

Bangladesh launches first agrivoltaics pilot to boost green transition



Nur Ahmed, additional secretary of the Power Division, attends the launch of “Agrivoltaics Pilot Project” by the Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources and the Green Energy Transition-Policy Advisory Partnership project, in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: GIZ BANGLADESH

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh yesterday launched its first structured “Agrivoltaics Pilot Project” and formed a national working group on “Agrivoltaics and Floating Solar”, marking a significant step towards promoting renewable energy solutions that maximise the use of limited land resources.

The pilot project aims to assess the technical, agricultural and economic feasibility of agrivoltaic systems in Bangladesh

and to help identify pathways for scaling up renewable energy in line with the Renewable Energy Policy 2025, which targets 30 percent renewable energy in the power mix by 2040.

The event, titled “Sun, Soil, and Sustainability: Kick-off of Agrivoltaics Pilot and National Working Group,” was jointly organised by the Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources and the Green Energy Transition-Policy Advisory Partnership (GET-PAP) project, implemented by GIZ Bangladesh.

GET-PAP is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

“We are not just inaugurating a new facility, we are laying the foundation for future generations to thrive. By harnessing the sun not only to grow crops but also to generate clean electricity, we are addressing two of the most pressing challenges of our time – food security for a growing population and accelerating the transition to renewable energy,” said Nur Ahmed, additional secretary of the Power Division, while speaking as chief guest.

Edwin Koekkoek, team leader of the Green Inclusive Development Section at the Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, said, “Bangladesh is an example in the area of climate adaptation. You have a lot of technologies and expertise that you are sharing.”

“We want to contribute to better connecting Europe and Bangladesh in the area of green energy transition,” he added.

During the technical sessions, representatives from GIZ, Fraunhofer ISE and IDCOL presented findings on system design, agricultural performance and investment considerations. Participants also discussed lessons from regional experiences, including insights from the Indian Agrivoltaics Alliance.



PHOTO: BRAC BANK

Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, managing director and CEO of BRAC Bank PLC, and Uzma Chowdhury, finance director of Pran-RFL Group, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding and a promoter agreement in Dhaka yesterday.

BRAC Bank, Pran-RFL sign deal to offer digital SME loans to product sellers

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BRAC Bank PLC has partnered with Pran-RFL Group to extend its digital SME lending programme “Shafollo” to the group’s product sellers.

Under the collaboration, sellers under Pran-RFL Group will be able to access instant digital loans through Shafollo, the country’s first fully digital SME lending platform, using BRAC Bank’s Shubidha App.

The system enables quick, paperless financing without the need for branch visits.

The initiative aims to support small business owners who often remain outside the formal credit ecosystem by providing them with accessible, technology-driven

financing solutions.

A memorandum of understanding and a promoter agreement were signed in Dhaka yesterday to formalise the partnership.

“This partnership redefines how SME financing works in Bangladesh. Through Shafollo, BRAC Bank is ensuring that access to credit is instant, inclusive and fully digital,” said Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, managing director and CEO of BRAC Bank PLC.

Uzma Chowdhury, finance director of Pran-RFL Group, said the new financing window will make it easier and faster for sellers to expand their businesses and strengthen the supply chain. “Our sellers are at the heart of the Pran-RFL ecosystem,” she said.

Pubali Bank holds managers’ conference

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Pubali Bank PLC yesterday held its “Managers’ Conference-2025” at the bank’s head office in Dhaka.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, attended the event as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his speech, Ali called on the managers to play a more active role in the bank’s ongoing progress, the development of customer service, and the expansion of technology-based banking systems.

“Pubali Bank is a symbol of trust and confidence in the country’s financial sector. Every branch of ours must work together to make customer service easier, faster and more modern,” he said.

He also urged everyone to work together to further advance the bank’s 66-year success story.



Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, attends the bank’s “Managers’ Conference-2025” at its head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Mohammad Abdul Mannan, general manager of the treasury division at the bank; Abu Laich Md Samsujjaman, regional manager and general manager of the Dhaka Central region; AKM Abdur Raqib, regional

manager and general manager of the Dhaka North region; and Md Rafiqul Islam, regional manager and deputy general manager of the Dhaka South region, among others, were also present.

IFIC Bank, Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital sign healthcare agreement



Sarder A Razzak, director of finance and human resources division of Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital, and Helal Ahmed, head of operations at IFIC Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding at the IFIC Tower in Purana Paltan, Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: IFIC BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IFIC Bank PLC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Japan Bangladesh Friendship Medical Services Limited to provide

healthcare benefits to its customers, employees and their family members.

Helal Ahmed, head of operations at IFIC Bank PLC, and Sarder A Razzak, director of finance and human resources division of Japan

Bangladesh Friendship Hospital, signed the MoU at IFIC Tower in Purana Paltan, Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under the MoU, IFIC Bank’s customers, employees and their dependents will be able to access a wide range of advanced medical services at Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital at special discounted rates.

Md Monirur Rahman, deputy managing director and chief information officer at the bank; Md Rafiqul Islam, deputy managing director and chief of branch business; and KARM Mostofa Kamal, deputy managing director and chief of human resources and logistics, attended the event.

Murad Hossain Khan, executive director of the hospital; Shohidul Alam Ripon, general manager; Md Masud Khan, deputy general manager; and other senior officials from both organisations were also present.



Nasim Biswas, managing director of Nasir Group of Industries, speaks at the launch of new motorcycle brand “Syntax” at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NASIR GROUP

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Memo No. 35.01.3800.434.01.029.25-2303 Dated: 19-11-2025

e-Tender Notice

The tender notice is published in e-GP website (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works:

Sl. No.	Tender/Proposal ID, Reference No.	Name of works	Publishing date & closing date
01	1180536, e-GP/07/EE/JRD/Rev/2025-2026	DBS Wearing Course with necessary repair work at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th (P), 10th (P) & 19th (P) K.M. of Joypurhat-Panchbibi-Hili Road (Z-5503) under Road Division, Joypurhat during the year 2025-2026.	19-Nov-2025 22:00:00, 04-Dec-2025 12:30:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration on e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is mandatory. For more details contact e-GP help desk.


19.11.2025
Md. Rajos Khan
ID No. 602334
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Joypurhat

GD-2500

New IPO rules

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allowed to repay those loans later, they will face difficulties. At least 50 percent loan repayment should be allowed,” he said.

Moniruzzaman also criticised clauses that could delay IPOs for two years if a company issues bonus shares or changes its share structure. “During IPO preparation, board changes, increases in paid-up capital, or issuing bonus shares are normal. If this clause becomes effective, we may not see any new IPOs for the next two to three years,” he said.

He added that using a five-year historical growth rate as a basis is illogical and suggested reducing it to three years.

Mazeda Khatun, president of the Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association, urged avoiding excessive responsibilities on issue managers. “Once a company is listed, monitoring becomes the responsibility of the stock exchange and the regulator. Placing that responsibility on issue managers is not realistic,” she said.

BSEC Additional Director Lutful Kabir responded,

“In creating new market regulations, the commission is prioritising a market-oriented perspective. Every suggestion from you is being considered seriously. Even handwritten proposals are documented and submitted to the commission.”

Other speakers at the event included DSE Chairman Mominul Islam, CSE Chairman AKM Habibur Rahman, IDLC Investments’ Managing Director Mesbah Uddin Ahmed, and representatives from several firms.

Why is bitcoin

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could quickly cause (bitcoin and other) prices to reverse and rally again very quickly,” Simon Peters of brokers eToro told AFP.

John Plassard, head of investment strategy at private bank Cite Gestion, said the current “disenchantment reflects a deeper reality” — that individuals have been left feeling “wary” by previous price plunges, particularly of cryptocurrencies viewed even more speculative than bitcoin.


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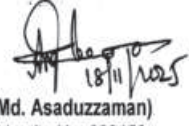
e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-Gp portal, which will be visible from Today. Registered person/organization on e-Gp portal can visit ([http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)).

Tender ID No	Name of Work	Last Selling date & Time	Closing date & Time	Opening date & Time
e-GP-09/OTM/RHD/EE/JRD/PMP-Major/2025-2026 Tender ID No: 1177304	Repair & Construction of Hard Shoulder with DBS Work at Ch.394+662 (Beldanga) to 401+600 (Rampur) of Dhaka(Mirpur)-Utholi-Paturia-Notakhola-Kashinathpur-Bogura-Rangpur-Beldanga-Banglabandha (N-5) Road under Road Division, Dinajpur during the year 2025-2026.	14/12/2025 17.00	15/12/2025 12.30	15/12/2025 12.30

Reference No. 35.01.2764.413.07.003.25-2636
Date: 18/11/2025


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GD-2506