

Renewable energy crucial for sustainable future: BB governor

STAR BUSINESS DESK

As Bangladesh strives toward a more sustainable future, renewable energy stands out as the key driver of progress, Ahsan H. Mansur, governor of the Bangladesh Bank, said at a roundtable.

However, achieving true sustainability in this sector requires more than just ambition—it necessitates financial viability, structural reforms, and a clear path forward, he also said.

He made the comments at a roundtable organised by Standard Chartered Bangladesh at the Renaissance Dhaka Gulshan Hotel recently. To unlock the full potential of renewable energy, the country must prioritize policy consistency, reduce costs, and address challenges such as land acquisition and financing gaps, Mansur said.

By fostering collaboration with

international partners and exploring innovative financial solutions, such as blended finance and tax reforms, Bangladesh can create a thriving energy sector that benefits both investors and consumers, he added.

Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources, said, "Bangladesh is moving from subsidies and inefficiencies to a new era of transparency and accountability in energy—a transformation necessary to power our future sustainably."

"We all recognise the need to fast-track the transition. Standard Chartered's Opportunity 2030 report highlights a staggering \$74 billion in private investment needed in Bangladesh's power sector to ensure affordable and sustainable energy for all," said Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh.



Ahsan H. Mansur, governor of the Bangladesh Bank, Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources, and Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, pose for group photographs with participants of the roundtable organised by the multinational bank at the Renaissance Dhaka Gulshan Hotel recently.

PHOTO: STANDARD CHARTERED BANGLADESH



Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank, poses for photographs with participants and guests of the workshop on "Money and Banking Data (SBS-1, SBS-2, and SBS-3) Reporting and Recent Changes" in the capital recently.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

Mercantile Bank holds workshop on Shariah banking

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mercantile Bank PLC recently organised a daylong workshop, titled "Knowledge Sharing on Shariah Banking: An Interactive Session", at Fars Hotel and Resort in the capital's Purana Paltan.

The top management and senior executives of the bank, divisional, regional, and branch heads, in-charges of Islamic banking windows, and officials from the Islamic banking divisions of the bank across the country participated in the event.

Mati Ul Hasan, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest, the bank said in a press release.

Hasan advised the participants to strictly adhere to the compliance of Islamic shariah principles and guidelines in all transactions of the Islamic banking operations of the bank, with the aim of fulfilling the bank's slogan: "Efficiency is our Strength," in his inaugural speech.

Javed Tariq, principal of the bank's training institute, moderated the event.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC recently organised a daylong workshop on "Money and Banking Data (SBS-1, SBS-2, and SBS-3) Reporting and Recent Changes."

A total of 62 officials from various branches of the bank participated in the event.

Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the workshop in the capital, the bank said in a press release.

Hossain urged the participants to realise the importance of timely and accurate reporting and to perform their responsibilities with diligence and expertise.

The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the professional knowledge of the bank officials while emphasizing the importance, process, and recent changes in SBS reporting.

Additionally, hands-on training was provided on assets, liabilities, and classified loans.



Mati Ul Hasan, managing director of Mercantile Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of the workshop, titled "Knowledge Sharing on Shariah Banking: An Interactive Session", at the Fars Hotel and Resort in the capital's Purana Paltan recently.

PHOTO: MERCANTILE BANK

Pubali Bank opens relocated regional office in Narayanganj

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC opened its relocated Narayanganj regional office, along with the Narayanganj branch, Islamic banking window, and the Narayanganj digital booth of Pubali Bank Securities Limited, with a commitment to providing modern banking services.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated all of these as the chief guest yesterday, according to a press release.

Masuduzzaman, president of the Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and M. Solaiman, president of the Bangladesh Yarn Merchants Association and Narayanganj Club, were present as guests of honour.

Md. Moniruzzaman, deputy general manager and regional manager for the Narayanganj region



Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank, inaugurates the relocated Narayanganj regional office, Narayanganj branch, and Islamic banking window, along with the digital booth of Pubali Bank Securities Limited in the district yesterday.

PHOTO: PUBLI BANK

of the bank, presided over the programme.

manager and head of the Islamic banking wing of the bank, were present as special guests.

Local businessmen, the bank's clients, and other guests, were also present.

Meghna Bank holds conference on corporate banking

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Meghna Bank PLC recently held a corporate banking conference titled "Driving Excellence - Corporate Banking Performance 2024 and Future Strategies," aiming to provide a comprehensive outlook on the current landscape of corporate banking and outline the strategies that will drive future success.

The event saw the active participation of corporate banking units, members of the management committee, and senior leadership from the bank.

Kazi Ahsan Khalil, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the event at the Lakeshore Heights Hotel in Dhaka as the chief guest, said a press release.

In his speech, Khalil emphasised the importance of a unified approach across the bank's divisions, stressing that success in corporate banking will be a collective achievement.

"At Meghna Bank, we

are committed to fostering collaboration and innovation across all our divisions.

Our approach is centered on creating a seamless and integrated banking experience for our

corporate clients," he added.

"With the combined strength of our team and the strategic focus we have set for 2025, I am confident that we will continue to drive excellence in the industry," he continued.



Kazi Ahsan Khalil, managing director and CEO of Meghna Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of the corporate banking conference, titled "Driving Excellence - Corporate Banking Performance 2024 and Future Strategies," at the Lakeshore Heights Hotel in Dhaka recently.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (JAN 29, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 70-Tk 85	3.33 ↑	13.14 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 54-Tk 56	4.76 ↑	5.77 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-13.27 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	0
Soybean (litre)	Tk 171-Tk 174	4.86 ↑	7.81 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 20-Tk 30	-58.33 ↓	-44.44 ↓
Onion (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 50	-37.93 ↓	-52.63 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 44-Tk 48	-3.16 ↓	-1.08 ↓

SOURCE: TCB

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়

বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ

ড. কুদ্রাত-এ-খুদা রোড, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫।

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INVITATION FOR TENDER – OTM (International Competition)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science and Technology
2	Agency	Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR)
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5	Invitation for	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Scientific Equipments. [Name of equipments: Item no.(01)Simultaneous TG-DTA-DSC, (02) Simultaneous ICP-OES spectrometer, Item no.(03) FT-IR Spectrometer with ATR Module & Item no. (04) Surface area analyzer/ physical adsorption analyzer (Details will be found in the Tender Document)].
6	Invitation ref. no.	39.02.0000.022.35.323.25
-	Date	29.01.2025
KEY INFORMATION		
8.	Procuring method	Open Tendering Method (International Competition)
9.	Budget and source of fund	GoB
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10.	Tender last selling date	16.03.2025 during office hour
11.	Tender closing date & time	17.03.2025 at 1.00 PM.
12.	Tender opening date and time	17.03.2025 at 2.00 PM.
13.	Name & address of the office(s) selling tender document	Cashier, BCSIR, Secretariat building (3 rd floor), Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
14.	Name & address of the office(s) receiving tender document	Office of the Secretary, Secretariat building (4 th floor) BCSIR, Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
15.	Name & address of the office(s) Opening tender document	Office of the Secretary, Secretariat building (4 th floor) BCSIR, Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
INFORMATION ON AWARD		
16.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science and Technology
17.	Eligibility of tenderer	*The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. *The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 2 (two) contract(s) successfully completed within the last 5 (five) years, each with a value of at least BDT 100% (hundred percent) of the total value of the item(s) quoted by the Tenderer. * Details will be found in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the Tender Document.
18.	Brief description of goods	As per attached specification in the tender document.
19.	Brief description of related services	
20.	Price of tender document	Tk. 2,000.00 (Two Thousand) (Non-refundable)
21.	Evaluation will be done "Item by Item" basis.	
22.	Description of goods	Tender security (Tk.)
	Scientific Equipment (As per attached specification in the tender document)	The amount of Tender Security shall be 2.5% (Two point five percent) of the total value of the item(s) quoted by the Tenderer in favour of secretary, BCSIR by a tender security.
PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAILS		
23.	Name of official inviting tender	Mohammad Shohedul Hoque Patwary
24.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Secretary, BCSIR, Dhaka.
25.	Contract details of official inviting Tender	Secretary, Secretariat building (4 th Floor), BCSIR, Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 58610717
26.	The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	Completion time in months/days

29/01/2025
(Mohammad Shohedul Hoque Patwary)
Secretary

Dollar steadies ahead of Fed decision

REUTERS

The dollar steadied on Wednesday ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision, with investors on edge for hints of how much interest rates might fall this year, while they broadly expect the central bank to keep policy unchanged for now.

Expectations that trade policies under President Donald Trump could boost US growth, but also push up inflation, had left markets betting on higher-for-longer interest rates in the lead-up to the inauguration, which in turn supported the dollar.

But as the tariff action investors had braced for has yet to materialise, currency markets have been volatile since Trump took office and the dollar has weakened.

Markets on Wednesday turned their attention to the outcome of the first Fed meeting of the year - less than a week after Trump said he wants the central bank to cut interest rates.

The dollar index, which measures the dollar against a basket of other major currencies, was up 0.1 percent at 108.

The index touched a one-month low on Monday at 106.96 amid a global sell-off in technology stocks and rush to safe-haven currencies like the Japanese yen and Swiss franc, but the index is still up more than 4 percent since the US election in November.

Money markets expect the central bank to hold rates steady, as Fed officials weigh how the Trump administration's economic agenda may affect sticky inflation and solid growth trends.

US stocks ended higher on Tuesday, with Nvidia and other AI-related shares recovering from sharp losses a day earlier. But investors will be attentive for any hints from Fed Chair Jerome Powell on whether a rate cut could happen soon if inflation eases closer to the Fed's 2 percent annual target.

"Powell's constraint is that it's difficult to judge how the macro picture will evolve with uncertainty around tariffs and the fiscal policy," said Mohit Kumar, chief economist and strategist for Europe at Jefferies.