

Prime Bank, CPA launch co-branded Visa card to streamline port transactions

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC, in collaboration with the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), has launched the "CPA-Prime Bank Co-Branded Visa Card", aiming to enhance financial convenience and offer benefits to stakeholders within the port ecosystem.

The card is designed to ensure seamless transactions, improve operational efficiency, and provide tailored financial solutions for individuals and businesses associated with the port community.

Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority, inaugurated the card as the chief guest at Sheraton Dhaka on Tuesday.

Moniruzzaman said, "We believe our initiative to advance digital transformation at the port will be strengthened by this partnership with



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, chairman of Chittagong Port Authority; Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank Foundation; and Faisal Rahman, acting chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a group photograph after inaugurating the "CPA-Prime Bank Co-Branded Visa Card" at Sheraton Dhaka on Tuesday.

Prime Bank. We congratulate all those involved in making this collaboration possible.

"This partnership will modernise the port's payment system, making it more efficient and user-friendly, while simplifying business operations. Users will benefit from more secure and transparent transactions.

"We are confident that such initiatives will enhance operational efficiency and support the port's continued growth."

Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank Foundation, and Faisal Rahman, acting chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, attended the launch ceremony.

At the event, Chowdhury said, "We are proud to be associated with CPA, a key driver of Bangladesh's economy. We believe this partnership will bring positive change to society."

Dollar gets safe-haven lift

REUTERS, Singapore/London

The dollar edged higher on Wednesday as investors awaited a closely watched Federal Reserve rate decision in what was likely to be Chair Jerome Powell's swan song, against a backdrop of an Iran war that shows little sign of imminent resolution.

Activity was tempered by markets in Japan closing for a public holiday and by caution ahead of a string of major central bank decisions over the coming 48 hours, along with the likes of Amazon, Microsoft and Meta reporting earnings after Wednesday's closing bell.

Against the dollar, the euro dipped 0.07 percent to \$1.1705 while sterling slipped 0.05 percent to \$1.3513, as both currencies edged further away from their highs earlier this month.

The euro is around 1 percent below where it was at the end of February when the war broke out, while the pound is roughly unchanged.

The Fed's rate decision will later take centre stage. The central bank is widely expected to keep rates on hold, leaving the focus on policymakers' assessment of the war's impact on the economy and on Powell's future.

Policy uncertainty

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Nuria Lopez of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh said the main issue is not a lack of opportunity but weak investor confidence, adding that an unfriendly business environment and unclear policy direction continue to discourage foreign investment.

She also said that taxation places additional pressure on businesses, as authorities often rely heavily on compliant firms, especially multinationals, creating an uneven playing field.

Sector-specific lobbying limits competition and makes it harder for new firms to enter the market, she added.

Lopez further said that institutional weaknesses, energy shortages, and the lack of a clear investment roadmap are increasing uncertainty, warning that Bangladesh could fall behind regional competitors.

Margub Kabir of Margub

Kabir and Associates said trust is central to investment decisions and depends largely on dispute resolution.

He said Bangladesh remains weak in enforcing contracts and has previously ranked among the lowest globally due to a slow and overloaded judicial system.

Kabir also said arbitration, which foreign investors often prefer as it helps avoid court delays, offers limited benefit. This is because enforcing arbitral awards still requires going through the same lengthy court process, which reduces their effectiveness.

He added that the main problem is not a lack of laws but weak implementation, stressing the need to simplify procedures, appoint specialised commercial judges, and introduce faster enforcement systems.

Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said improving the business environment must begin with core infrastructure reforms.

He said a reliable energy supply is the most urgent need, especially for industries moving into higher-value production. He added that man-made fibre manufacturing requires uninterrupted power, as even short outages can stop production completely.

He also pointed to inefficiencies in key logistics routes, including the Dhaka-Chattogram highway and port operations, which are increasing costs and reducing competitiveness.

M Masrur Reaz of Policy Exchange Bangladesh said Bangladesh's past growth has been driven largely by private sector investment, which helped manufacturing rise from 8 per cent of GDP decades ago to 25 per cent today.

However, he said

this momentum is now slowing, with private investment declining and foreign direct investment remaining below 1 per cent of GDP, far behind regional peers.

He said this slowdown comes at a critical time, as the country aims to become a \$1 trillion economy and create millions of jobs. These goals depend heavily on higher investment.

He added that the upcoming budget will be an important policy signal.

Reaz also highlighted practical challenges, including weak logistics, low productivity, energy shortages, and limited export diversification, which are worsened by fragmented reforms and poor coordination across sectors.

Farooq Ahmed, secretary general of MCCI, Sumitra Kumar Mutsuddi, head of corporate at BSRM, and Sumaiya T Ahmed, head of sustainability at Pran-RFL Group, also spoke at the event.

Airbus profits slide as deliveries drop

AFP, Paris

Airbus said Tuesday its first-quarter profit fell as it delivered fewer planes to customers, falling behind rival Boeing for the first time in years.

The drop in deliveries to 114 in the first quarter, compared to 143 for Boeing, was primarily due to a shortage of Pratt & Whitney engines.

Net profit slumped 26 percent from the same quarter last year to 586 million euros (\$686 million), with revenues sliding seven percent to 12.65 billion euros.

The first quarter results "reflect the lower level of commercial aircraft deliveries", said Airbus chief executive Guillaume Faury.

"In commercial aircraft, we continue to ramp up and produce as per our plan while navigating the shortage of Pratt & Whitney engines," he added.

Listed MNCs

FROM PAGE B1
Robi Axiata bucked the trend, with profits rising 33 percent year-on-year to Tk 937 crore in 2025.

Marico and Berger Paints, which follow a March fiscal year-end, were excluded from the analysis.

The outlook for MNCs, Shahidul said, has darkened sharply in recent months.

A few months ago, conditions looked promising, but the US-Israel war on Iran has introduced new uncertainty.

"Now, the outlook depends on the war, thus the oil price. The overall economic situation may worsen if oil prices rise and the war is prolonged. It will impact the performance of the companies," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
Open Tender (International) for Petroleum Products

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).		
3	Procuring Entity Name	General Manager (Com. & Ops.), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).		
4	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram, Bangladesh.		
5	Invitation for	Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 Cst and Gasoline 95 Unleaded during "June 1 st to August 31 st , 2026".		
6	Invitation Ref. No	28.03.0000.000.045.01.0013.26.		
7	Date	30 th April, 2026		
KEY INFORMATION				
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9	Source of Funds	Own Fund		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10	Tender Package No.	PG-03 and PG-04		
11	Tender Package Name	PG-03: Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 Cst. PG-04: Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoline 95 Unleaded.		
12	Tender Publication Date	30/04/2026		
13	Tender Last Selling Date and time	13/05/2026; 4:00 PM (BST) (GMT+6)		
14	Tender Closing Date and time	14/05/2026; 12:30 PM (BST) (GMT+6)		
15	Tender Opening Date and time	Date: 14/05/2026 ; PG-03: 12:45 PM (BST) (GMT+6) PG-04: 01:30 PM (BST) (GMT+6)		
16	Name and Address of the Office(s)			
17	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh.		
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BTMC Bhaban, Level-10, 7-9 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.		
	Receiving Tender Document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100.		
	Opening Tender Document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100.		
18	Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting	Virtual Meeting (Zoom Platform). 06/05/2026; 12:45 PM (GMT+6)		
19	Tender Validity/ Offer Validity Period	The Offer must be valid till 22/06/2026.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
20	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	(i) A maximum of three (03) litigation history against the tenderer over a period of the last three (03) years. (ii) The Tenderer(s) must have minimum 3 (Three) years' general experience in the export of petroleum products. (iii) The Tenderer(s) must have specific experience of executing at least 02 (two) contracts with a minimum value of USD 75.00 Million each in last three years in the supply of goods similar to the proposed goods. (iv) The Tenderer(s) must own refinery(ies) or more than 50% equity of a refinery. The processing capacity of the refinery(ies) must be at least 2.00 million metric tons per year. Or, The Tenderer(s) must satisfactorily complete the export of at least 2.50 million Metric tons of petroleum products annually for the last three years. (v) Annual turnover of the Tenderers during last 3(three) years must be equivalent to minimum US\$ 1.50 billion. (vi) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital facility must be US\$ 1.00 billion. (vii) The Tenderer(s) must be free from any interditory/embargo/sanction from international organization like UNO, OPEC, WTO etc. (viii) The Tenderer(s) must comply with international safety standard and environment compliances.		
21	Brief Description of Goods	PG-03: The total quantity to be supplied is 150,000-200,000 Metric Tons of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 Cst (+/-10% at Buyer's Option). PG-04: The total quantity to be supplied 0.215 - 0.430 Million Barrels (25,000-50,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoline 95 Unleaded (+/-10% for Buyer's Option). Minimum and Maximum range of importable quantity for each package is at Buyer's option.		
22	Tender Document Price	Tender Document Price: BDT 12,000.00 / US\$ 100.00 for each package, Non-Refundable by Cash / Pay Order / Bank Draft drawn in favor of "Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation".		
23	Package No	Identification	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time
	PG-03 and PG-04	PG-03	USD 0.30 Million	01 st June - 31 st August 2026 (3 Months)
		PG-04	USD 0.20 Million	01 st June - 31 st August 2026 (3 Months)
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
24	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Zahid Hossain		
25	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Commercial & Operations), BPC.		
26	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh.		
27	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No: +88-02-3333-16121 Mobile: +88 01713755377/+880 1762-921229 Fax No: +88 2333320147 Email: gm_commercial@bpc.gov.bd		

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Mohammad Zahid Hossain
General Manager (Commercial & Operations)
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)

Zila Parishad, Sylhet
www.zp.sylhet.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.60.9100.001.01.002.26.857(50) Date: 28-04-2026

e-Tender Notice No. 09/2025-2026 (OTM)

e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following work:

Sl No.	e-Tender ID No. & Package No.	Name of works
1	Tender ID No: 1260630 e/zpsyl/2025-26/RB-21	Construction of Chief Executive Officer's residence, Zilla Parishad, Sylhet.
2	Tender ID No: 1260631 e/zpsyl/2025-26/RB-23	Construction of Cycling Track, Road side wall with Grill, Putting Lamp post and Renovation main building interior decoration with colour at Nolja Dakbanglow, Gowainghat Upazila.

Tender publication date & time	: 28 April 2026 15.00
Tender documents last selling date & time	: 12 May 2026 15.00
Tender closing & opening date & time	: 13 May 2026 14.00

These are 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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) as well as Sylhet Zila Parishad Contractor License (2025-2026) shall be 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. The Authority reserve the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceeding. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Moyazzem Hossain
Assistant Engineer
Zila Parishad, Sylhet

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