WB debars Bangladeshi consultancy for 19 months

TASNEEM TAYEB

The World Bank has debarred a Bangladeshi consultancy firm for 19 months over fraudulent practices under a government food-storage project, which had earlier come under scrutiny in a government audit over a Tk 17.07 crore contract involving the firm.

Modern Engineers Planners and Consultants Ltd (MEPC) submitted false financial documents during procurement and fabricated invoices for internet expenses during contract implementation under the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project, the World Bank said in an October 28 statement.

According to the lender, MEPC admitted responsibility for the misconduct under a settlement agreement that allowed a reduced debarment period in recognition of the company's cooperation and remedial measures.

Effective from October 27, the sanction bars MEPC from participating in World Bank-financed projects for 19 months, subject to conditions for release. The debarment also makes the firm eligible for cross-debarment by other multilateral development banks.

The firm had earlier faced allegations of faulty design work at Khulna Railway Station.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

MEPC secured government consultancy contracts worth nearly Tk 135 crore between 2019 and September 2026, according to official procurement records.

On December 31, 2019, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) awarded a Tk 117.65 crore contract to a joint venture between India's RITES Ltd and MEPC for project management services to upgrade the Ashuganj-Akhaura highway into a four-lane national highway.

RHD's April 2018 expression of interest required applicants to disclose their previous performance and any history of litigation or arbitration.

In November 2021, the Directorate General of Food signed a Tk 17.07 crore consultancy contract with a joint venture involving Ukraine's NOFEAR and MEPC to supervise silo construction under the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project.

In a December 2022 report, the Foreign-Aided Projects Audit Directorate (FAPAD) questioned the award, citing MEPC's alleged previous debarment and blacklisting. Auditors said the award violated Rule 48(2)(e) of the Public Procurement Rules 2008 and recommended recovering the contract amount from those responsible.

The audit recorded that the project authority had not submitted a response at the time. The subsequent status of the objection remains unclear.

Separately, Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority records show that the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board awarded MEPC a Tk 22.84 lakh consultancy contract for the proposed Gazipur PBS-2 headquarters complex in September 2026.

The three contracts had a combined value of approximately Tk 135 crore. Two were awarded to joint ventures, and MEPC's individual share could not be established. All three awards predated the World Bank's debarment.

Modern Engineers Planners and Consultants Ltd (MEPC) submitted false financial documents during procurement and fabricated invoices for internet expenses during contract implementation under the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project, the World Bank said

MEPC'S RESPONSE

In its latest written response to The Daily Star, MEPC said its settlement agreement with the World Bank barred it from sharing further information with third parties without the lender's consent, which it had not received.

ACI Motors, GWM partner to distribute vehicles in Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

ACI Motors Limited, an automobile company and a business unit of Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) PLC, has signed an authorised distributorship agreement with Chinese automobile manufacturer Great Wall Motor (GWM) to introduce its passenger vehicles in Bangladesh.

Subrata Ranjan Das, managing director of the automobile company, and Andy Zhang, vice-president of GWM, signed the agreement at the latter's global headquarters in Baoding, China recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, ACI Motors will distribute GWM's brands, including HAVAL, TANK, ORA, WEY and POER, in Bangladesh.

The portfolio will include sport utility vehicles (SUVs), electric vehicles (EVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and premium vehicles.

The partnership aims to bring advanced automotive technology, modern designs, enhanced safety features and environmentally friendly mobility solutions to the local market.

ACI Motors will provide after-sales services and genuine spare parts through its nationwide sales and service network.



Arif Dowla, managing director of Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) PLC, and Andy Zhang, vice-president of Great Wall Motor (GWM), exchange signed documents of an agreement at the latter's global headquarters in Baoding, China recently. PHOTO: ACI

Arif Dowla, managing director of ACI PLC; Mu Feng, group CEO of GWM; Tavi Qi, country manager; and Asif Faisal Rumy, business director of ACI Motors, among other senior officials, also attended the signing ceremony.



Badiur Rahman, chairman of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC, attends the bank's 31st annual general meeting (AGM) at Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday. Liakat Ali Chowdhury, vice-chairman of the bank, joined the meeting virtually. Mohd Rafat Ullah Khan, managing director, and Mohammad Moniruzzaman, company secretary, along with the bank's directors, were also present at the AGM. PHOTO: AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK



PHOTO: SHIMANTO BANK

Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of Runner Group, and Md Nurul Azim, managing director and CEO of Shimanto Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing a memorandum of understanding in Dhaka recently.

Shimanto Bank clients to get benefits on BYD car purchases

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shimanto Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with BYD Bangladesh, a distributor of global high-tech company BYD and a business unit of CG Runner Bd Ltd, to offer special benefits to the bank's customers.

Md Nurul Azim, managing director and CEO of the bank, and Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of Runner Group, signed the MoU at a ceremony held in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, clients will enjoy special benefits, including zero processing fees and attractive interest rates, when purchasing BYD vehicles.

Md Sahidul Islam, head of business at the bank; Mohammad Masud Sajjad, head of retail; Sharif Zahirul Islam, head of cards and alternative delivery channel (ADC); and Mehmud Rahman, senior relationship manager of corporate banking, attended the programme.

Md Ferdowsur Rahman, chief financial officer of the automobile company, and Methun Bhattacherjee, head of business development at BYD (CG Runner Bd Ltd), along with senior officials from both institutions, were also present at the signing ceremony.

NCC Bank gives farm inputs to 1,500 farmers in Nilphamari

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC has distributed free agricultural inputs among 1,500 marginal farmers in three upazilas of Nilphamari district as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

The inputs included different varieties of high-yielding rice seeds and fertilisers. The initiative aims to boost agricultural production, improve farmers' financial capabilities and support the country's food security, the bank said in a press release.

The distribution programmes were held in Nilphamari Sadar, Dimla and Domar upazilas.

Mohammed Nurun Newaz Salim, chairman of NCC Bank, said agriculture was one of the key drivers of Bangladesh's economy and that the bank was supporting farmers in response to the prime minister's call to increase agricultural production.

The bank plans to extend similar support to marginal farmers in other districts, alongside facilitating better storage facilities for agricultural produce and promoting modern farming technologies, he added.

M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank, said the initiative was expected to encourage farmers to cultivate high-yielding rice varieties, reduce production costs and improve overall agricultural productivity.

Engineer Shahrin Islam Chowdhury Tuhin, former member of parliament from Nilphamari-1, attended the programmes as the chief guest. Salim was present as the guest of honour, while Arefin chaired the events.

Advocate Md Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, administrator of Nilphamari Zia Parishad, attended as a special guest.



PHOTO: NCC BANK

NCC Bank distributes free agricultural inputs, including high-yielding rice seeds and fertilisers, among 1,500 marginal farmers in Nilphamari.

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

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রয়ী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No: 28.16.9100.098.07.002.26.728 Date: 09-11-2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following International Tender has been 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	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
01.	Tender/Proposal ID :1340855 Re-Tendered ID: 1244223 Tender Package No: 28.16.9100.098.07.002.26.05 Tender Publication Date: 09-November-2026 Time: 14:00	Procurement of API 5L ERW Line Pipe & Casing Pipe	22-Dec-2026 Time: 16:00	23-Dec-2026 Time: 15:00	23-Dec-2026 Time: 15:00

This is an Online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. Interested tenderers may Visit the website http://www.eprocure.gov.bd to obtain the detailed tender notice and Tender Documents. To submit an e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP system portal shall be deposited online through any Bank registered in the e-GP System.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal or from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Engr. Md. Masud Rana)
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GD-2715

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Bhola Sadar, Bhola.
lged.bhola-s.bhola.gov.bd

Memo No.: 46.02.0918.000.07.004.26- 722 Date: 8-11-26

e-Tender Notice: (LTM)
Notice no: 02/2026-2027

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

Sl. No	Tender ID	Description of Works	Tender Publication (Date & Time)	Tender Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing (Date & Time)	Tender Opening (Date & Time)	Tender Method
01	1367411	Repair work for Bhola Press Club under Bhola Sadar, Bhola.	09-November 2026 10:00	25-November 2026 17:00	26-November-2026 14:00	27-November-2026 12:00	NCT, LTM
02	1368264	Furniture Supply For Bhola Press Club under Bhola Sadar, Bhola.	09-November 2026 10:00	25-November 2026 17:00	26-November-2026 14:00	27-November-2026 12:00	NCT, LTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and 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 documents from the national e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches according to the Tender Notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

8.11.26

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GD-2712