

Germany backs Bangladesh's clean energy shift through GIZ partnership

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Germany is stepping up its support for Bangladesh's clean energy transition, with GIZ Bangladesh driving initiatives in renewable energy, grid integration, energy efficiency, e-mobility and green skills development, speakers said at a programme yesterday.

They made the remarks at a conference, titled "Innovations and Partnerships for Sustainable Energy Transition", held at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka.

Organised by CEMS-Global in partnership with GIZ Bangladesh, the event brought together development partners, policymakers, financial institutions and private-sector leaders to discuss pathways for advancing Bangladesh's transition toward a low-carbon and energy-efficient future, according to a press release.

The conference was held alongside the 27th Power Bangladesh International Expo 2025, the 22nd Solar Bangladesh International Expo 2025 and the 7th Dhaka International Lighting Expo 2025 – collectively recognised as the 27th Power Series of Exhibitions, the country's largest platform for showcasing power generation, renewable energy and next-generation lighting solutions.

Germany's longstanding cooperation with Bangladesh took centre stage at the event, where speakers highlighted the country's sustained support for clean energy and climate resilience.



Speakers attend a conference, titled "Innovations and Partnerships for Sustainable Energy Transition", organised by CEMS-Global in partnership with GIZ Bangladesh, at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: CEMS-GLOBAL

Under German development cooperation, GIZ Bangladesh is assisting in renewable energy expansion, improved grid integration and enhanced energy efficiency across key sectors.

The collaboration also includes advancing e-mobility solutions to promote cleaner urban transport, as well as developing essential green skills through strengthened technical and vocational education.

This joint effort reflects a shared vision of leveraging innovation, capacity building and policy dialogue to

accelerate Bangladesh's shift toward a sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient energy future. The partnership aims not only to reduce reliance on fossil fuels but also to empower a local workforce capable of leading the clean-energy transformation.

As part of the programme, four thematic sessions spotlighted key priorities in the green transition and convened policymakers, development partners and private-sector representatives to discuss emerging national priorities in sustainable energy development.

Experts call for balanced client-agency relations at a summit in Dhaka

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Experts emphasised that genuine collaboration, mutual respect and shared responsibility are essential for strong client-agency partnerships, calling for fair pitch fees and balanced agreements to ensure equal value for both parties.

They made the remarks at the "Communication Summit 2025", organised by Bangladesh Brand Forum, held at Le Méridien Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

Presented by SMC Enterprise Limited and powered by Walton Group, the event brought together leading professionals from marketing, advertising, branding, media, public relations and creative communication to explore the theme "Chaos, Culture & Creativity: Reimagining the Communication Canvas."

This year's summit focused on how creativity can thrive amid chaos and how culture can guide authentic storytelling in an era of fragmentation.

Discussions highlighted how communication professionals can transform disorder into opportunity, shaping narratives that connect deeply with audiences while redefining creative strategy for a complex digital landscape.

"The world of communication is evolving faster than ever before. Amidst the noise and uncertainty, creativity has become our most powerful compass," said Sajid Mahbub, group CEO and executive editor of Bangladesh Brand Forum.

"The Communication Summit stands as a platform to rethink how we can harness culture, empathy and creativity to shape meaningful brand stories and purposeful business outcomes," he added.

The summit featured three keynote sessions, four panel discussions and two case studies, each designed to



Experts attend the "Communication Summit 2025", organised by Bangladesh Brand Forum, at Le Méridien Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLADESH BRAND FORUM

decode the evolving communication landscape.

In his keynote paper, Tanzeen Alam, country head of Bangladesh and SEA at Emami Limited, said creativity becomes truly effective when it solves real business problems.

"Habits don't change unless people understand why they should," he said, urging brands to rethink traditional approaches with sharper, insight-driven thinking.

He highlighted the power of simplicity how a five-second spark, a witty twist or a strong cultural cue can stand out more than heavy production.

Tanzeen also said humour, nostalgia and relatable

emotion can turn everyday challenges into engaging narratives, adding that meaningful ideas emerge from genuine consumer immersion and understanding real-life behaviour.

Awruq Irfan Sanyal, head and creative strategist at Mighty; Taufique Mahmud, executive creative director of Mediocom Limited; Afzal Mahboob, chief executive officer of Grey Group; Ajoy Kumar Kundu, chief executive officer of Mediocom Limited; Sarah Ali, managing director of FCB Bitopi; and Sharjeel Karim, managing director of Interspeed Advertising Limited, also spoke at the event.

Mercantile Bank holds 'Risk Conference 2025'



Md Sirajul Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of the "Risk Conference 2025", organised by Mercantile Bank PLC, at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

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Mercantile Bank PLC yesterday organised the "Risk Conference 2025" at its head office in Dhaka.

Md Sirajul Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Md Anwarul Haq, chairman of Mercantile Bank PLC, and Mohammad Abdul Awal,

chairman of the risk management committee, attended the conference as guests of honour.

Mati Ul Hasan, managing director of the bank, and ANM Moinul Kabir, director of the Department of Off-Site Supervision (DOS) of Bangladesh Bank, spoke at the event as special guests.

MA Khan Belal, chairman of the executive committee; Prof Md Rezaul Kabir, chairman of the audit committee; ASM Feroz Alam and M Amanullah, directors; and Mohammad Thousif Islam, independent director, attended the programme.

Surabhi Ghosh, additional director of DOS at Bangladesh Bank, and Nazmin Nahar, joint director, conducted sessions as resource persons.

Md Zakir Hossain, deputy managing director and chief risk officer (acting) of the bank; Shamim Ahmed, executive vice-president and deputy chief risk officer; Shamim Ahmed and Ashim Kumar Saha, deputy managing directors; Tapash Chandra Paul, chief financial officer; and Shah Md Sohel Khurshid, Mohammad Iqbal Rezwan and Md Abdul Halim, senior executive vice-presidents, among others, were also present.



Md Ziaul Huq, chairman of Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd and additional secretary to the Energy and Mineral Resources Division, presides over the company's 39th annual general meeting at Petrocentre in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: JALALABAD GAS

Citizens Bank strikes deal with National Pension Authority

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Citizens Bank PLC has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Pension Authority to support the implementation of the government's Universal Pension Scheme.

Alamgir Hossain, managing director of Citizens Bank PLC, and Md Mohiuddin Khan, executive chairman of the National Pension Authority, signed the MoU at the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under the MoU, Citizens Bank will facilitate customer registration and monthly subscription collection for all active pension schemes – Progati, Surakha, Somota, and Probash.

Customers will also be able to register and make contributions to the pension schemes conveniently through Citizens Bank's branches, sub-branches, and alternative delivery channels.

Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder, secretary to the Finance Division at the Ministry of Finance, along with senior officials of the Finance Division, the National Pension Authority, and Citizens Bank, was also present.



Md Mohiuddin Khan, executive chairman of National Pension Authority, and Alamgir Hossain, managing director of Citizens Bank, pose for photographs after signing the memorandum of understanding at the finance ministry in Dhaka recently.

Oil settles up over 2%

REUTERS, Houston

Oil prices settled more than 2 percent higher on Friday as Russia's port of Novorossiysk halted oil exports following a Ukrainian drone attack that hit an oil depot in the Russian energy hub, stoking supply concerns.

Brent crude futures settled up \$1.38, or 2.19 percent, at \$64.39 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude settled up \$1.40, or 2.39 percent, at \$60.09 a barrel.

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Brent rose 1.2 percent on the week, and WTI posted a weekly gain of around 0.6 percent.

Friday's attack damaged a ship in port, apartment blocks and an oil depot in Novorossiysk, injuring three of the vessel's crew, Russian officials said.

"The hit on that Russian terminal was huge and seems to have had a bigger impact than previous attacks," said Phil Flynn, senior analyst with Price Futures Group.

PORT EXPORTS 2% OF GLOBAL SUPPLY

The Russian port of Novorossiysk

paused oil exports, equivalent to 2.2 million barrels per day, or 2 percent of global supply, and oil pipeline monopoly Transneft suspended crude supplies to the outlet, two industry sources told Reuters.

"The intensity of these attacks has increased; it's much more often. Eventually, they could hit something that causes lasting disruption," said Giovanni Staunovo, commodity analyst at UBS.

Ukraine on Friday said it separately struck an oil refinery in Russia's Saratov region and a fuel storage facility in nearby Engels overnight.

Investors are trying to assess the impact of the latest attacks and what they mean for Russian supply longer term, he said.

Investors are also watching the impact of Western sanctions on Russian oil supply and trade flows.

Britain on Friday issued a special licence allowing businesses to continue working with two Bulgarian subsidiaries of sanctioned Russian oil firm Lukoil, as the Bulgarian government seized control of the assets.

The US imposed sanctions banning deals with Russian oil companies Lukoil and Rosneft after November 21 as part of efforts to bring the Kremlin to peace talks over Ukraine.