

Prime Bank, Friendship launch climate resilience initiative in char areas

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Friendship, a non-government organisation, to launch a climate resilience initiative aimed at protecting vulnerable char communities in Bangladesh.

Under the MoU, the two organisations will implement the project, titled "Safe Shores: Empowering Char Communities against Climate Change", focusing on strengthening disaster preparedness and building long-term resilience in climate-affected riverine areas.

The initiative will be carried out in Bhatpara, one of the most vulnerable chars under Austomir Char Union in Chilmari upazila of Kurigram district. The area is frequently affected by floods, river erosion and extreme weather events.

The project aims to enhance climate adaptation capacity, safeguard livelihoods and promote sustainable community resilience.

Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, and Runa Khan, founder and executive director of Friendship, signed the MoU in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Rashid said Prime Bank believes banking goes beyond financial transactions and stands beside people in times of vulnerability.

He added that the partnership reflects the



Runa Khan, founder and executive director of Friendship, and Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

bank's commitment to investing in resilience, dignity and hope, ensuring that no community is left behind in the face of climate change.

Khan said the project seeks to restore security and opportunity for families affected by erosion and climate shocks.

She noted that the initiative will prioritise locally led resilience efforts, particularly focusing on women and children.

Planned interventions include renewable energy solutions under a "Solar Village" model,

flood-resilient shelters or plinths, livelihood support, sanitary latrines and tree plantation programmes. These measures align with Friendship's integrated climate adaptation approach.

Md Ziaur Rahman, deputy managing director and chief risk officer of the bank, and Muhammed Shameem Reza, senior director (legal) and chief financial officer of the NGO, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.

February remittance

FROM PAGE B1
once popular cross-border transfer mechanism – have all contributed to the increase, particularly following the political changeover in August 2024.

The rising inflows have helped push up foreign exchange reserves. Gross reserves stood at \$35.11 billion as of February 26, up from \$26.26 billion a year earlier, according to Bangladesh Bank data. Under the International Monetary Fund's BPM6 calculation method, reserves reached \$30.36 billion, compared to \$21.08

billion in the same period last year.

Besides, the central bank has purchased \$5.38 billion from the foreign exchange market so far in the ongoing fiscal year to manage liquidity and build up reserves.

Mohammed Nurul Amin, former chairman of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB), told The Daily Star that remittances have been a key driver behind the recent increase in reserves, indicating improved performance of the external sector.

The former senior banker, however, cautioned

that the outlook is uncertain as conflicts grip the Middle East.

"Iran's top leader has been assassinated. If the war situation is prolonged, factories in Middle Eastern countries may remain closed and salaries could decline, leading to various negative impacts overall, which may also affect remittance inflows," he said.

However, if the conflict does not last long, the impact is unlikely to be significant, he said, adding that Bangladesh receives the major portion of its remittances from Middle Eastern countries.

Trump lost on tariffs

FROM PAGE B1
existing trade tools in their traditional lanes. Section 232 was used for national security cases such as steel and aluminium, and Section 301 against China for unfair trade practices. Those measures survived legal challenges. The first term trade team reportedly avoided IEEPA precisely because it was legally and politically high-risk. The second term took that gamble anyway.

The gamble failed. Chief Justice John G Roberts wrote that the administration was using two words, regulate and importation, to carry authority to impose tariffs from any country, of any product, at any rate, for any amount of time. Those words, he concluded, cannot bear such weight. The Court also relied on the major questions doctrine, meaning that when the policy stakes are this large, the president needs clear congressional authorisation. The ruling was 6 to 3, with two Trump appointees joining the majority.

The practical fallout is substantial. About \$170 billion in IEEPA tariffs was collected before the decision, and much of it is now potentially subject to refund claims. Beyond the money, the ruling limits tariffs as a general purpose cudgel used as leverage or punishment outside the trade domain. The era of tariffs by threat against allies, adversaries and political irritants is now far harder to sustain legally.

Yet the presidency still retains real tariff firepower. Within hours of the ruling, the administration invoked Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 to impose a 15 percent global tariff, the first use of that provision in roughly fifty years. The move was tactically nimble, but Section 122 was written for balance of payments crises. Here, the legal footing is shaky. A trade deficit is not the same thing, legally or economically, and that distinction may invite fresh court challenges. Section 122 also comes with limits. It expires after 150 days and is capped at 15 percent.

Meanwhile, the administration is building a pipeline of Section 301 investigations to generate unfair trade findings that can support more durable tariffs. Section 232 national security tariffs already in place for steel and aluminium remain untouched. The Court did not end tariff politics. It pushed tariff policy back into statutes with clearer text and tighter procedural guardrails. Section 301

requires investigations, a record and defensible findings. It moves on administrative time, not presidential impulse. The era of tariffs by tweet is constrained, even if not fully over.

Most importantly, the decision should not be mistaken for a restoration of the pre-Trump trade consensus.

First, tariffs now generate hundreds of billions of dollars in annual revenue, money few administrations will surrender lightly. In key sectors such as steel, autos and semiconductors, tariffs have supported factories and jobs, creating political constituencies in swing states.

Second, both parties have moved away from free trade orthodoxy. The Biden administration kept all the China tariffs of President Trump. Within the Democratic Party, free trade neoliberals are in retreat. The Republican shift is equally striking.

As recently as 2018, most Republican senators were willing to vote to curb President Trump's tariffs when push came to shove. By October 2025, the majority had shrunk to a handful, and most Republicans who once rejected the administration's impulsiveness now accept that future policy should incorporate reciprocity and strategic industrial intervention.

Third, the world is adapting. At the 2026 Munich Security Conference, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz noted that dependence on a single powerful partner carries real risk when that partner policy can shift suddenly and without warning. Europe is now working to reduce those dependencies and build greater resilience.

The Supreme Court has drawn a clear constitutional line. Presidents cannot conjure tariff powers out of emergency language. That is a win for separation of powers.

But the trade war continues, now fought with slower tools and more procedure, alongside a renewed question for Congress. Will it reclaim the authority the Constitution gave it, or will it write new statutes that delegate tariff power explicitly? What is no longer available is strategic ambiguity. The Supreme Court has closed that door.

MG Quibria is a trade and development economist who has worked at the Asian Development Bank and Morgan State University.

Pubali Bank, ACI Logistics tie up to enhance digital payments

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ACI Logistics Limited (Shwapno), a leading retail chain in Bangladesh.

Under this strategic partnership, the two organisations will jointly work on enhancing customer service, driving marketing innovation, integrating customer relationship management (CRM) systems, and launching co-branded campaign initiatives.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and chief executive officer of Pubali Bank PLC, and Sabbir Hasan Nasir, managing director of ACI Logistics Limited, signed the MoU in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali said

the MoU would open a new horizon of long-term cooperation between the two institutions. He noted that by improving customer service and offering innovative banking facilities, both organisations would be able to build a strong value chain together.

"Through marketing innovation, improved CRM integration, and co-branded initiatives, more modern services can be ensured for customers," he added.

The collaboration between the banking and retail sectors will make everyday transactions easier and more cost-effective through digital payments, loyalty benefits, and special offers, while also creating new opportunities for employees of both organisations, the release added.



Sabbir Hasan Nasir, managing director of ACI Logistics Limited, and Mohammad Ali, managing director and chief executive officer of Pubali Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

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Memo No. 96-(2)/Engg Dated: 01/03/2026

Invitation for e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under University of Dhaka.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	e-Tender last selling date & time	e-Tender closing date & time
1	1235701	XEN/Elect-2/DU/2025-26/OTM-10	Supply and installation of 242 Nos. 56-inch size ceiling fans along with electrical wiring for use in 121 rooms of students of Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall, University of Dhaka	10-Mar-2026 17:00	11-Mar-2026 17:00

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 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Khaledur Rahman Chowdhury
Executive Engineer-Elect (Zone-2)
University of Dhaka

GD-439

Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Pipeline Integrity Department, Engineering Services Division
Plot F-18/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area,
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

গ্যাস জালটির সম্পদ, এর অপচয়
রোধ করে জালটির দক্ষতা পালন করুন

"শিল্পে প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস,
গৃহস্থালীতে বিকল্প জ্বালানী"

Tender Invitation No.: 28.14.0000.000.234.60.0001.25 Date: 01.03.2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following procurement:

Tender ID No	Description of Works	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1231491	Installation and Commissioning of Remote Monitoring Facilities (including engineering, design, supply) for CP Stations and Specified Test Points locations of High-Pressure Gas Transmission Pipelines (Beambar-Kailashitla, North-South, Rashidpur-Ashuganj, Bibiyana-Dhanua, Ashuganj-Bakhrabad 1&2 and Bakhrabad Demra) of GTCL. [IFT No. 28.14.0000.000.234.60.0001.25]	15-Mar-2026 at 15:30	16-Mar-2026 at 12:30	16-Mar-2026 at 12:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Mehdi Masud)
Deputy General Manager
Pipeline Integrity Department
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GTPR-25/25-26

GD-442

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Tel: +02223356514 Website: www.jb.com.bd

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

SL No.	Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Description	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	1236211	JB/IT-Proc-70/OTM/Hardware Sizing/2026	Tender for Procurement of Tape Library, SFP for SAN Switch, DC Related Hardware and MQ Middleware Solution (Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance) for Janata Bank PLC	31.03.2026 01.00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sd/-
(Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain)
Deputy General Manager

GD-449

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
MYMENSINGH.

Memo No. 37.07.6100.001.34.014.26.2463 Date: 01-03-2026

e-Tender Notice No.30/EED/MYM/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.e-Procure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below.

Sl No	Tender ID No.	Description of works	Procurement Method	Last Selling Date & Time	Last Closing Date & Time
1	1224612	Repair & Renovation Works of Administrative Building & Conference Room at Mymensingh Engineering College, Sadar, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
2	1224611	Renovation and Modernization Works of Auditorium Building at Mymensingh Engineering College, Sadar, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
3	1224610	Interior Design, Repair & Renovation Works of Director Office Room at Office of the Regional Director (Technical), Sadar, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
4	1224609	Repair & Renovation Works of Residential building at Mymensingh Polytechnic Institute, Sadar, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
5	1224602	Repair & Renovation Works of Rokeya Girls Hostel at Muminunnessa Govt. Mohila College, Sadar, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
6	1224601	Repair & Renovation Works of Useless Boys' Hostel at Halaughat Shahid Smriti Govt. Degree College, Halaughat, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
7	1224600	Replacement Works of Semi Pucca Building (Roof, Floor, Door, Window) at Halaughat Shahid Smriti Govt. Degree College, Halaughat, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
8	1224599	Repair & Renovation Works of Semi Pucca Building (Science Lab) at Halaughat Shahid Smriti Govt. Degree College, Halaughat, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
9	1224598	Construction of Main Gate & Guard Room at Halaughat Govt. Ideal High School, Halaughat, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
10	1224597	Construction of Assembly Stage at Halaughat Govt. Ideal High School, Halaughat, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00
11	1224595	Construction of U-Drain at Halaughat Govt. Ideal High School, Halaughat, Mymensingh.	LTM	11 Mar 2026 16.00	12 Mar 2026 12.00

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 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches up to one hour before Tender last selling time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-857