

"Growth must be built on credibility, not rhetoric"

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Dhaka: In an exclusive conversation with The Bangladesh Monitor, MKA Shahinoor Rahman Jahid, Chief Executive Officer of GM Holdings Limited, a concern of the Deshbandhu Group, shared his journey of leading Bangladesh's private industrial revolution - from the early blueprint of the Sirajganj Economic Zone (SEZ) to pioneering digital transformation in real estate and manufacturing.

Seated in his Dhaka office, Jahid reflected on a vision that has always been both pragmatic and people-centric. "When I took charge of Sirajganj Economic Zone, it was little more than a concept," he recalled. "Three years later, we had built a 1,200-acre operational hub - complete with modern logistics corridors, renewable energy systems, and environmental safeguards. We wanted to prove that private-sector governance can be both efficient and ethical."

Under Jahid's leadership, the SEZ has become a benchmark for

accountability and sustainability. The initiative has created thousands of jobs and significantly boosted industrial activity across northern Bangladesh. "We institutionalized transparency and performance-based systems," he said. "Growth must be built on credibility, not rhetoric."

Global vision, local impact

Jahid's ambitions extend beyond Bangladesh. In 2019, he led the country's first private real estate project under China's Belt and Road Initiative (OBOR). Through partnerships with PowerChina International, Sinohydro, and China Merchant Bank, he helped secure over USD 250 million in foreign investment. Between 2021 and 2024, his team attracted an additional USD 200 million, positioning SEZ as a trusted name in international trade and industrial diplomacy.



Shahinoor Rahman Jahid, CEO, GM Holdings Ltd

"Partnerships only endure when credibility precedes conversation," he noted. "Investors respond to reliability - not promises."

Championing digital, sustainable future

At GM Holdings, Jahid's focus has shifted toward digital integration and green innovation. He is driving initiatives in smart infrastructure, AI-based management systems, and green building technologies, aligning his strategy with Bangladesh's Vision 2041 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"We're using predictive analytics, digital dashboards, and automation training to prepare our workforce for Industry 4.0," he explained. "Technology isn't just about efficiency - it's about transparency and empowerment."

Bridging industry, academia

Beyond the boardroom, Jahid's academic work has earned him recognition as a global researcher and policy thinker. His published studies explore the intersections of AI, infrastructure management, and economic zone development, offering policy insights for emerging economies.

Among his notable papers are "AI-Driven Optimization and Risk Modeling in Economic Zone Development" (2025) and "Digitizing Real Estate and Industrial Parks: AI, IoT, and Governance Challenges" (2024). In 2025, he presented "The Role of Real Estate in Shaping the National Economy of the United States" at the Global Research and Innovation Conference (GRIC) in Florida.