

Semiconductor industry association to hold roadshow in US

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) will launch the “BSIA USA Roadshow 2026”, a multi-city initiative under the Silicon River and BRAINGAIN programmes, in the US today, aimed at strengthening Bangladesh’s engagement with the global semiconductor ecosystem and mobilising Bangladeshi-origin technology leaders worldwide.

The roadshow will cover major semiconductor and innovation hubs in the US from June 5 to 13, beginning in Austin, Texas, and concluding in Portland, Oregon, according to a press release.

The event will bring together semiconductor companies, universities, accelerators, entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, policymakers, and members of the Bangladeshi diaspora across the United States.

MA Jabbar, president of BSIA, and Muhammad Mustafa Hussain, a professor at Purdue University and chief architect of the Silicon River Bangladesh Initiative, are leading

the initiative along with members of the BRAINGAIN network and representatives from the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington, DC.

BRAINGAIN is a global network of Bangladeshi-origin professionals, while Silicon River is a strategic initiative dedicated to connecting Bangladesh with leading global technology ecosystems.

The BSIA USA Roadshow 2026 is part of the broader Silicon River Initiative, a long-term effort to connect Bangladesh with leading global technology ecosystems through talent development, industry partnerships, research collaboration, entrepreneurship, innovation, and strategic international engagement.

Over the past year, the Silicon River Initiative has supported several strategic programmes, including the National Semiconductor Symposium, the BEAR Summit, semiconductor workforce development initiatives, BRAINGAIN, CREST, BASICS, STAR Facility planning, international industry engagement, and mobilisation of the global Bangladeshi technology diaspora.

“Through Silicon River and BRAINGAIN, we

are building bridges between global expertise and national aspirations,” the BSIA president said.

“Our goal is to create opportunities for future generations, strengthen our innovation ecosystem, and position Bangladesh as a meaningful participant in the technologies that will shape the future,” he added.

Prof Hussain said the future of Bangladesh’s semiconductor ecosystem will depend on talent, partnerships, and sustained collaboration.

“This roadshow is designed to strengthen relationships with global industry leaders, universities, entrepreneurs, investors, and the Bangladeshi diaspora while creating pathways for knowledge exchange, workforce development, innovation, and long-term ecosystem growth,” he added.

The roadshow is expected to strengthen ties between Bangladesh and the global semiconductor industry while creating new opportunities for collaboration in chip design, advanced packaging, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and emerging technologies.



Mati Ul Hasan, managing director of Mercantile Bank PLC, inaugurates the bank’s four new sub-branches in four different districts across Bangladesh at its head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: MERCANTILE BANK

Mercantile Bank opens four new sub-branches

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Mercantile Bank PLC yesterday opened four new sub-branches in different districts across Bangladesh, aimed at providing modern and convenient banking services to customers.

The new sub-branches are Miarhat Sub-branch in Swarupkathi, Pirojpur; Shibchar Sub-branch in Madaripur; Merajagar Sub-branch in Kadamtali, Dhaka; and Bhola Banglabazar Sub-branch in Bhola.

Mati Ul Hasan, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the sub-branches as the chief guest at the bank’s head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

He said that after completing 27 years of operations, Mercantile Bank PLC remains committed to providing modern and quality banking services across the country.

“With the addition of these four new sub-branches, the total number of Mercantile Bank sub-branches has reached 52. The bank is also operating 153 branches, 200 ATM and CRM booths, and 188 agent banking outlets, continuously delivering banking services across the country,” he added.

Shamim Ahmed, Ashim Kumar Saha, Md Zakir Hossain, Md Zahid Hossain and Tapash Chandra Paul, deputy managing directors, attended the programme.

Power, fuel price hikes

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However, prices should be adjusted only to the extent required by global market movements, and that level of increase would be acceptable, she added.

Preoty criticised the second round of fuel price increases, arguing that recent international market trends did not justify the move. “Fuel prices have been increased for a second time, which was unnecessary.”

The CPD senior research associate said, “If you look at international markets, fuel oil prices have recently been on a downward trend. Under such circumstances, the government could have avoided raising fuel prices and allowed the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation to absorb the adjustment through its own financing.”

Linking energy prices with inflation, CPD called for structural reforms in the energy sector.

At the event, CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun said the Bangladesh economy was facing challenges on multiple fronts and remained vulnerable to both domestic structural weaknesses and external shocks.

She said elevated

inflation, driven largely by higher fuel, transport and service costs, remained one of the key concerns.

Wage growth continued to lag behind inflation, eroding household purchasing power, particularly among low and fixed-income groups, Fahmida said.

Apart from rising energy costs, CPD identified weaknesses in the supply chain for essential commodities as another major factor behind inflation.

According to a CPD market survey, a long chain of intermediaries dominated by urban wholesalers is helping keep food prices high in Bangladesh.

The survey, which covered around 1,000 market participants across 10 essential commodities, found that multiple layers of traders significantly increased prices before goods reached consumers.

It found a strong correlation between the number of intermediaries and retail prices. Green chilli recorded the highest farm-to-retail markup at 116 percent, followed by onions at 87 percent, pulses at 78 percent and brinjal at 72 percent.

By contrast, products with shorter supply chains, including eggs, broiler chicken, beef and fish, recorded relatively smaller price increases.

“The findings suggest that inefficiencies within the marketing system, rather than production shortages alone, are contributing significantly to inflationary pressure,” CPD said, adding that market concentration among urban aratdars weakens competition and enables excessive intermediary profits.

CPD recommended stronger regulatory oversight of wholesale markets to curb oligopolistic behaviour, improve price transparency and strengthen direct links between producers and retailers.

It also called for supply chains to be streamlined by reducing unnecessary intermediaries, expanding digital market systems and improving logistics infrastructure.

To help stabilise prices, the think tank suggested maintaining strategic buffer stocks of essential commodities and releasing those during supply disruptions, alongside stronger market surveillance.

Gold prices rise

REUTERS

Gold prices gained on Thursday, supported by lower crude oil prices and a weaker dollar, as investors assessed renewed expectations for a resolution to the US-Israeli war with Iran.

Spot gold was up 0.8 percent at \$4,465.56 per ounce, as of 0739 GMT. US gold futures for August delivery gained 0.6 percent to \$4,493.30.

The dollar eased, making greenback-priced bullion more affordable for holders of other currencies.

Currency shocks

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These tools have also hidden the real extent of stress in the sector, it said, pointing out that by March this year, the ratio had climbed back to 32.26 percent. “Actual classified loans are higher than reported figures.”

Asset quality reviews of six banks have already found bad loan levels significantly higher than previously disclosed, CPD said, adding that more reviews are underway.

WEAKER TAKA MEANS HIGHER NPLs

The think-tank’s empirical model – which measures how strongly different factors push NPLs up or down across normal and high-stress conditions – found currency depreciation to be the most consistent driver of bad loans.

The weaker the taka, the higher the NPLs, and the relationship holds whether the banking sector is healthy or struggling. During high-stress periods, the model shows the effect is roughly 2.5 times stronger than during normal conditions.

High borrowing costs follow a similar pattern. Rising real interest rates show a significant impact on loan quality during periods of elevated stress, compared to normal times. GDP growth works in the opposite direction. Stronger economic activity reduces bad loans by supporting borrowers’ ability to repay.

The effect is sharpest during stress periods, underlining how closely the banking sector’s health is tied to the broader economy.

Fahmida noted that private sector credit growth fell to a record low of 4.72 percent in March, reflecting weak business confidence and high financing costs. High borrowing costs and economic uncertainty have also discouraged companies from making new investments.

The CPD also noted that excess liquidity – idle funds sitting in banks that are not being lent out – rose from 43 percent in May 2025 to 55 percent in March 2026. It, however, cautioned against viewing this as a positive development as it essentially means banks are lending less and businesses are borrowing less.

“This indicates weak economic activity rather than a healthy banking sector,” the think-tank commented.

Fahmida noted that the

slowdown in economic activity is creating a vicious cycle for the banking sector. As businesses face weaker demand, higher financing costs and lower profitability, their ability to repay loans comes under pressure.

This weakens credit quality and increases the risk of more loans becoming non-performing, she said.

G O V E R N A N C E QUALITY DAMPENS NPLs UNDER STRESS

The CPD analysis also finds that institutional quality – stronger oversight, less political interference, more transparent lending decisions – reduces bad loans most powerfully during periods of financial stress.

During such periods, the model shows governance improvements have a measurable and significant dampening effect on NPLs, while the impact is negligible when conditions are calm.

The overall capital adequacy ratio – a measure of banks’ financial buffers against losses – has turned deeply negative, falling to -2.9 percent against an international minimum of 12.5 percent. Specialised banks are in far worse shape, at -87.9 percent as of September 2025.

CPD also raised concerns about recent regulatory relaxations that allow borrowers to reschedule defaulted loans for up to 10 years with only a 2 percent down payment. The think-tank warned the measure could weaken repayment discipline and delay recovery.

The CPD report warned that the bad loan problem is now affecting the wider economy. Weak banks reduce the flow of credit to productive sectors, discourage investment and slow job creation. Rising NPLs also hurt borrowers’ repayment capacity and weaken overall credit quality in the financial system.

To address the crisis, CPD called for stricter enforcement of loan classification rules, stronger bank supervision, better governance and less political interference in lending decisions.

The think-tank also said reforms currently under way, including asset quality reviews, bank mergers, bank resolution measures and proposed legal changes to strengthen governance, should be implemented quickly and effectively.

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e-Tender Notice

e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following packages under Road Division, Chandpur during the year 2025-2026 (Charged Head : Revenue).

Name of the works	Package No	Tender ID	Tender Document last selling / downloading Date and Time	Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date and Time
Reconstruction of Damaged RCC Foot Path Slab, Rail Post and Rail Bar at Bridge & Culvert Painting Work in Bridge rail, rail post, Tree Paint of Comilla-Lalmai-Chandpur-Lakhmipur-Begumganj Road (R-140) under Road division Chandpur during the year 2025-2026.	e-GP/CRD/EE/M inor/16/2025-2026.	1287946	10 Jun 2026 16:00 PM	11 Jun 2026 11:30 PM	11 Jun 2026 12:00 PM

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.

For further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) or eechan@rhd.gov.bd.



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Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
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Memo: No-46.02.4240.000.14.001.26-337 Date: 04-06-2026

e-Tender Notice No-02/2025-26

E-tender is hereby invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works:

Tender ID	Name of the work	Method of Procurement	Last Date of Selling Document	Last Date of Receiving Tender
1287716	a) Improvement (BFS) Construction Road Work From HBB Road at Bermahal Naitala Dighi Par to the House of Nikhil Das, Gavharamchandrapur Union b) Construction of RCC Casting Work of Nehalpur Sammitilo Samaj Eidgah Maidan, Keora Union c) Improvement of BFS from Naykathi Nur Mohammad Bari in front Bari to Dhakan Naykathi Khal under Keora Union d) Improvement of BFS from P. Taruli Jugi Bari Pol to Bahadur Talukder Bari pol via Keora Yeasin Hujur Bari under Keora Union e) Improvement of BFS from D. Pipolita Jomaddar Bari Jame Mosque to Khokon Jomaddar Bari under Keora Union f) Improvement of BFS from Protab Mohal gramer Boroytala in front of Mosque to Kabir Howlader Bari via Talukder Bari under Ponabalia Union g) Improvement of BFS from Nagpara Boro Road in front to Sahin Sharif Bari via Mia Bari under Ponabalia Union h) Improvement of BFS from Deori Gramer let. Malek Mollah Bari to Omor ali Howlader Bari under Ponabalia Union i) Improvement of BFS from Gudighata Nayary Altab Howlader Bari to Salim Member Bari under Natullahad Union j) Improvement of BFS from Sabangal Gramer Siraj Sarder's Bari to Sabangal Govt. Primary School under Natullahad Union k) Development of Sree. Sree. Hori Chad Guru chand shebasorum Mondir under Natullahad Union	(LTM)	17-06-2026 16:00pm	18-06-2026 12:00pm
1287717	a) Improvement Road Work with Brick Soling at Location Murasata Gramer Sohrab Howlader er Barir Samner Iron Bridge hoyte Halim kha er bari hoyya Jugir howlader er Barir Pol Porjonto Brick Soling under Binoykathi Union. b) Improvement Road Work with Brick Soling at Location Binoykathi Union er Baherdia Gramer HBB Road Hoyte Jakir Khan er Bari Porjonto Brick Soling under Binoykathi Union c) Renovation Road Work with HBB Road at Location Binoykayhi Union er Sugandia hat Hoyte Sobahan Khan er Bari Porjonto Road under: Binoykathi Union d) Improvement Road Work with Brick Soling at Location Binoykathi Union er Bajitpur Gramer Bir Muktijodda Subeder Abdur Arshid Howlader er Barir Samne Road Binoykathi Union e) Construction Tube well at Location Binoykathi Union er Sibaikathi Gramer Md. Ibrahim Kolil Pita: Firoz Ahmmed er Bari under Binoykathi Union f) Construction Ghatla at Location Nabagram Union er Pamahal Soyada Unne Kulsom Etmikhana er Samner Khale Ghatla under Nabagram Union g) Improvement Road Work with Brick Soling at Location Nabagram Union er Simulia Gramer Alomgir Kondokarer Bari Hote Dariyapur Jame Masjid porjonto under Nabagram Union h) Improvement Road Work with Brick Soling & Earthwork at Location Nabagram Union er Pamahal Gramer md Salauddin Talukder er Bari Hoyte ohab talukder er Bari Porjonto road under Nabagram Union i) Improvement Road Work with Brick Soling at Location Dhanshiri Union er Sottor Kanda Bazer hoyte Community Clinic Porjonto Brick Soling under Dhanshiri Union j) Improvement Road Work with Brick Soling at Location Dhanshiri Union er Gabkhan Faruk Talukder er Bari Hoyte Etmikhana Porjonto under Dhanshiri Union k) Construction Ghatla at Location Sekherhat Union er Bongkura Madina Market er Masjid er Samne Pukur e Ghatla under Sekherhat Union l) Construction Culvert Sekherhat Union er Mijapur Gramer LGED Road Side Kobir Howlader er Barir Samne under Sekherhat Union m) Improvement Road Work with Brick Soling at Natullahad Union er Gudighata Noyari Altab Howlader Bari Hoyya Selim Member er Bari porjonto under Natullahad Union n) Improvement Road Work with Brick Soling at Natullahad Union Sabagal Gramer Siraj Sarder Bari Hoyte Sabangal Sorkari Primary School under Natullahad Union o) Repair & Renovation Work at Natullahad Union er SRE SRE Horichad Seba Sorn Sarbojonin Mondir under Natullahad Union Upazila: Jhalokathi Sadar, District: Jhalokathi	(LTM)	17-06-2026 16:00pm	18-06-2026 12:00pm
1287718	a) Improvement of BFS from Bisayankhan Baytul Eiggat Jame Mosque to Ripon Mollabari under Kirtipasha Union. b) Renovation from 3No. word's Khajura 36village Nagmondor under Kirtipasha Union c) Improvement of BFS from 3No. work's Khuddorbohor paka road to Suk Ranjon Dakua Bari under Kirtipasha Union d) Improvement of BFS from Baulkandha Jame Mosque to Jahider Bari under Kirtipasha Union e) Construction of RCC Ghatla at Kisonkathi Salam Member's Bari Purbo Pash in front of Khal under Basanda Union f) Improvement of BFS from Betloc Gramer Joynal Howlader Bari in front to Dharakhana Mollick Bari under Basanda Union	(LTM)	17-06-2026 16:00pm	18-06-2026 12:00pm

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://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's branches. Details 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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