

# Fuel shortages, weak transmission put energy security at risk: AmCham

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Energy security has become "critically important" for Bangladesh as the country grapples with fuel shortages, outdated transmission systems and declining gas reserves, said Syed Ershad Ahmed, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham).

He made the comment at a focus group discussion titled "Powering Bangladesh Toward Energy Security", organised by AmCham at Sheraton Dhaka in the capital's Banani on Tuesday, according to a press release.

"The country's energy sector faces persistent fuel shortages, outdated transmission systems, declining gas reserves, and overreliance on imported fuels, which undermine reliability and industrial growth," he said.

Strengthening regulatory governance, accelerating exploration, upgrading infrastructure, expanding renewables and

enabling clearer investment pathways are essential to building a resilient, secure and future-ready energy ecosystem, he added.

The event was supported by Chevron Bangladesh, whose 30-year partnership has significantly contributed to Bangladesh's economic growth and community development. The company has invested approximately \$4.2 billion and is currently the country's largest gas producer, supplying nearly 60 percent of domestic demand.

Paul Frost, commercial counselor at the US Embassy in Dhaka, moderated the session, reflecting the continued commitment to strengthening US-Bangladesh trade and investment cooperation. Eric M Walker, vice president of AmCham and president of Chevron Bangladesh; Prof M Tamim, vice-chancellor of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology; and Muhammad Imrul Kabir, director of corporate affairs at Chevron Bangladesh, were also present.



Syed Ershad Ahmed, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh, attends a discussion, titled "Powering Bangladesh Toward Energy Security", at Sheraton Dhaka in the capital's Banani on Tuesday. PHOTO: AMCHAM

# Riad Mahmud elected BAPLC president

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Riad Mahmud, managing director of National Polymer Industries PLC, has been elected president of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC) for a two-year term (2026-2027).

The BAPLC, the top body representing companies listed on Bangladesh's stock exchanges, also elected Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, managing director of Saiham Cotton Mills Ltd, as its vice-president.

Other elected members of the Executive Committee include Rokeya Quader, chairman of Dosh Garments Ltd; Syed Farhad Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Aamra Networks Ltd; Md Nurun Newaz, chairman of National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC; Mohammed Younus, vice chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC; Md Imam Shaheen, managing director and CEO of Asia Insurance PLC; Farzanah Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Green Delta Insurance PLC; Shahriar Ahmed, chairman of Apex Spinning & Knitting Mills Ltd; Humayun Rashid, managing director and CEO of Energypac Power Generation PLC; Mohammad Shamsul Islam, managing director and CEO of National Housing Finance PLC; Zeyad Rahman, director of Delta Life Insurance Co Ltd; and Sharif Shah Jamal Raz, director of Robi Axiata PLC.

The newly elected committee will assume office on January 1, 2026, following the association's annual general meeting (AGM) scheduled for December 24 this year.



# Prime Bank offers loan benefits for BYD car buyers



Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of BYD Bangladesh, and Md Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing an agreement at the former's showroom in Tejgaon, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed an agreement with CG Runner BD Limited, the authorised distributor of BYD vehicles in Bangladesh, to provide special loan benefits for customers purchasing BYD cars.

Md Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank PLC, and Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of BYD Bangladesh, signed the agreement at the latter's showroom in Tejgaon, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the partnership, Prime Bank customers taking car loans to buy BYD vehicles will receive additional free services from CG Runner. Customers availing loans between Tk 30 lakh and

Tk 40 lakh will get one extra free service on top of the existing complimentary services.

For loans ranging from Tk 40 lakh to Tk 60 lakh, customers will receive two additional free services, offering greater value, convenience and peace of mind throughout their ownership journey.

The collaboration is part of Prime Bank's commitment to enhancing lifestyle benefits for its customers and employees, the release added.

Sajid Rahman, senior executive vice-president of corporate and institutional banking at the bank, and Pranav Kumar Das, director of BYD Bangladesh, were also present, along with other senior officials of both organisations.

# KDS Accessories declares 10% dividend

STAR BUSINESS DESK

KDS Accessories Ltd has announced a 10 percent cash dividend for the year 2024-2025.

The announcement was made at the company's 34th annual general meeting (AGM), which was held virtually yesterday, according to a press release.

Khalilur Rahman, chairman of KDS Accessories Ltd, presided over the meeting.

At the meeting, Rahman expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders for their contribution to the company on its 34th anniversary and thanked the shareholders for their trust in the company. He also briefly discussed the company's growth potential, international competition, and its ambition to become a strong backward linkage industry.

Debasis Daspal, chief executive officer, also expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their contributions and highlighted the company's future plans to strengthen its competitive edge and become a key player in the backward linkage industry.

Among others, Salim Rahman, managing director; Tahsina Rahman, director; Kamrul Hasan Siddiqui, representative director; Prof Sarwar Jahan, independent director; Biplob Kanti Banik, chief financial officer; and Mohammad Ilias were also present, along with the independent scrutiniser and shareholders.



Khalilur Rahman, chairman of KDS Accessories Limited, attends the company's 34th annual general meeting yesterday. The meeting announced a 10 percent cash dividend for 2024-25. PHOTO: KDS ACCESSORIES



Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and chief executive officer of Trust Bank PLC, inaugurates the "UnionPay International Card Issuance" at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: TRUST BANK

# Trust Bank launches UnionPay cards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank PLC has launched a new card, titled "UnionPay International Card Issuance", expanding its card portfolio and enhancing global payment convenience for customers.

Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and chief executive officer of Trust Bank PLC, inaugurated the service at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

The Trust Bank UnionPay cards will offer global acceptance, enhanced security, domestic and international usage benefits, and an affordable fee structure.

This initiative reflects Trust Bank's commitment to providing modern, secure and innovative financial solutions through continuous product diversification and strategic partnerships.

# Global trade set to top \$35tn in 2025: UN

GENEVA, Switzerland

Global trade in 2025 is set to surge past \$35 trillion for the first time, but the outlook for 2026 is more subdued, the United Nations said Tuesday.

The assessment by the UN trade and development agency UNCTAD said east Asia and Africa drove global trade in 2025, while US imports stayed strong and Chinese imports lagged.

If current projections hold, global trade in 2025 will exceed \$35 trillion, an increase of around \$2.2 trillion – roughly seven percent – compared to 2024, it said in its final update of the year.

Of that \$2.2 trillion rise, goods contribute around \$1.5 trillion, up six percent on last year, while service accounts for around \$750 billion, up nearly nine percent.

"Trade continued expanding through the second half of 2025, even

as geopolitical tensions, higher costs and uneven global demand slowed momentum," the agency said.

It said global trade growth slowed in the third quarter of 2025, but remained up 2.5 percent on April to June.

However, uncertainty is shaping the outlook for next year, it said.

"Looking to 2026, UNCTAD expects weaker growth as slower global activity, rising debt, higher trade costs and persistent uncertainty weigh on performance," it said.

Geopolitical fragmentation and heightened vulnerability are also likely to weigh on trade activity, it added.

UNCTAD said manufacturing grew 10 percent over the last four quarters compared to the previous four, led by electronics linked to artificial intelligence-related demand.

Meanwhile automotive trade fell by four percent.

# Islami Bank's bad loans surpass

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to Tk 109 crore. During the January-September period this year, profit of the bank stood at Tk 99 crore, down from Tk 267 crore in the same period last year.

STAFF HIRED BY S ALAM REMOVED

Islami Bank has dismissed 4,685 employees who were allegedly recruited by S Alam Group without proper procedures. It has since hired 2,571 new staff.

An internal audit found that more than 10,000 of the bank's 21,000 employees had been appointed after the 2017 takeover.

Bank documents show that 7,224 people from

Chattogram were hired between 2017 and 2024, with more than 4,500 from Patiya upazila alone – the hometown of Saiful Alam.

M Kamal Uddin Jasim, additional managing director of the bank, said most of the 11,000 appointments made during the period were not transparent, with no official circulars issued.

He said those whose recruitment raised the most serious concerns had been dismissed.

The bank has recruited 1,400 trainee assistant officers (cash), 806 messengers cum guards and 365 security guards as part of its restructuring, he added.

# Amazon to invest \$35b

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Amazon said it will build on existing investments that have "digitised 12 million small businesses and enabled \$20 billion in exports", it added.

"We're excited to continue being a catalyst for India's growth," top Amazon official Amit Agarwal said.

It is the latest in a slew of major tech investments in India.

On Tuesday, Microsoft said one of the key priorities of its investment plan was "building secure, sovereign-ready hyperscale infrastructure to enable AI adoption in India".

"At the heart of this effort is the significant progress being made at the India South Central cloud region, based in Hyderabad – that is set to go live in mid-2026," Microsoft added.

**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
Bangladesh Power Development Board  
Memo No. 27.11.2216.755.38.2025.1257  
Dated: 10.12.2025

## Invitation for e-Tenders

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following work:

SN.	Tender ID	Name of works	Published date and time	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time
1	1190285	CM-01 Repair, Painting and Accessory repair work of the Sub-Assistant Engineer's room, the Administrative Section, the Accounts Sections and the Bathroom under the Sales and Distribution Division-Chakaria, BPDB, Cox's Bazar.	18 Dec 2025 10:00am	04 Jan 2026 14:00pm	05 Jan 2026 11:00am
2	1193061	CM-03 Jungle clearance, drainage repair and ancillary repair of 33/11 KV Chakaria Substation, 33/11 KV Aziznagar Substation, and the courtyard of the Executive Engineers' Office under the Sales and Distribution Division-Chakaria, BPDB, Cox's Bazar.	18 Dec 2025 10:00am	04 Jan 2026 14:00pm	05 Jan 2026 11:00am
3	1193063	CM-04 Repair of the Main gate of the Divisional Store of S&D D Chakaria and maintenance of the razor wire of the boundary wall of the warehouse, including accessory repair and maintenance work under the Sales and Distribution Division-Chakaria, BPDB, Cox's Bazar.	18 Dec 2025 10:00am	04 Jan 2026 14:00pm	05 Jan 2026 11:00am

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))/Contract Number (01762625528-31).

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