Garment sector needs coordinated energy shift

Industry leaders call for action at Ctg conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bangladesh's garment industry needs coordinated investment in renewable energy, stronger government support and long-term infrastructure planning to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and remain competitive in global markets, industry leaders said on Monday.

They made the call at the third "Rapid Energy Transition Conference: Powering Security, Sustainability & Growth in Bangladesh RMG", organised by Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Bangladesh, at Hotel Agrabad in Chattogram.

The conference brought together 85 participants, including factory representatives, BGMEA and BKMEA leaders, industry experts, financial institutions, renewable energy providers and a worker representative to discuss barriers to the sector's energy transition.

Enamul Aziz Chowdhury, director and acting vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and managing director of HK-TG Garments Ltd, said the energy crisis had exposed the vulnerability of the country's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

"Renewable energy and carbon reduction are no longer simply environmental agendas or corporate social responsibility initiatives. They are directly linked to our industry's ability to survive and remain competitive in global markets," he said.

He said manufacturers needed government support, accessible green financing, technical assistance and long-term partnerships with global brands to meet growing environmental requirements, particularly ahead of Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category.

Md Yasin, director of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and managing director of Sonnet Textile Industries Limited, said rising energy insecurity and changing global market requirements were threatening the industry's long-term sustainability.

"Renewable energy transition is no longer a luxury. It has become a global necessity for the long-term survival of our industry," he said, urging manufacturers to improve energy efficiency and accelerate renewable power adoption before LDC graduation.

Speakers stressed that rooftop solar alone would not be enough to meet international buyers' growing renewable energy requirements.

They called for expanding off-site renewable power generation, enabling factories to purchase electricity from external producers, decarbonising the national grid and offering incentives for surplus solar power supplied to the grid.

The conference also featured two working sessions on the urgency of the energy transition and available financing and technological solutions.

Among others, Md Kutubuddin, additional secretary of BGMEA; Md Althaf Uddin, senior joint secretary (admin) of BKMEA and a member of the Labour Court in Chattogram; and Md Hasan Ali, convenor of the Worker-led Climate Action Network, were also present.

UCB joins BB schemes to offer loans to leather, frozen food industries



Md Jabdul Islam, director of the SME and Special Programmes Department at Bangladesh Bank, and Md Ridwanul Hoque, deputy managing director of United Commercial Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing a memorandum of understanding at the central bank's headquarters in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: UCB

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB) has signed two separate memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Bangladesh Bank to participate in two of the central bank's Tk 2,000 crore pre-financing schemes aimed at supporting the growth of the leather and leather goods industry and the export-oriented frozen food industry.

Under the schemes, eligible entrepreneurs will be able to access loans at an interest rate of 7 percent, according to a press release.

Md Ridwanul Hoque, deputy managing director of UCB, signed the MoUs with Md Jabdul Islam, director of the SME and Special Programmes Department at Bangladesh Bank, and A K M Saiduzzaman, a director of the central bank, at its headquarters in Dhaka on Sunday.

Under the leather industry scheme, financing will be available to support environmentally friendly production, enhance export capacity and create employment opportunities in the leather and leather goods industry.

For the frozen food industry, loans will support working capital requirements, factory establishment and modernisation, and cold storage construction. Exporters of frozen shrimp, fish, vegetables, paratha and other eligible products will also be able to benefit from the financing facilities.

Trust Bank rolls out banking suite for students

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank PLC has launched "Trust NextGen", a comprehensive suite of student banking products designed to support students throughout their academic and financial journeys while promoting financial inclusion and literacy among young people.

Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the product as the chief guest at a ceremony held in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

Through Trust NextGen, the bank aims to offer tailored banking solutions that address students' evolving financial needs, making banking more accessible, convenient and student-friendly.

The initiative reflects the bank's commitment to empowering young people with essential financial services while encouraging savings habits, financial awareness and responsible money management from an early age.

With the launch, Trust Bank aims to promote inclusive banking, nurture financial responsibility and help build a financially aware generation equipped to contribute to the country's future.



Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Trust Bank PLC, poses for a photograph after inaugurating the new product at a ceremony in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: TRUST BANK



Md Zakir Anam, additional managing director of NCC Bank PLC, hands over the key of an ICU-equipped ambulance to AKM Azad, general secretary of Zia Heart Foundation, in Dinajpur recently to support emergency healthcare services. PHOTO: NCC BANK

NCC Bank donates ICU ambulance to Zia Heart Foundation

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC has donated an ambulance equipped with intensive care unit (ICU) facilities and advanced medical equipment to Zia Heart Foundation in Dinajpur to improve emergency healthcare services, particularly for heart patients.

Md Zakir Anam, additional managing director of NCC Bank, recently handed over the keys to AKM Azad, general secretary of the foundation, at a ceremony, according to a press release.

The ambulance was initially handed over by NCC Bank Chairman Md Nurun Newaz Salim to Azad at a ceremony at the Secretariat in the presence of Professor Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, minister for women and children affairs and social welfare, and State Minister Farzana Sharmin.

Following the minister's advice, the bank upgraded the ambulance with ICU facilities and advanced medical equipment before its formal handover to the foundation.

SBAC Bank holds training on online export monitoring and FDI

STAR BUSINESS DESK

SBAC Bank PLC's Learning and Development Centre recently organised a day-long training workshop on reporting through the Online Export Monitoring System (OEMS) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Md Rashed Akter, senior executive vice-president and head of the Retail Distribution Division of SBAC Bank, inaugurated the workshop, according to a press release.

The resource persons were Md Hassan Shahriar, additional director of the Foreign Exchange Investment Department of Bangladesh Bank, and Shahjahan Kabir, vice-president of ICMITS at Mutual Trust Bank PLC.

Md Saidur Rahman, principal of the Learning and Development Centre, and Md Mazharul Hasan, senior vice-president and head of the International Division of SBAC Bank, were also present.

The workshop focused on accurate export reporting through OEMS and FDI reporting to Bangladesh Bank. A total of 62 participants attended the training programme.



Md Rashed Akter, senior executive vice-president and head of the Retail Distribution Division of SBAC Bank, poses for photographs alongside other participants at the day-long training workshop at the bank's Learning and Development Centre in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: SBAC BANK

10 educational institutions to get sanitary napkin vending machines

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has recently partnered with Square Toiletries Ltd and Vertical Innovations Ltd to install sanitary napkin vending machines at 10 educational institutions across Bangladesh.

The initiative, led by EBL Women Banking, aims to improve female students' access to menstrual hygiene products and promote awareness on the issue, according to a press statement.

Under the partnership, EBL will support the installation of the machines, while Square Toiletries and Vertical Innovations will provide the products, installation services and technical support.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony attended by Syed Zulkar Nayen, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking at EBL; Tanzeri Hoque, head of priority and women banking at EBL; Tehsina Khanom, manager of marketing at Square Toiletries; and Dina Afsana, co-founder and chief operating officer of Vertical Innovations, among others.

EBL Women Banking said the initiative reflects the bank's commitment to supporting women's health, well-being and empowerment beyond financial services.



Officials of Eastern Bank PLC, Square Toiletries, and Vertical Innovations at the partnership agreement signing ceremony to promote menstrual hygiene accessibility at educational institutions. PHOTO: EBL

Office of the Faridpur Pourashava
District: Faridpur.

Memo No. : 46.60.2947.000.202.006.026.25.690 Date: 02/11/2026

e-Tender Notice No.(OTM): 07/2026-27

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (http//:www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works under ADP mentioned in the table below:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Works	On-line (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	On-line(e-GP System) tender closing date & time
1364643	FPS/ADP.SP/ 2026-27-P-22	Supply and Installation of 85 KW On-Grid Solar Power Plant at Faridpur Municipality office Building.	04-Nov-2026 12:00	16-Nov-2026 12:00

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. The fees for downloading the e-tendering documents from the national e-GP Portal have to be deposited on-line with any registered banks branches up to 4.00 PM on 15-Nov-2026, last Tender Security submission time up to 11.55 AM on 16-Nov-2026. Further 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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