Carbon credit earnings fall far short of $1b potential

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh earns only around $16 million a year from carbon credits, despite having the potential to generate up to $1 billion annually, said Md Saimum Parvez, special assistant to the prime minister for environment, forest and climate change affairs.

The government has finalised a national carbon credit framework, which will go to the cabinet within a month. It also plans to set up a national registry, remove bureaucratic hurdles and support small-scale solar and other eligible projects to attract public and private investment.

Speaking at an event in Dhaka organised by the Power Division and Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) yesterday, Saimum said current earnings came mainly from improved cooking stoves and solar cooking projects. Renewable energy, irrigation and energy efficiency could also generate carbon credits if emission reductions were properly verified.

He said developers must consider carbon finance from the planning stage, as international standards require them to prove that projects would not have gone ahead without such funding. Projects in the pipeline, particularly private-sector initiatives, have a better chance of qualifying.

The government also plans to convert more than one million diesel- or electricity-powered irrigation pumps to solar power within the next one and a half to two years.

Stakeholders at the event identified low awareness, investment risks and limited access to affordable finance as major barriers to renewable energy and carbon credit projects.

Fazlul Hoque, administrator of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said the main challenge was not a shortage of funds but weak grassroots demand and limited awareness among businesses and investors.

Habibur Rahman, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, called for cheaper loans, longer repayment periods and clear guidelines. He said the central bank had promoted green banking since 2011 and introduced the $200 million Green Transformation Fund, which provides banks with funds at 1 to 2 percent interest, while borrowers pay 5 percent.

Jean Pesme, World Bank country director, stressed the need for predictable policies, reliable contracts and transparency to attract private investment. He also suggested grouping smaller projects to draw larger investors.

Md Mahbub ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, said reliance on conventional energy exposed the country to supply risks and rising costs.

Prime Bank clients to get discounts on Suzuki vehicles

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Uttara Motors Limited, the sole distributor of Suzuki-branded passenger vehicles in Bangladesh, to offer automotive benefits and privileges to the bank's customers and employees on purchases of Suzuki cars and sport utility vehicles (SUVs).

Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution at the bank, and ABM Humayun Kabir, director of finance at the automobile company, signed the MoU at the latter's head office in Tejgaon, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Uttara Motors Limited will offer Prime Bank customers and employees various benefits, including special prices on Suzuki vehicles, exchange facilities for vehicles of any brand and buyback options for future vehicle upgrades.

The benefits will also include a three-year warranty, free maintenance packages, access to a nationwide network of 10 workshops, dedicated relationship manager support and doorstep services within Dhaka city.



ABM Humayun Kabir, director of finance at Uttara Motors Limited, and Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution at Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing a memorandum of understanding at the automobile company's head office in Tejgaon, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Sajid Rahman, senior executive vice-president and chief business officer of CnIB & Commercial Banking; Joarder Tanvir Faisal, executive vice-president and head of consumer assets & cards; and Takiyan Chowdhury, executive vice-president and head of secured consumer financing & embedded payments, attended the programme.

Mongla port

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pieces of modern equipment would be installed at the new facilities, which are expected to handle more than 30 containers an hour.

The MPA will also create facilities for hazardous cargo. Together with the extra container capacity, these measures are expected to raise annual cargo-handling capacity to 1.5 crore tonnes.

The port handled 1.22 crore tonnes in FY26, up 18 percent on the year before, according to MPA data.

According to the shipping ministry, China is financing most of the project. It would provide around Tk 3,600 crore in loans through the Export-Import Bank of China, and Bangladesh would bear the rest.

The China International Development Cooperation Agency and the Economic Relations Division signed the agreement on June 25, during the prime minister's visit to China.

China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), a subsidiary of China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC), will be the engineering, procurement and construction contractor.

A high-level Chinese delegation led by CRCC chairman Dai Hegen is due to meet the prime minister today. Talks are expected to cover infrastructure development, industrial investment, special economic zones and ways to expand bilateral investment cooperation.

Invest Bangladesh and CRCC are also expected to sign a memorandum of understanding on investment cooperation, which would open the way for Chinese investment in infrastructure and industry.

Separately from the China-financed project, the port authority is carrying out a five-year dredging programme in different sections of the Pashur Channel to maintain its navigability.

However, the port, roughly 100 kilometres north of the sea, has no scanner facility, which slows cargo clearance.

Talking to The Daily Star, MPA Chairman Rear Admiral Arif Ahmed Mustafa said the port would boost economic activity in the southern and northwestern parts of the country by providing logistics facilities for imports and exports.

He said the expanded facilities could strengthen Mongla's position as an alternative gateway for the country's international trade, particularly for businesses in the southwestern region.

However, attracting more cargo and shipping lines, improving road connectivity and ensuring year-round navigability would be crucial to securing returns on the investment, he added.

The port mainly handles cargo and imported used cars. It recorded an average turnaround time of 3.44 days in FY26 and the arrival of 12,000 cars, up 4 percent on the year before, according to MPA data.

Banks' lending

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The former banker also said the broader economic climate is poor. "Supply chains are disrupted, and commodity prices have risen. All in all, both the external and internal business environments are unfavourable."

LOWER BAD-LOAN PROVISIONS FLATTER PROFITS

Despite the fall in lending income, most listed banks reported higher profits in the first nine months of this year. They earned more from investments and set aside less money to cover bad loans, a practice known as provisioning.

Provisions across the 27 banks fell by almost a third, to Tk 6,900 crore from Tk 10,000 crore a year earlier.

At the 20 profitable banks, provisions fell by Tk 3,286 crore, more than the Tk 2,238 crore rise in their combined profits.

Adding provisions back shows the effect. Profit before provisions at these banks fell about 6 percent to Tk 16,150 crore from Tk 17,200 crore.

This is a rough calculation that ignores tax, but it suggests that lower provisioning, rather than stronger core earnings, drove much of the profit growth.

Dutch-Bangla Bank recorded the biggest fall in provisions, down Tk 823 crore, while its profits rose by about Tk 370 crore.

Among the five most profitable banks, Pubali Bank's profits rose by Tk 673 crore while its provisions fell by Tk 387 crore. Loan provisions also dropped at City Bank and Prime Bank.

BRAC Bank bucked the trend among the large lenders. Its profit rose 38 percent to Tk 2,120 crore even though provisions rose 80 percent to Tk 263 crore. Net interest income rose 42 percent to Tk 1,655 crore and net investment income rose 22 percent to Tk 4,143 crore.

The seven loss-making banks set aside just Tk 371 crore in provisions, against combined losses of Tk 13,340 crore.

Rupali Bank provisioned Tk 1 crore, IFIC Bank Tk 4 crore and National Bank Tk 9 crore, while Standard Bank and The Premier Bank set aside nothing.

Contacted by The Daily Star, Dutch-Bangla Bank said its loan provisions dropped because its non-performing loans fell.

Faisal Rahman, chief executive officer of Prime Bank, said their provisions for loans and advances have decreased because asset quality improved, non-performing loans declined and cash recoveries from classified loans and impaired assets increased.

The Daily Star tried to reach Pubali Bank by phone and SMS, but the lender did not respond by yesterday evening.

Meanwhile, ABB chairman Mashrur said provisioning by banks might have fallen because the commercial lenders wrote off loans.

He thinks the central bank should check whether any bank engaged in "window dressing" to overstate profits where provisions fell sharply.

BIBM Prof Ahsan said the central bank should take a tougher line on wilful defaulters and stop granting them regulatory concessions. Making borrowers repay would help restore confidence among banks.

He also urged the government to make the business climate more conducive and predictable, build confidence and cut red tape.

BB clears

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a Tk 1,600 crore loan facility for the group, according to an official of one of the banks involved in the syndicated financing.

CONDITIONS

The notification said neither the government nor the central bank would bear any liability for the loans. City Bank and the other syndicate members would not be entitled to seek financial support from either in the future.

As security for the financing, City Group must provide unencumbered assets, those not pledged against other loans or liabilities, through registered mortgages.

Revenue from the sale of goods procured with the syndicated financing must be deposited into a designated bank account.

The lenders' dues will be repaid regularly from the account on a priority basis, in proportion to each bank's share of the financing.

The companies will purchase imported raw materials as representatives of the lenders' security agent and process them as custodians, according to the notification.

City Group owes around Tk 26,000 crore to over 40 domestic and foreign banks and financial institutions, some of which have already classified its loans as defaulted.

গণযোগাযোগ ও সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগ
বরিশাল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বরিশাল
www.bu.ac.bd

Memo No: BU/MCJ/Media Lab/2025-26/01/06 Date : 04.11.2026

e-Tender Notice No: 01/2026-27

e-Tenders are invited on the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following Goods/Works under the Revenue Budget of University of Barishal.

SL-No.	Tender ID No	Name of Goods/Works	Tendering Method	Tender/ Proposal Document last selling & Security Submission Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing & Opening Date and Time
01	1365521	Procurement of Laboratory Equipment for the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism , University of Barishal.	OTM	05-Nov-2026 12:00 & 19-Nov-2026 13:00	19-Nov-2026 12:00 & 19-Nov-2026 12:00

This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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 online through any registered Bank's branch.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Forhad Uddin)
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GD-2681

Govt seeks

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According to a finance ministry statement, the delegation met Hwang Kiyeon, chairman and chief executive officer of KEXIM, to review the $3 billion Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) framework arrangement for 2023–2027.

The discussions covered three priority projects: the MRT Line-5 Southern Route, the Matlab Uttar–Gazaria Bridge and the purchase of 260 broad-gauge passenger carriages for Bangladesh Railway.

KEXIM officials said the allocation of EDCF funds was under review and that individual project proposals would be assessed in consultation with relevant South Korean authorities.

Bangladesh proposed a clear roadmap for using the remaining funds and sought cooperation in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, digital transformation, smart infrastructure and resilient supply chains.

SOVEREIGN FUND TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT

In separate talks with KIC, the delegation discussed attracting institutional investment in renewable energy, digital ecosystem development and commercial infrastructure.

It presented the proposed Bangladesh Sovereign Fund as a potential investment vehicle. Both sides discussed combining KIC's equity investments with KEXIM financing through South Korean fund managers.

Sovereign wealth funds are government-owned investment vehicles that use foreign exchange reserves or other public assets to make long-term investments, often in overseas markets.

Bangladesh planned to establish such a fund in 2017 using part of its foreign currency reserves to invest in infrastructure and support economic growth. However, the plan was later scrapped.

In a bilateral meeting with Chang Huh, second vice-minister of South Korea's Ministry of Economy and Finance, Khosru called for stronger economic ties between the two countries.

He proposed a strategic partnership covering trade, advanced manufacturing, energy, shipbuilding and digital technologies.

Bangladesh also welcomed South Korea's technical support for the ADB-assisted Integrated Growth and Development (IGND) master plan and encouraged greater Korean involvement in its financing and implementation.

The South Korean side expressed interest in further discussions on digital transformation, alternative financing and wider participation in the plan.

Artificial intelligence (AI) was another major focus of the visit. In talks with LG AI Research, the delegation discussed developing a Bangladeshi large language model (LLM) that reflects the country's culture and languages.

They also explored the use of AI in education, healthcare, manufacturing and public administration.

Discussions with FuriosaAI focused on developing Bangladesh's high-value technology sector, supporting its ambition to become a regional hub for AI and data centres. KEXIM also expressed interest in exploring infrastructure projects that incorporate AI.

The delegation also encouraged major South Korean companies to move beyond traditional contracting and consider long-term investments and public-private partnerships (PPPs).

BB sells

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situation have emerged following the US midterm elections, which saw Democrats gaining full control of both chambers of the US Congress, and Israel's general election, in which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling religious-nationalist coalition officially lost its majority.

Oil and dollar prices fell in the global market yesterday, and the situation is expected to improve in Bangladesh too, the official said.

After a long period of stability, the dollar rate has been rising for the past few days.

It crossed Tk 124 in the interbank market this week, and the dollar was sold at Tk 124.35 on each of the last two days, up from Tk 124.30 the two days before.

At the start of October, the rate was Tk 123, and it had reached Tk 123.99 by the last working day of the month, data showed.

For a year and a half after the Awami League's fall, the interbank rate had stayed between Tk 121 and Tk 122.30. It has been climbing since March this year.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Social Welfare
Admin-02
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

No-41.00.0000.000.017.07.0010.26.1301 Date: 01-11-2026

Invitation for e-GP Tender

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Social Welfare
02	Agency	Ministry of Social Welfare
03	Procuring Entity Name	Ministry of Social Welfare
04	Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable
05	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
06	e-GP Tender ID	1363188
07	Invitation Ref No	41.00.0000.000.017.07.0010.26.1300
08	Date	01.11.2026
Key Information:		
09	Procurement Method	**Open Tendering Method (Framework Agreement)**
Funding Information:		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget/GOB
Particular Information:		
11	Tender Packages/Lots	Procurement of Computer Consumable (Printer Toner Cartridge) [Framework Agreement] for Ministry of Social Welfare.
12	Tender Publication Date	01 November 2026
13	Tender Last Selling Date	15 November 2026, Time 02.30 PM
14	Tender Submission Date and Time	16 November 2026 Time 01.00 PM
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	16 November 2026 Time 04.00 PM
16	Name and Address of the Office(s)	**Address:** Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin-2) Ministry of Social Welfare Room No-301, Building No-06, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh
	Selling and Receiving of Tender Document	
	Opening of Tender Document	
17	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	12 November 2026 Time 04.00 PM
Information for Tenderer (IFT):		
18	Brief Eligibility and Qualification	1. Trade license valid for 2027 must be submitted. 2. e-TIN Certificate, Income Tax Clearance Certificate with acknowledgement slip for the financial year 2025-2026 must be submitted. 3. Bank Solvency Certificate must be submitted. 4. VAT Registration Certificate with last three-month online submission copy (3 months) must be submitted. 5. Required Tender Security (Bank Draft / Pay Order / Bank Guarantee) must be submitted. 6. Bank Statement for 1 year must be submitted. 7. Specific Completion Certificate with NOA for supply of Computer Goods must be submitted. 8. Minimum 05 (Five) years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods and related services as Supplier. 9. Satisfactory completion of supply of Similar Goods of each NOA/work order of minimum Tk. 30,00,000.00 (Taka Thirty Lakh), for minimum 02 (two) NOA/work orders, supported by submitted NOA/work order with completion certificate in the last 3 years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper (ITT-15), must be submitted 10. Minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 30,00,000.00 (Taka Thirty Lakh). 11. Financial Statements, Audit Report and Profit-Loss Balance Sheets of the last 3 (Three) years from the date of publication of this Invitation must be submitted. 12. Formal Undertaking of being non-Blacklisted or not debarred in any Procurement Entity from Government / Autonomous Body should be submitted 13. Manufacturer Authorization Certificate/Letter from direct OEM (Authorization Letter must be according to the format given in Form ePG3-5) must be submitted. 14. All Item Brochure / Catalogues must be submitted.
19	Brief Description of Goods	Package-1: Procurement of Computer Consumable (Printer Toner Cartridge) [Framework Agreement] for Ministry of Social Welfare.
20	Brief Description of Related Goods	Package-1 When and if required.
21	Price of Tender Document	Package-1: BDT. 1,000

22	Package	Identification of packages	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time
	1	Procurement of Computer Consumable (Printer Toner Cartridge) [Framework Agreement] for Ministry of Social Welfare	Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka	BDT. 58,800.00 In favor of Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin-2), Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat. Dhaka	Yearly (2026-2027)

Procuring Entity Details:		
23	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mr. Md. Ishahaque Ali
24	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin.-2)
25	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Ministry of Social Welfare, Room No-301, Building No-06, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh
26	Contact details of official Inviting Tender	Phone: 9515534 Email: dsadmin2@msw.gov.bd
27	Special Condition: This Tender Notice will be available at the Ministry of Social Welfare website: www.mosw.gov.bd	
28	All Activities Will be done According to (PPA-2006/PPR-2025)	

01.11.2026
Md. Ishahaque Ali
Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin.-2)

GD-2678