfare transparency. The immediate legal risk for airlines is ensuring strict compliance with these new, specific technical and operational standards to avoid penalties.

The pharmaceutical sector, while a strong performer, faces its own distinct legal challenges. Companies continue to achieve success in highly regulated markets, with Renata PLC shipping its first batch of medicines to the US in January 2025. The primary legal risk for these exporters is ensuring continuous and strict compliance with the manufacturing and documentation standards of foreign bodies like the US FDA and EMA, where any deviation can lead to import alerts and loss of market access. Domestically, while the proposed 2025-26 budget offers duty exemptions on raw materials for critical medicines, the most profound legal risk facing the entire industry is the impending expiration of the WTO's TRIPS waiver in 2026. This waiver has been the cornerstone of the sector's success, allowing the production of patented drugs without paying royalties. Failure to prepare for the post-TRIPS environment will expose companies to patent infringement lawsuits and render their current business models unviable, making the development of a robust IP and licensing strategy an urgent necessity.

Construction and Energy

The energy sector in Bangladesh is undergoing a sweeping transformation driven by significant, finalized legal and policy reforms. In a landmark move, the government repealed the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply Act 2010, dismantling a framework that allowed for unsolicited, non-competitive energy projects. This is complemented by the enactment of the new Renewable Energy Policy 2025, approved in June, which aims to produce at least 20% of national power from green sources by 2030 and offers a 10-year tax exemption for producers. The primary legal risk for energy clients is navigating this paradigm shift; the repeal of the Quick Enhancement Act exposes all future projects to the complexities of competitive bidding and potential legal challenges, removing the certainty of previous fast-track deals. Furthermore, the restoration of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission's (BERC) independent tariff-setting authority and a finalized three-year IMF-backed plan to cut power subsidies introduce significant financial and regulatory uncertainty for producers and distributors.[iii]

The construction and infrastructure sectors are advancing with major projects under a reformed legal and administrative framework. A critical legal change is the Public Procurement (Amendment) Ordinance-2025, which was approved in May and scraps the 10% price cap on bids while mandating the use of e-GP for all public procurement to enhance transparency. This new law directly impacts a vast pipeline of projects, including the newly opened Jamuna Railway Bridge and the ongoing construction of five new metro rail lines in Dhaka. The legal risk for construction clients involved in international projects is dispute resolution, as underscored by the resumption of the stalled Dhaka Elevated Expressway project under new Chinese ownership following a Singapore arbitration verdict. All contractors now face a changed bidding landscape due to the new procurement law; the removal of the price floor creates a risk of unsustainably low bids, which could lead to project defaults and subsequent legal action for non-performance. Additionally, major port projects are moving forward with the signing of a final agreement.

Corporate

The legal landscape for labour and industrial relations in Bangladesh is undergoing a period of intense reform, driven by significant pressure from international partners like the EU, US, and the ILO. The government has committed to amending the Bangladesh Labour Act by October 2025 to align with global standards, a process directly linked to the country's LDC graduation and continued preferential market access. The primary legal risk for corporations, particularly in export-oriented sectors, is the heightened scrutiny of their labor practices. Failure to adapt to these impending legal changes could jeopardize critical trade relationships. In parallel, several specific wage regulations have been finalized, including a 9% annual increment for the RMG sector and new minimum wage structures for the cement industry, creating immediate financial and compliance risks for employers in those sectors.

New regulations have been enacted that directly impact the governance and safety of industrial and commercial operations. In May 2025, the government passed the Trade Organization Rules, 2025, establishing a comprehensive legal framework for the formation, administration, and governance of all trade bodies, including chambers of commerce and industry associations. The legal risk for these organizations, and by extension their corporate members, is the need to comply with stricter governance and accountability standards to maintain their legal standing. For industrial clients, the new Boiler Rules of 2025, issued in June under the Boiler Act of 2022, create a direct compliance risk. They must ensure their equipment and inspection protocols meet the new, stricter safety and operational standards to avoid significant penalties and operational shutdowns.

The regulatory framework governing manpower export and corporate disclosures has also been updated, creating new compliance obligations. In January 2025, the government enacted the Foreign Employment and Migrants (Recruiting Agent License and Sub-Agent Registration and Conduct) Rules, 2025. The legal risk for companies in the manpower export business is the significant compliance burden related to the new licensing and conduct requirements, with the potential for license revocation for any violations.

Dispute Resolution

The landscape of litigation in Bangladesh has been fundamentally altered by the recent enactment of ordinances amending both the Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes. The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, gazetted on May 8, 2025, introduces sweeping changes aimed at expediting civil cases. Key amendments include modernizing the service of summons via SMS and instant messaging, requiring plaints to be supported by affidavit, introducing examination-in-chief on affidavit, and empowering courts to direct law enforcement to assist in executing decrees. The legal risk for litigants is that the process, while faster, is now less forgiving; for example, the ordinance limits the setting aside of an ex-parte decree to only once per defendant. In parallel, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, gazetted on July 10, 2025, introduces a new Section 173A, which allows for the submission of interim investigation reports and the potential for an accused to be discharged early, creating new strategic considerations for criminal defense.

Several recent judgments from the Supreme Court (High Court Division) have established significant precedents that directly impact litigation and arbitration strategy. In admiralty law, the court clarified in the M.T. Gagasan Johor case that while a ship has the juridical personality to be a defendant, it cannot sue as a plaintiff, and ruled that a suit filed by a company after it has been wound up is not competent. Another admiralty ruling in the Cetus Maritime case established that a vessel's bunkers (fuel) cannot be arrested independently of the ship if there is no claim against the ship's owner. On the commercial side, a February 2025 judgment concerning the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, reaffirmed that an offense for a dishonoured cheque is not compoundable, meaning an out-of-court settlement does not automatically end the criminal proceedings. These precedents create clear risks for improperly filed suits and change the strategic calculus in commercial disputes.

There is a growing institutional emphasis on resolving disputes outside of traditional court proceedings, particularly in the financial sector. The Bangladesh Bank is actively encouraging the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to accelerate the recovery of defaulted loans, urging banks to sign MOUs with bodies like the Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC). This signals a shift that could expose defaulters to a faster, more streamlined recovery process. A critical precedent was also set for the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards in Bangladesh in the Litmond Shipping case, strengthening the country's position as an arbitration-friendly jurisdiction. This trend toward specialized and international dispute resolution is further solidified by the government's initiative to hire international litigation firms to pursue cross-border asset recovery cases, indicating a move towards resolving major financial disputes in foreign jurisdictions.

Shipping

The shipping sector is facing a critical deadline for environmental compliance that poses a significant legal and commercial risk to a cornerstone of the industry. The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships is set to enter into force on June 26, 2025. Despite being one of the world's top shipbreaking nations, Bangladesh is largely unprepared for this new international legal regime. Only a handful of the country's ship recycling yards have been approved under the Convention's guidelines, with many more struggling to meet the standards. The primary legal risk is that non-compliant yards will be unable to legally accept international vessels for scrapping, potentially leading to a collapse in business and massive job losses. This is compounded by the lack of a proper Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSDF) for hazardous waste, a critical compliance failure. In parallel, Bangladesh launched a National Action Plan in April 2025, developed with the IMO, to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050, signalling a long-term shift towards stricter environmental regulations for the entire maritime industry.

Disputes and governance issues at the nation's main seaport have highlighted significant contractual and administrative risks for shipping lines. A months-long dispute between berth operators and shipping agents at Chattogram Port over increased container handling charges led to operational disruptions and "go-slow" tactics, delaying shipments. While the dispute was resolved in May 2025 with a rate hike after the Ministry of Shipping intervention, a new legal risk has emerged. Separately, the government has been active in expanding its port framework, officially delimiting the area for the new "Hatia Coastal River Port, Noakhali" in June 2025 and bringing it under the purview of the Ports Act, 1908.

While the government has updated specific domestic regulations, such as the "Bangladesh Fishing Vessels and Deck Officers' Certification Rules, 2003" in April 2025, the most significant external risks stem from international geopolitics. The ongoing security crisis in the Red Sea continues to disrupt global shipping routes, increasing transit times and costs for Bangladeshi trade. More critically, the United States is preparing to implement steep port fees, potentially up to $1.5 million per visit, on Chinese-built vessels. Given that Chinese shipyards produced over half of the world's commercial tonnage last year, this policy will affect a majority of the global fleet. The legal and commercial risk for Bangladeshi importers and exporters is a sharp increase in freight rates, which would likely be passed down from shipping lines. This could impact the price competitiveness of goods and necessitates a careful review of shipping contracts to determine how such unforeseen geopolitical costs are allocated.

Taxation and Finance

Taxation

Tax

The first half of 2025 has seen a significant overhaul of Bangladesh's tax administration. In May, the government replaced the National Board of Revenue (NBR) with two new bodies—the Revenue Policy Division and the Revenue Management Division—under the new "Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Ordinance 2025." This move, aimed at separating policymaking from enforcement, led to industrial action by employees, causing disruptions to trade at Chattogram port. Businesses will need to navigate a period of administrative adjustment during this transition. Concurrently, the FY 2025-26 budget introduced major changes to corporate tax rates. The rate for merchant banks was cut from 37.5% to 27.5%, while a new tiered system for listed companies was introduced to encourage public listings. However, the 15% reduced tax benefit for the crucial textile sector is set to be scrapped, a development that will require textile firms to adjust their financial models.

The Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) structure was also significantly altered, creating a new compliance landscape. Withholding tax on interest from securities and rental income was raised to 10%, while consultancy services are now subject to a 15% rate. Conversely, to reduce costs for critical imports and support local industry, the government reduced the source tax on items like cancer drugs and fresh fruits, and fully exempted 15 specified varieties of raw cotton and fibre from any source tax. This wide array of new, sector-specific TDS rates will require businesses to immediately update their compliance procedures to avoid penalties for misapplication.

Vat

The VAT regime saw substantial reforms through the Finance Ordinance 2025, which amended the VAT and Supplementary Duty Act, 2012. The VAT net was officially expanded to include new digital services, with "Tower Sharing Services" and "OTT Platform Services" now subject to the standard 15% rate, creating new compliance obligations for companies in the telecommunications and tech sectors. Several key exemptions were also granted for public interest goods and services, including Metro Rail, e-books, and LP Gas production.

Businesses will need to adapt to the expanding scope and procedural strictness of the VAT system. The ordinance introduced a strict 90-day appeal period for VAT-related disputes and now legally requires businesses to notify the relevant VAT office of any change in their details within 15 days. Adherence to these short deadlines will be critical to preserve legal recourse and avoid penalties.

Customs

Customs procedures were significantly modernized with a focus on risk-based enforcement and trade facilitation. A key development is the introduction of the Customs Risk Management Rules, 2025, in March. This establishes an automated, AI-driven system to profile shipments and target economic risks like money laundering. As a result, importers and exporters can expect heightened scrutiny of their consignments, requiring meticulous documentation to avoid delays. To facilitate trade, the duty-free threshold for small imports was increased from BDT 2,000 to BDT 4,000, and the Tourist Baggage Rules were updated. However, to address port congestion, the NBR issued a Special Order in May to fast-track the auction and disposal of uncleared goods at Chattogram Port. Importers should be aware that consignments facing clearance delays could now be disposed of more quickly than before.

Finance

The banking and financial sector is undergoing a period of intense, regulator-driven reform aimed at enhancing financial stability. The new Bank Resolution Ordinance, 2025, issued in May, significantly enhances the authority of the Bangladesh Bank (BB), granting it the power to intervene in non-viable banks through forced mergers, temporary nationalization, or liquidation. Financial institutions should prepare for more proactive regulatory oversight, with weakly performing banks and NBFIs potentially facing board restructuring or mergers. This is part of a broader reform agenda that includes a planned review of the Bank Company Act, with the BB Governor signalling an intent to reduce the number and tenure of directors and ensure independent directors make up 50% of a bank's board.

Alongside these major structural reforms, the Bangladesh Bank has issued a series of critical circulars that introduce new, immediate compliance obligations. On June 25, 2025, BB issued revised instructions on Loan Classification and Provisioning, mandating updated standards and new reporting templates for all scheduled banks. In a major policy shift to manage credit risk, the central bank has now barred private companies that default on foreign loans from accessing local bank credit by including them in the CIB database. Corporate borrowers should note that under this new policy, a default on an external loan will now have immediate and severe domestic consequences. Furthermore, new guidelines have been issued for Offshore Banking Units (OBUs) and term lending in Taka to foreign-owned companies, creating a more complex regulatory environment for foreign investment. Finally, to ease liquidity management for banks, the daily minimum Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was reduced from 3.5% to 3.0% in an order that became effective in March 2025.

International

Recent developments in international dispute resolution underscore the critical importance of robust legal protections for cross-border trade and investment. The final award in the *ICSID arbitration case of We build S.p.A. v. Argentine Republic* serves as a powerful precedent, reaffirming that Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) can be successfully used to hold states accountable for breaches of fair and equitable treatment. The key legal risk for clients with foreign investments is failing to structure them in a way that maximizes available

BIT protections. In a separate development affecting commercial disputes, the European Union has reached an agreement to modernize its Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) framework. Crucially, the new rules will apply to third-country traders selling to EU consumers, who will be legally required to respond to ADR requests within 20 working days. This creates a direct legal risk and compliance burden for Bangladeshi e-commerce companies, who must now engage with a foreign-based dispute resolution system and understand EU consumer law.

Bangladesh's position in the global trade landscape is at a critical juncture, defined by its scheduled graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in November 2026. This move, affirmed by the interim government, will trigger the loss of preferential trade benefits, such as duty-free access to the European Union, which currently accounts for over half of all exports. The primary legal risk for exporters is the "preference erosion" that could render their products uncompetitive. To mitigate this, Bangladesh is turning to new international legal frameworks, including a potential Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (CPCA) with the EU and plans to use the WTO’s most-favored-nation (MFN) principle to navigate unilateral tariffs imposed by the US. This strategic shift requires businesses to prepare for a more complex legal environment based on reciprocal trade agreements and WTO law. The ongoing proceedings at the International Court of Justice in the South Africa v. Israel case further highlight the central role of public international law and conventions in governing high-stakes disputes between states.

The landscape of international environmental law is proving to be complex and, in some cases, contradictory. The European Union has recently watered down its flagship climate-accounting policies, including the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses.[iv] This move, which has lifted reporting requirements for approximately 80% of previously covered companies, reflects a growing pushback against the costs of compliance. This trend is mirrored in the investment world, where major global asset managers like BlackRock are retreating from high-profile ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) initiatives due to growing legal and political risks in key markets. The primary legal risk for international corporations is now twofold: while mandatory reporting rules may be relaxing in some jurisdictions, the voluntary retreat from ESG commitments creates a significant reputational and litigation risk. Companies now face greater scrutiny over "green washing," as seen in the recent case against Clorox in Australia, and must navigate a landscape where their environmental claims can be challenged by activists and regulators even in the absence of strict reporting mandates.

IT & IP

Intellectual Property

A landmark international ruling has begun to address the central intellectual property question of the generative AI era: the use of copyrighted data for model training. A U.S. federal judge recently ruled that the AI startup Anthropic’s use of copyrighted books to train its models was legal under certain circumstances, specifically if it had legally purchased those books. While this is a pivotal development, the key legal risk for AI developers in Bangladesh is misinterpreting this US-specific ruling as a global safe harbor. Training AI models on vast, unlicensed datasets remains a high-risk activity that could expose them to costly copyright infringement litigation from powerful international rights holders, highlighting the critical need for clients to implement rigorous data sourcing and licensing protocols.

The focus of innovation and intellectual property is rapidly expanding from software to the specialized hardware that powers AI, creating a new frontier of legal risk. The global AI chip market is projected to grow from $50 billion today to as much as $400 billion by 2027, driving massive capital investments like TSMC's announced $100 billion plan for new US plants. The primary legal risk for Bangladesh is a strategic dependency on a few foreign entities who own the foundational patents for this critical hardware. Geopolitical events can sever supply chains, and any attempt to develop local alternatives risks infringing on a dense web of international patents, leading to potential injunctions and costly lawsuits.

The increasing global trend of aggressive antitrust enforcement against "Big Tech" creates cascading legal risks related to the control of digital IP. The European Union has fined Apple (€500 million) and Meta (€200 million) for breaching its Digital Markets Act, while Google faces a potential £5 billion collective action lawsuit in the U.K. for abusing its dominance in search advertising. The legal risk for Bangladeshi businesses is their vulnerability to changes in the digital ecosystems they depend on. These dominant platforms control key IP like app stores and ad networks. Antitrust actions in foreign jurisdictions can force them to alter their terms of service and fee structures, which can unilaterally and adversely impact the revenue and operations of local businesses that have built their models on these platforms.

Information Technology

The interim government of Bangladesh has drafted an ambitious plan for a "full digital economy and smart governance" by 2030, which includes reforming the telecom policy to end market monopolies. This pro-business signal is reinforced by a Bangladesh Bank directive from January 2025 allowing mobile financial service providers to repatriate IT outsourcing income, boosting the service export sector. However, this forward-looking policy is set against a backdrop of significant domestic legal peril. The BDT 645 crore (USD 52.87mn) embezzlement and fraud case filed by the central bank against MFS provider Nagad in February 2025 serves as a stark warning. The primary legal risk for clients in the fintech sector is the severe criminal and financial liability arising from regulatory non-compliance, demonstrating that financial irregularities will trigger aggressive legal action.

The entry of major global technology firms is rapidly increasing market competition and introducing new layers of legal complexity. SpaceX's Starlink received formal approval from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority on March 29, 2025, with telecom operator Veon already exploring a partnership for satellite services. In a similar move, Google Pay launched its contactless payment service in Bangladesh in June 2025. For local companies, the legal risk is being outmanoeuvred by international competitors with vast resources to navigate the domestic regulatory environment. For incoming global firms, the legal risk involves ensuring absolute compliance with local licensing, partnership agreements, and an evolving regulatory landscape for data and competition, where failure could lead to operational suspensions and financial penalties.

The global technology landscape is dominated by US-China geopolitical tensions, creating significant legal risks related to supply chain and compliance for Bangladeshi businesses. The US introduced new export restrictions on advanced AI chips in January 2025, directly impacting their availability and forcing chipmakers like Nvidia to create less powerful, compliant versions for markets including China. The legal risk for any Bangladeshi company operating in the AI or advanced manufacturing sectors is twofold: first, the disruption of access to critical high-performance hardware; and second, the risk of violating complex and extraterritorial US export control laws. Partnering with or supplying technology to entities on US restriction lists could expose a Bangladeshi firm to severe international sanctions, creating profound legal and business uncertainty.

Investment

The government has launched a significant policy push to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), yet systemic hurdles continue to pose major legal and operational risks for investors. The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has introduced a data-driven "FDI Heatmap" identifying 19 priority sectors and is focusing on developing a smaller number of high-impact economic zones to ensure they are fully operational. However, FDI inflow remains critically low, with a BIDA report revealing that only 45% of foreign investment qualifies as actual FDI. The primary legal risk for foreign investors is the significant gap between pro-investment policy announcements and the on-the-ground reality.[v] Chinese investors have explicitly flagged bureaucratic delays, policy inconsistency, and profit repatriation hurdles as major deterrents. Furthermore, a new Bangladesh Bank circular now mandates BIDA registration for all foreign firms working on government projects, adding a strict new compliance layer that could create delays.

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is actively pursuing capital market reforms aimed at enhancing governance and protecting investors. A new "Capital Market Reform Taskforce" was formed in January 2025 to recommend and implement changes, and BSEC has launched a new system to disseminate the financial information of listed companies directly through stock exchange websites. The most significant legal risk is now centered on heightened regulatory enforcement. BSEC is cracking down on listed companies where sponsor-directors fail to jointly hold a mandatory 30% of shares and is directing non-compliant and Z-category firms to appoint independent directors as per the Corporate Governance Code. This exposes these companies to the risk of forced board restructuring and other penalties. While the FY 2025-26 budget has been hailed as "capital market-friendly" for its tax incentives for listed firms, the ongoing governance crackdown reveals deep-rooted issues that pose a continuing risk to investor capital.

The legal framework for real estate and land-intensive investments is undergoing a major overhaul, creating both opportunities and risks. The government plans to align official land deed values with actual market prices while simultaneously cutting property registration taxes by up to 40% to enhance revenue transparency and curb the use of black money. In a related move, the National Housing Authority (NHA) cancelled the registrations of 36 non-compliant real estate developers in April 2025. The primary legal risk for investors is the heightened enforcement environment; non-compliance with project approval and registration rules can now lead to a complete loss of legal standing. Furthermore, the Ministry of Housing issued a new Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Guideline in May 2025 to guide high-density development around Dhaka's MRT stations. While not a law, this guideline will heavily influence future planning approvals, creating a risk that investment in projects not aligned with TOD principles will be denied permits by city authorities.

Land Zoning and Protection Act is being finalized to prevent unplanned development by dividing the country into specific zones for agriculture, industry, and housing. The primary legal risk for investors is now a mix of immediate enforcement actions and significant future uncertainty.

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[i] The Daily Star
[ii] The Business Standard
[iii] Dhaka Tribune
[iv] The Wall Street Journal
[v] The Financial Express

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