

NRBC Bank, Joyeeta Foundation sign deal

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NRBC Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Joyeeta Foundation to provide loans to women entrepreneurs at 5 per cent interest.

Afroza Khan, managing director of Joyeeta Foundation, and Golam Awlia, managing director of NRBC Bank, inked the MoU at the Joyeeta Foundation's office in Dhaka yesterday, a press release said.

Under this special scheme, women entrepreneurs will get a maximum loan assistance of up to Tk 50 lakh.

This loan will be given from the 'Revolving Capital Support Fund' of Joyeeta Foundation which is formed under the special supervision of the prime minister under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

Women entrepreneurs can take this loan in their own name and the association's name. These loan facilities will be provided with or without collateral.

Shahidul Islam, additional secretary and project director of Joyeeta Tower Nirman Project, Harunur Rashid, deputy managing director of the bank, Harunur Rashid, head of SME and agriculture credit department, and Suraiya Rahman, manager of Dhanmondi women's branch, were present.



A Huawei staff member explains the use of 5G technology in remotely-controlled critical infrastructure at the Global Mobile Broadband Forum in Bangkok yesterday.

PHOTO: MAHMUDUL HASAN

Global telecom infrastructure industry getting ready for 5.5G

The technology promises ten-times faster performance than 5G

MAHMUDUL HASAN, from Bangkok

The telecom infrastructure industry is bracing for the technology of the future as it has already made significant progress in this regard and is ready to make the leap to 5.5G, which promises ten-times faster performance than 5G.

Experts at Huawei's Global Mobile Broadband Forum in Bangkok said the next milestone of 5.5G will deliver 10 Gbps experiences, supporting hundreds of billions of connections.

"Through concerted efforts, the industry has made significant progress and is ready to make the leap to 5.5G," said David Wang, Huawei's executive director of the board and chairman of ICT Infrastructure Managing Board.

"So, all industry players should prepare on all fronts," he added.

After two years of concerted efforts across the industry, 5.5G has seen huge progress and three things have become clear.

First, the standardisation of 5.5G has been initiated and is on the right track, making it more than just a vision.

Second, the industry has made

breakthroughs in key technologies for 5.5G, and ultra-large bandwidth and ELAA can now deliver a 10 Gbps experience.

Third, the industry has a clear vision for the IoT landscape.

Three types of 5.5G enabled IoT technologies supported by 5.5G, namely NB-IoT, RedCap, and passive IoT, are developing rapidly and will support numerous IoT connections.

"The communications industry is constantly evolving and 5.5G has been kicked into high gear. Looking ahead, our task is to tackle these five new areas -- standards, spectrum, products, ecosystems, and applications. Together, let's stride to 5.5G and build a better, intelligent world," Wang said.

First, the industry needs to set standards and promote key technological research. Standards steer the mobile communications industry and will guide the 5.5G industry forward along a clearly defined path.

Wang then said the second task would be to prepare more spectrum for ultra-large bandwidth. The industry needs to fully utilise sub-100 GHz resources to

build ultra-large bandwidth as millimetre wave is a key frequency band for 5.5G.

In addition, operators will have to acquire over 800 MHz of spectrum from this band if they are to realise 10 Gbps experiences. Meanwhile, 6 GHz is also a potential ultra-wide band for 5.5G.

But to prepare for 5.5G with mature networks, the right devices, and chips are also needed.

Both the networks and devices need to be upgraded to deliver 10 Gbps experiences, according to Huawei, which is the leading network device provider for 5G and beyond.

"This thriving ecosystem will better address digital requirements in all scenarios. Take the 5.5G-enabled IoT ecosystem for example," Wang said.

Operators and equipment vendors will need to improve plans for 5.5G networks in order to better connect both people and things while device vendors must adapt costs and modular capabilities to application scenarios.

Besides, industry and app developers will need to act immediately to start incubating new apps, he added.

As the spectrum, products, and ecosystem mature, 5.5G will become a reality, allowing even more applications to emerge.

Multi-sensory interactions will transform the way we communicate. Intelligently connected vehicles are set to become a third mobile space and see wide adoption while intelligent connections across industries will lead to the dissolution of information silos and driving industrial upgrades.

"A new generation of innovative applications is emerging, and our vision for the intelligent world is becoming clearer," Wang said.

So, all industry players need to work together toward the exploration and creation of these applications, he added.

The Global Mobile Broadband Forum 2022 is being hosted by Huawei together with its industry partners GSMA and GTI.

This annual forum gathers mobile network carriers, vertical industry leaders, and ecosystem partners from around the world to discuss how to make 5G a commercial success and other hot topics like green development, intelligence, and 5G evolution.

End harassment at customs

Importers say

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Daily essential commodity and raw material importers have called for proper management in the ports to bring an end to the harassment of the customs and shipping agents.

They came up with the call at the first meeting of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)'s standing committee on import yesterday.

The importers complained that they are harassed at the time of releasing goods, which cost them extra time and money for business and production.

The Chittagong port's lab does not have necessary testing facilities and only one chemical examiner is not sufficient for faster testing and certifications, they said.

Ceylon bank appoints Gupta as credit specialist

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dilip Das Gupta has joined the Commercial Bank of Ceylon, Sri Lanka operations as a credit specialist for CBC Colombo and Maldives operations recently.

Gupta previously served Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC Bangladesh operations since its inception in 2003, a press release said.

The 59-year-long professional career of the veteran banker ended earlier this year when he retired from the post of senior general manger.

He started his career with the United Bank Limited in 1963. He served Baque Indosuez.



PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (OCT 26, 2022)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 63-Tk 75	-4.83 ↓	11.29 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 52	2.4 ↑	7.53 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 55-Tk 58	7.62 ↑	66.18 ↑
Lentil (kg)	Tk 95-Tk 100	2.63 ↑	11.43 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 160-Tk 170	-4.35 ↓	14.19 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 24-Tk 30	1.89 ↑	20 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 55	26.51 ↑	-16 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 47-Tk 50	0	29.33 ↑

SOURCE: TCB



Bitopi Das Chowdhury, head of corporate affairs, brand and marketing of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, poses for photographs with officials of the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh on the icddr,b premises in Mohakhali, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: STANDARD CHARTERED



Anisul Hoque, associate editor of the Prothom Alo and editor of the Kishore Alo, inaugurates the "School Banking Campaign-2022" and "Motivation for the Future Leaders Programme" arranged by Dhaka Bank at Rajuk Uttara Model College in Dhaka's Uttara recently. Emranul Huq, managing director of the bank, Md Mostaque Ahmed, deputy managing director, and Brigadier General Taef UI Haq, principal of Rajuk Uttara Model College, were present.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK



Md Arifuzzaman, director of Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), poses for photographs with participants of the daylong training and awareness programme on "Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing" organised by Prime Bank at a local conference hall in Dhaka recently. Md Masud Rana, additional director of BFIU, and Md Ziaur Rahman, deputy managing director of Prime Bank, were present.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

StanChart, icddr,b to help fight malnutrition

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Standard Chartered Bangladesh recently contributed to funding the Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit (NRU), an initiative launched by the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) to fight malnutrition.

The bank's decision to finance the project will provide 20 severely malnourished children with much-needed access to highly nutritious meals.

As a part of the initiative, mothers and caretakers will receive training on how to maintain their children's health, discuss nutrition, and prepare healthy food with easily available low-cost ingredients.

As the bank's flagship community engagement programme, Futuremakers by

Standard Chartered, is designed to help the next generation in their journey to learn, earn, and grow.

Facilitating healthcare is a core focus for institutions nationwide, while driving education is an integral part of the bank's Futuremakers initiative.

"By funding the NRU, the bank is giving children from marginalised communities a fighting chance to live well and grow up to become healthy individuals capable of making a difference," said Bitopi Das Chowdhury, head of corporate affairs, brand and marketing of Standard Chartered Bangladesh.

"Standard Chartered is proud to collaborate with icddr,b to build self-reliance at the grassroots level and empower women to act as key change agents in their families and communities," she added.

Bangladesh's steel factories

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think of investing in technologies to ensure efficient consumption of gas because it was very cheap and availability was never an issue.

"If something is taken for granted, you will have a long-term inefficiency in the system," Alihussain said.

As the country failed to increase power generation in line with the growth of the economy and ensure a credible power supply in the past, entrepreneurs went for setting up captive power plants. But gas usage was very inefficient in those plants compared to larger power plants.

Due to that policy that offered cheaper gas to captive power plants, an inefficient system was created, he said.

The group is planning to install

technology in its new rolling plant in Mirsarai aiming at saving gas by using hot billet instead of cold ones. Hot billets would be immediately used to produce bars using the technology, he said.

BSRM's seven steel manufacturing plants have a combined annual production capacity of 1.6 million tonnes of MS rod and 1.9 million tonnes of MS billet.

It has also set up BSRM Wires at its Mirsarai site to manufacture various products such as galvanised wire. It has an annual capacity of 65,500 tonnes.

Its under-construction MS rod plant in the site will come into operation by the middle of the next fiscal year, raising the group's MS rod manufacturing capacity to 14 lakh tonnes per year.



Mohammed Zulkernine, director of MAX Infrastructure Ltd, and AK Mohammad Fazlul Karim, project director of SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project-work package-1, exchanged signed documents of two agreements on implementing the civil works of the project at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka in the capital city on Monday. Ghulam Mohammed Alomgir, chairman of MAX Group, was present.

PHOTO: MAX GROUP

MAX Infrastructure, RHD ink deals

STAR BUSINESS DESK

MAX Infrastructure Ltd, a concern of MAX Group, signed separate two agreements with the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges for the implementation of civil works of the SASEC Dhaka-Sylhet Corridor Road Investment Project-work package-1 on Monday.

Mohammed Zulkernine, director of MAX Infrastructure Ltd, and AK Mohammad Fazlul Karim, project director, inked the deals at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka in the capital city, a press release said.

Under these work package deals, LOT No. DS-1, Improvement of Dhaka -- Sylhet National Highway (N2) into 4-Lane Highway with Service Lanes on Both Sides from Katchpur Intersection to Sonpara Bus Stand (Km 00-000 to Km 18-000), will be implemented by the JV of MAX Infrastructure Ltd and Longjian Road and Bridge Company Ltd.

And the LOT No. DS-2,

Improvement of Dhaka -- Sylhet National Highway (N2) into 4-Lane Highway with Service Lanes on Both Sides from Sonpara Bus Stand to Narsingdi BSCIC End (Km 18-000 to Km 35-000), will be implemented by the JV of MAX Infrastructure Ltd and Zhengzhou City Highway Engineering Corporation (ZZHE).

Local engineering conglomerates Max Infrastructure Ltd will take part in the implementation of both LOTs under package 1.

Ghulam Mohammed Alomgir, chairman of MAX Group, expressed his hope to complete this project timely maintaining the due quality, provided the lands are handed over on time and all the stakeholders extend their sincere cooperation.

ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, secretary of the Road Transport and Highways Division, AKM Manir Hossain Pathan, chief engineer, Bao Hongfu, business manager of LRBC in China, and Lu Tianjun, representative of ZZHE in China, were present.