

Commerce minister seeks Australian investment in solar

Discusses bilateral trade with high commissioner

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

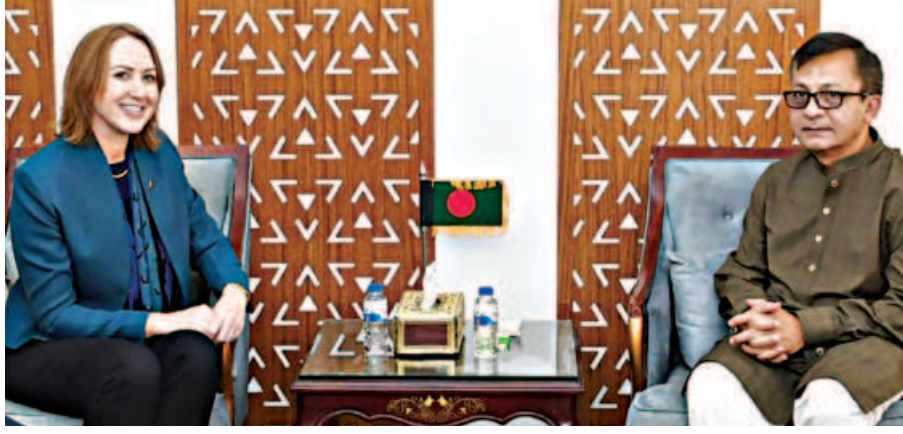
Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktedir has sought Australian investment in Bangladesh's solar power generation sector to meet the growing domestic demand for electricity.

He made the call at a meeting with Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Susan Ryle, at the minister's secretariat office in Dhaka yesterday.

They discussed strengthening trade, investment, and economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Australia, according to a statement from the commerce ministry.

The minister said Bangladesh has been working to create an investment-friendly environment and is particularly encouraging foreign investment in the renewable energy sector.

He added that revitalising existing industrial enterprises, establishing new industries, and generating employment are



Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktedir discusses bilateral trade with Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Susan Ryle at the minister's secretariat office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: COMMERCE MINISTRY

among the government's current priorities.

The government has been activating industrial sectors with assets worth

approximately \$7 billion, and making them production-oriented through private investment is a key objective. In this

context, the minister invited increased Australian investment in Bangladesh's solar power generation sector.

Ryle said trade between the two countries currently stands at around \$5.14 billion, and continues to grow steadily.

She highlighted significant potential for investment in Bangladesh, particularly in renewable energy.

A high-level Australian delegation is exploring opportunities for cooperation in green energy, innovation, and technology, the high commissioner also said.

She mentioned that Australia is one of the most important destinations for Bangladeshi students, as around 28,000 of them are currently studying there.

Both sides expressed interest in expanding cooperation in trade, education and scholarships, enhancing the capacity of officials of the Ministry of Commerce, and increasing collaboration in infrastructure development.

Experts stress strong shariah governance in Islamic banks

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a high-level workshop yesterday emphasised the critical role of robust shariah governance in ensuring transparency, accountability, and public trust within the Islamic banking sector.

The remarks were made during the opening session of a three-day special training workshop, titled "Shariah Governance for Members of Shariah Supervisory Committees", held at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) in the capital. The programme is being jointly organised by BIBM and the Bangladesh Bank.

Md Kabir Ahmed, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest.

He stated that effective shariah governance is essential for upholding public confidence in the Islamic banking system.

He further noted that shariah-based supervision plays a pivotal role in ensuring accountability across all banking operations.

'War led to biggest energy crisis in history' Govt clears purchase of 1.75 lakh tonnes

REUTERS, Paris

The conflict between Iran and the United States and Israel is creating the worst energy crisis ever faced by the world, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday.

"This is indeed the biggest crisis in history," Birol told France Inter radio in an interview broadcast on Tuesday.

"The crisis is already huge, if you

combine the effects of the petrol crisis and the gas crisis with Russia," he added.

The war in the Middle East has choked up maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, which is a conduit for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flows.

It has also come on top of the effects of Russia's war with Ukraine, which had already severed Russian

gas supplies to Europe.

Birol had said earlier this month that he viewed the current situation in global energy markets as worse than previous crises in 1973, 1979 and 2022 combined.

In March, the IEA agreed to release a record 400 million barrels of oil from strategic stockpiles to combat rising oil prices caused by the US-Israeli war with Iran.

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2024-2025 (FY25), imports accounted for 65 percent of its power needs, with the reliance increasing every year.

The government has been scrambling for alternative suppliers. It earlier approved the purchase of 2 lakh tonnes of diesel from Kazakhstan.

In a separate development yesterday, the Cabinet Committee on

Economic Affairs allowed Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to compress its tender preparation and submission period for refined fuel imports from 42 days to 10, a move designed to speed up procurement as supply pressures mount.

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury chaired the meeting.

Earlier, the committee approved the direct import of 2.75 lakh tonnes

of fuel oil, which implies that the BPC can buy and additional 1 lakh tonnes of petroleum through direct purchase method.

The BPC sold 68.35 lakh tonnes of fuel in FY25 and 43.5 lakh tonnes or 63 percent of the total sales were diesel, according to the BPC.

The state agency had imported 46 lakh tonnes of refined petroleum and 15 lakh tonnes of crude oil that year.

Mobile signals weaken

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"If fuel can't be managed and data centres go offline, it would cause widespread call drops, internet outages, and service blackouts," said an official at a mobile operator, preferring not to be named.

Contacted, Tanveer Mohammad, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone, said operators are facing electricity and fuel shortages.

"The evolving situation calls

for timely and targeted measures to sustain uninterrupted telecom services nationwide," he added.

He said that to "proactively avoid disruptions to essential services for millions", operators need government support to secure priority electricity for critical infrastructure, streamline fuel supply and ease fuel transport for emergency operations.

Md Endad ul Bari, chairman of the Bangladesh Telecommunication

Regulatory Commission (BTRC), said, "We have been trying to coordinate for over a month and have spoken to the telecom ministry and the energy ministry. In some places, there has been priority supply." He acknowledged that some tower sites are facing low fuel supplies.

"The regulator will meet the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation tomorrow and other stakeholders later this week to improve fuel availability," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Sylhet
www.lged.gov.bd

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE for CIVIL WORKS
Memo No. 46.02.9100.000.14.82.25-1120 Dated: 20.04.2026

NCB No. 37/2025-26(NOTM)
Bids Opportunities for Projects Financed by IDB Loan: BD-0173, BD-0174 & BD-0175 Project ID No. BGD0209 IDB/Rural Access Road Improvement Project (RARIP) in Sylhet Division in Bangladesh for the component Construction of rural infrastructures village roads.

Invitation for Bidding
The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has been allocated public funds from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) towards the cost of the Rural Access Road Improvement Project in Sylhet Division to be implemented in four District of Sylhet division under the financial assistance of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) under Rural Development and Agriculture Sector of IDB and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds to payments under the contract for the provision of construction of rural infrastructures.

The Executive Engineer, LGED, Sylhet now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of following packages. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at Address below between 09.00 and 16.00hrs, Sunday to Thursday (excluding Public Holidays) from 22/04/2026.

Package No.	Name of works	Price of bid documents in BDT	Amount of bid security in BDT
LGED/RARIP/SYL/UNR/18-19/W-01(a)	Remaining work of RHD Rampasha-Rajagonj-Uttar Biswanath-Lamakazi UP Road Doshghar UP-Lohori-Mashukhali Bazar Road (RHD Rampasha-Rajagonj-Uttar Biswanath-Lamakazi UP Road) (Ch.2600-4600m) under Biswanath Upazila, ID No. 691203002, District: Sylhet.	2500.00	440,000.00
LGED/RARIP/SYL/UNR/18-19/W-01(b)	Remaining work of Road by RCC on Badepasha UP (Rakuar Bazar)-Shantir Bazar Road from (Ch.1837-2700m) under Golapganj Upazila, ID No. 691383012 District: Sylhet.	2500.00	360,000.00
LGED/RARIP/SYL/VR/17-18/W-56(a)	Remaining work of Omarpur Bazar-Mandaruka Road from Chainage: 1230m-2230m under Osmaninagar Upazila, ID No. 691964007 District: Sylhet.	4000.00	710,000.00

A complete set of bidding documents for each Contract Package may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the undersigned from 22/04/2026 to 13/05/2026 (with both days inclusive) from address i) Office of the Superintending Engineer (Region), LGED Bhaban (Level-2), Nawab Road, Baghbari, LGED Sylhet 3100, Bangladesh, ii) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet 3100, Bangladesh, iii) Office of the Superintendent of Police, Sylhet 3100, Bangladesh including office of the undersigned and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for each Contract Packages mentioned above. The method of payment will be in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled Bank, drawn in favor of Executive Engineer, LGED, Sylhet.

A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 11.00am BST on 07 May 2026 at address below and all interested Bidders are requested to attend the Meeting on time.

The provisions in the instruction to bidders are in the General Condition of Contract and the Provision of the Islamic Development Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Works.

The Bids must be submitted by 2.00pm on date 13-05-2026, in sealed envelope delivered to the Office of the Executive Engineer, LGED Sylhet, Bangladesh and must be accompanied by a bid security mentioned above for the packages.

The Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:00pm BST time on 13-05-2026 at the above office.

The procuring entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bid's without assigning any reason whatsoever. The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.cptu.gov.bd & www.lged.gov.bd

Sd/-
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Executive Engineer
LGED, Sylhet
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E-mail: xen.sylhet@lged.gov.bd

GD-880

রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ
শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ

Ref. No. RUB/P&D/Purchase of Furniture (2025-26)/OTM/229/2026/299 Date: 21.04.2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tenders have published through e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Ref. No./Package No.	Procurement nature & description	Tender Notice publication date	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Method of tender
1	1261883	RUB.P&D. Purchase of Furniture (25-26). OTM.229.2026	Goods: Supply of Furniture Items	21.04.2026 11:59pm	05.05.2026 01:00pm	05.05.2026 4:00pm	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Dr. Suman Kanti Barua
Pro-Vice Chancellor &
Director (Additional Charge), P&D
Rabindra University, Bangladesh

GD-882

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Highway Police Headquarters
34, Shahjalal Avenue, Sector-4, Uttara, Dhaka-1230
www.highwaypolice.gov.bd

Memo No. 98/E&D Date: 20-04-2026

e-GP Tender Notice

e-GP Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) of the following work.

Tender ID No.	Description	Publication date and time	Online tender closing & opening date and time
1261134	Procurement of Repair and renovation work of Flat 7/A of Officers' Quarters Madhavi Bhavan, Ramnastha, under Highway Police Headquarters	22/04/2026 12:00	03/05/2026 16:00

This is online tender where only e-GP 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 document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through online to registered bank branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam
BP-8310126884
Superintendent of Police (Admin)
On behalf of-Addl. IG
Highway Police Headquarters, Dhaka

GD-871