

ACI, Shanghai Aiko Solar team up to boost renewable energy

STAR BUSINESS DESK

ACI Renewable Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Shanghai Aiko Solar Co Ltd, a globally recognised solar technology company, to promote renewable energy solutions in Bangladesh.

Asif Uddin, chief business officer of ACI Motors Limited, and Imran Akram, regional director for South Asia at the solar technology company, signed the MoU at the Yamaha Flagship Centre in Dhaka on Monday, according to a press release. Shanghai Aiko Solar Co Ltd is known

for its strong international presence and high-efficiency solar modules powered by advanced N-type ABC technology.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to delivering efficient and sustainable solar energy solutions in Bangladesh, the release added.

Asif Faisal Rummy, deputy business director of the automobile company; Tanvir Ahmed Tanim, assistant marketing manager; and Md Nur Alam, country manager for Bangladesh, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the event.



Imran Akram, regional director for South Asia at Shanghai Aiko Solar Co Limited, and Asif Uddin, chief business officer of ACI Motors Limited, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding at Yamaha Flagship Centre in Dhaka on Monday.

PHOTO: ACI

Ziaul Hasan Molla made AMD of Bank Asia

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC has promoted Mohammad Ziaul Hasan Molla to the post of additional managing director (AMD) in recognition of his significant contributions and long-standing service to the bank.



Ziaul Hasan Molla

Prior to his promotion, Molla had been serving as deputy managing director since 2018, according to a press release. He will continue to hold key responsibilities, including chief credit officer (CCO), head of agent banking, chief anti-money laundering compliance officer (CAMLCO), and executive director of Bank Asia Foundation.

With over 25 years of experience in banking and financial services, he brings extensive expertise across credit, corporate, SME and retail banking, Islamic banking, and financial inclusion.

Molla joined Bank Asia PLC in 2013 and has since played a vital role in the bank's growth, particularly in business development, credit, compliance, and agent banking.

He previously worked at City Bank PLC and Standard Chartered Bank, and also served as CEO of a Hong Kong based financial institution.

He is currently serving as the chairman of the Association of Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officers of Banks in Bangladesh for the 2022-2026 term, promoting best practices across the country's banking industry.

Molla obtained his master's degree in finance from the University of Dhaka and an MBA from Newport University, US.



Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman, also chairman of Trust Bank PLC, attends the launch of UnionPay debit and credit cards at a hotel in Dhaka recently. Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of the bank, was also present at the event.

PHOTO: TRUST BANK

Trust Bank rolls out UnionPay debit, credit cards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank PLC has launched UnionPay debit and credit cards at a programme held at a hotel in Dhaka recently.

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman, also chairman of the bank, inaugurated the cards as the chief guest, according to a press release.

The launch marks a milestone in expanding the bank's global payment solutions and enhancing customer benefits.

The cards will allow Bangladeshi customers to access UnionPay's global network both at home and abroad, offering seamless international

transactions, medical and tuition payments, airport lounge access, and other lifestyle privileges.

At the event, the army chief said the partnership with UnionPay International would ensure advanced and secure banking services aligned with the digital era.

The cards are expected to facilitate globally accepted financial transactions for a wide range of users, including students, patients, and businesspeople.

The bank said the initiative reflects its commitment to innovation, customer-centric services, and the growth of digital banking.

Premier Bank holds town hall meetings in Cumilla, Sylhet

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Premier Bank PLC recently organised "Town Hall Meetings" in Cumilla and Sylhet, respectively, as part of the ongoing "Deposit and Recovery Month 2026".

Md Monzur Mofiz, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the programme in Cumilla as the chief guest, according to a press release.

M Wali Ul Morshed, deputy managing director; Mohammad Shamim Murshed, senior executive vice-president and head of consumer banking; and Mohammad Anwar Hossain, senior executive vice-president and head of recovery, along with employees of the concerned branches, also participated in the meeting.

At the Sylhet town hall meeting, Amalendu Roy, deputy managing director of the bank, attended the event as the chief guest. Asif Khan, senior executive vice-president and head of SME and agri banking of the bank, attended the programme as a special guest.



PHOTO: PREMIER BANK

Md Monzur Mofiz, managing director of Premier Bank PLC, poses for a group photograph with participants of the "Town Hall Meeting 2026" in Cumilla recently.

Jamuna Bank leads student banking conference in Naogaon

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Jamuna Bank PLC led a "Student Banking Conference-2026" held at the Naogaon Sadar Upazila Parishad Auditorium in Naogaon, aimed at fostering savings habits and promoting financial literacy among students.

All scheduled banks operating in the Naogaon district participated in the daylong conference.

Md Iqbal Mohasin, director of the Financial Inclusion Department at Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his speech, Mohasin emphasised that introducing students to modern banking services and financial management

is crucial for building a self-reliant Bangladesh.

Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Jamuna Bank PLC, presided over the conference. He highlighted the long-term benefits of student banking and reiterated the bank's commitment to bringing students under the umbrella of formal financial services.

A large number of students from various educational institutions in Naogaon, along with teachers and senior officials from different banks, attended the conference.

Abeda Rahim, additional director of the Financial Inclusion Department of Bangladesh Bank; Tania Bhuiyan, deputy director; and Abdus Sobhan, head of the banking operations division at Jamuna Bank PLC, were also present.



Md Iqbal Mohasin, director of the Financial Inclusion Department at Bangladesh Bank, attends the "Student Banking Conference-2026", led by Jamuna Bank PLC, at the Naogaon Sadar Upazila Parishad Auditorium recently.

PHOTO: JAMUNA BANK

Govt's heavy bank borrowing

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He also warned that global energy market volatility, especially rising tensions in the Middle East, could push up oil prices, increase import costs, and add pressure on foreign exchange reserves, posing additional risks to macroeconomic stability.

Speaking about raising revenue, he suggested urgently designing a comprehensive framework to bring Bangladesh's fast growing digital economy under the tax net to boost the country's tax-to-GDP ratio.

At the event, Mahub Ullah, convener of the BEA, said the NBR should take stronger action against tax evasion in the real estate sector, in cases of wealth tax, and cases

of underreporting family and personal wealth.

In response, NBR chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan said they are working on this issue.

Ahad Al Azad Munem, research associate of the Policy Research Institute (PRI) of Bangladesh, said that currently, about 28 percent of total revenue comes from customs or trade taxes.

"Such a high dependence on trade taxes is not considered international best practice."

The NBR chairman said that since the country's overall revenue collection is low, whenever any reform or change is proposed in major revenue sources, the decision-makers become hesitant.

"This reality must be acknowledged."

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) urged the NBR to ensure tax justice, protect low-income groups, and take stronger measures to prevent tax evasion.

The Anti-Tobacco Media Alliance (ATMA) has proposed merging the lower and medium cigarette tiers and setting the price of a 10-stick pack at Tk 100, Tk 150 for the higher tier, and Tk 200 for the premium category.

It also recommended adding a specific excise duty of Tk 4 per pack. According to their proposal, this could generate around Tk 44,000 crore in additional revenue compared to the current fiscal

year and potentially prevent nearly 400,000 premature deaths in the long term.

Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) proposed that the government provide clear direction about the separation of the tax policy and tax administration.

Besides, the NBR should look into the gap between the registered companies and actual return submission numbers, it said.

The Bangladesh Society for the Change and Advocacy Nexus (B-SCAN), a volunteer organisation, demanded raising the tax-free income for differently abled people to up to Tk 6 lakh from the existing Tk 5 lakh.

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রুতী হোন এক সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বলিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref.No: 28.16.9100.097.07.002.26/250 Date: 28-04-2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following National Tender published through the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) as stated below:

SL. No.	Tender ID, Package No & Tender Publication Date	Description of Goods	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
01.	Tender ID: 1261975 Reference No: 28.16.9100.097.07.002.26/4 Tender Publication Date: 28 April 2026	Procurement of Stationary and Cleaning Materials	10-May-2026 Time: 15:00	11-May-2026 Time: 15:00	11-May-2026 Time: 15:00

The interested Tenderer may Visit the web site <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the detailed tender notice and to purchase the tender document.

This is an OTM 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 portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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

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GD-939

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

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Reference No.: 28.16.9100.119.71.002.26.02 Dated: 23 April, 2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of the Work	Tender Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01.	Tender ID: 1252743 Package No: e-GP-CP-023 Date of Publishing : 23/04/2026	Gas Leakage Detection, GIS Mapping and Leak Repair / Maintenance Works of Gas Pipeline for 400 km Gas Pipeline Route at JGTDSL Franchise Area (2nd Phase).	Last Selling: 06-May-2026, 14:30 Closing date & time: 06-May-2026, 15:30 Opening date & time: 06-May-2026, 15:30

The interested persons/firms may visit the website <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender.

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GD-933