

City Bank, UNDP partner to boost green bonds, climate finance

STAR BUSINESS DESK

City Bank PLC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to accelerate climate finance in Bangladesh, with a strategic focus on developing the country's emerging green and thematic bond market.

Mashrur Arefin, managing director and CEO of City Bank PLC, and Stefan Liller, resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, signed the MoU at a ceremony held at the bank's head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Arefin said, "City Bank is currently working on issuing a green bond. Our partnership with UNDP will help unlock new avenues for sustainable financing and accelerate the growth of Bangladesh's green bond market."

Liller said, "Unlocking new sources of climate finance is critical for Bangladesh.

This collaboration represents an important step towards connecting global sustainable finance mechanisms with local opportunities and needs."

Under the agreement, City Bank aims to play a pioneering role in issuing one of the first green bonds by a commercial bank in Bangladesh.

The initiative will support the financing of eligible green projects, including climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, contributing to a more resilient and sustainable economy.

As part of the partnership, UNDP will provide technical assistance to support City Bank in the pre-issuance phase of the green bond.

It will also help develop a robust green bond framework aligned with international standards, covering impact measurement, reporting, governance of proceeds, and overall structuring to ensure transparency, credibility, and investor confidence.



PHOTO: CITY BANK
Stefan Liller, resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh, and Mashrur Arefin, managing director and CEO of City Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

Sheltech celebrates 38 years with month-long fair, service initiative



PHOTO: SHELTECH
Md Sharif Hossain Bhuiyan, executive director (operations) of Sheltech (Pvt) Limited, inaugurates the company's 38th founding anniversary with a series of initiatives at Sheltech Tower in West Panthapath, Dhaka recently.

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Sheltech (Pvt) Limited, one of the leading real estate developers in Bangladesh, has celebrated its 38th founding anniversary with a series of initiatives, including a month-long fair and a dedicated service programme.

The company recently organised a celebratory event at Sheltech Tower in West Panthapath, Dhaka, according to a press release. Md Sharif Hossain Bhuiyan, executive director (operations), inaugurated the programme as the chief guest.

Marking the occasion, Sheltech launched an "Anniversary Fair 2026", which will run from April 1 to April 30. The fair is being held simultaneously at the company's corporate office in Dhaka, its Tejgaon sales office, Jolshiri, and its

Chattogram office, operating daily from 10am to 6pm, including Fridays.

The fair showcases a portfolio of 77 projects, featuring more than 450 residential and commercial units.

These properties are located in prime areas such as Gulshan, Banani, Dhanmondi, Baridhara DOHS, Joar Shahara, Bashundhara, New Eskaton, Uttara, Jolshiri Abashon, and Chattogram's South Khulshi and Panchlaish.

Customers are being offered special benefits, including discounts of up to Tk 25 lakh on property bookings, along with complimentary kitchen cabinets and interior design solutions.

In addition, Sheltech has also introduced "Sheltech Service Month 2026" for the first time, to be observed throughout April.

Dhaka Bank signs corporate health deal with Ascent Health

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Bank PLC has signed a corporate health agreement with Ascent Health Limited, a diagnostic centre in Dhaka, to offer benefits on medical services.

Under the agreement, the bank's cardholders and employees will receive up to a 30 percent discount on pathological tests, with sample collection available from home or at doctors' chambers through Ascent Health Limited.

Md Mostaque Ahmed, deputy

managing director and chief emerging market officer of the bank, and Anwarul Iqbal, chief executive officer of the diagnostic centre, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

The agreement also includes access to consultations with experienced doctors across multiple specialties, including internal medicine, respiratory medicine, rheumatology, dermatology, nephrology, neurology, gynaecology and paediatrics.



PHOTO: DHAKA BANK
Anwarul Iqbal, chief executive officer of Ascent Health Limited, and Md Mostaque Ahmed, deputy managing director and chief emerging market officer of Dhaka Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

India ends import tax on petrochemicals to help local industry

REUTERS, New Delhi

India has abolished import tax on petrochemicals used for making plastics and pharmaceutical goods after the government invoked emergency powers and diverted local chemicals for production of cooking gas due to shortages caused by the Iran war.

The import tax exemption on 40 products is valid till June 30, according to a government statement on Thursday.

"The government's decision to grant customs duty exemption on

select petrochemical products appears aimed at easing cost pressures across these downstream industries and providing relief to end consumers amid ongoing global supply disruptions," said Manish Sejwal, senior vice president on the oil trading team at consultancy Rystad Energy.

India is a net importer of such petrochemical derivatives though it also produces them domestically using feedstocks such as liquefied petroleum gas, naphtha, and ethane.

Days after the US-Israeli strikes on Iran, the Indian government ordered companies to divert

locally produced petrochemical components to making LPG, mostly used as cooking gas.

India is the world's No. 2 importer of LPG, meeting about 60 percent of its needs with overseas purchases.

That shift has strained petrochemical producers, which are grappling with tighter feedstock availability, rising prices and higher premiums.

Across Asia, plastics and packaging manufacturers are already facing surging premiums that are hitting output at petrochemical plants.

Transparency, labour rights

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working conditions with the Bangladeshi government.

Bangladesh does not yet ban the import of goods produced with forced or compulsory labour, allowing such products to enter and compete in the local market.

CORRUPTION AND BUSINESS CHALLENGES

The USTR said corruption is a long-standing and widespread problem in Bangladesh, and anti-corruption laws are poorly enforced. Although laws exist against facilitation payments and gifts, bribery and extortion remain common in business dealings.

US companies have complained about long delays in obtaining licenses and bid approvals, as some government officials demand bribes. While the previous interim government prioritised fighting corruption, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the main watchdog, has not always been able to operate independently.

Updates to the Public Service Act in 2025 removed barriers, allowing the ACC to investigate and prosecute government officials. The ACC has increasingly pursued cases against officials, mostly lower-level and some

higher-level, but a large backlog of cases remains.

Under the recently signed US-sponsored Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART), Bangladesh has agreed to strengthen, implement, and enforce anti-corruption laws.

The country will also establish penalties for entities involved in corrupt practices and maintain standards of conduct for public officials to ensure proper performance and avoid conflicts of interest.

REGULATORY AND PROCUREMENT CONCERNS

US stakeholders have raised concerns about Bangladesh's sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, which include many testing and certification requirements that do not appear to be science- or risk-based.

For example, animal feed must come with radioactivity test reports and certificates confirming it is free from chloramphenicol, nitrofurans, "harmful antibiotics," and melamine. Bangladesh also tests all shipments of animal feed ingredients for porcine and bovine residues during customs clearance.

The USTR report also criticised Bangladesh's public procurement

system.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CHALLENGES

Bangladesh continues to lack adequate protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. The government devotes limited resources to IP enforcement, and counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available.

Several stakeholders have reported increases in potential IP violations across industries, including consumer goods, apparel, pharmaceuticals, and software. They also noted a growing trend of Bangladesh serving as a source country for counterfeits distributed globally.

The lack of investigative resources and expertise among the police, along with their reluctance to conduct independent investigations, makes it difficult for IP rights holders to enforce their rights. Concerns also exist over whether courts can fairly adjudicate IP cases.

While Bangladesh has made some legislative reforms in recent years to improve IP protection, the effectiveness of these changes remains uncertain because implementing rules have not yet been finalised.

PBIL wins 'Asset Triple A Digital Finance Award 2026'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank Investment PLC (PBIL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Prime Bank, has won the "Asset Triple A Digital Finance Awards 2026" under the "Digital Project Awards" category for best digital collaboration.

PBIL is the only investment bank in Bangladesh to receive the recognition, reinforcing its leadership in digital innovation and open banking enabled investment solutions, according to a press release.

The award recognises PBIL's strategic deployment of open banking infrastructure to expand access to its flagship discretionary wealth management platform, PrimeInvest.

Through seamless digital onboarding, integrated financial architecture and fintech collaborations, the company has developed a scalable model that lowers entry barriers and broadens participation in the capital market across diverse investor segments.



Commenting on the achievement, Syed M Omar Tayub, managing director and CEO of the investment bank, said the recognition affirms the transformative potential of open banking and digital collaboration in Bangladesh's investment banking landscape.

"Through PrimeInvest and our fintech partnerships, we are building an inclusive investment ecosystem that connects capital with communities and aligns growth with sustainability," he said.

PBIL offers a comprehensive 360-degree investment banking platform, covering equity, debt, advisory and portfolio management services. Its digital-first approach enhances transparency, accessibility and client experience, while supporting sustainable economic growth.

Dollar jumps

REUTERS, Hong Kong

The dollar rose sharply on Thursday after US President Donald Trump's address on Iran shattered hopes for a swift end to the conflict, sending investors towards safe-haven assets as oil prices jumped and stocks tumbled.

In an eagerly anticipated address, Trump vowed more aggressive strikes on Iran in the next two to three weeks, offering no concrete timeline to open the Strait of Hormuz or end the war that has rattled investors and roiled markets.

Investors were quick to sell risky assets such as stocks and buy the US dollar, pushing the yen, euro, and sterling lower.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of currencies, climbed 0.53 percent to 100.09 as the safe-haven trade came back on.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Superintendent of Police
Magura District, Magura-7600

Memo No-৯৫৮/২ Date :01.04.2026

e-Tender Notice

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

SL No	Tender ID	Name of work	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	1244901	Procurement of high quality lentils (Mosur dal) for the fourth quarter of the FY 2025-26 for District Police, Magura.	19-April-2026 at 12:00	19-April-2026 at 12:00
2	1246907	Procurement of wheat crushing for the fourth quarter of the FY 2025-26 for District Police, Magura.	19-April-2026 at 12:00	19-April-2026 at 12:00
3	1246909	Procurement of high quality fuel wood (mango) for the fourth quarter of the FY 2025-26 for District Police, Magura.	19-April-2026 at 12:00	19-April-2026 at 12:00
4	1247612	Procurement of high quality polao rice for the fourth quarter of the FY 2025-26 for District Police, Magura.	19-April-2026 at 12:00	19-April-2026 at 12:00
5	1247617	Procurement of high quality edible oil (soyabin oil) for the fourth quarter of the FY 2025-26 for District Police, Magura.	19-April-2026 at 12:00	19-April-2026 at 12:00
6	1246911	Procurement of transportation supply rice, sugar and wheat for the fourth quarter of the FY 2025-26 for District Police, Magura.	19-April-2026 at 12:00	19-April-2026 at 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off line/ hard copies will be accepted. The fee for downloading the e-tender document for the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP System portal and for e-GP help desk.

(Signature)
(MOLLA AZAD HOSSAIN, PPM)
BP: 7908121631
Superintendent of Police Magura District
Phone: 02477710500, Fax: 02477710546
Email: spmagura@police.gov.bd

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