

Sonali Bank holds workshop on cyber security

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Sonali Bank PLC organised a workshop, styled “Cyber security Awareness”, to counter the threats of cyber-attacks in the financial sector.

Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the workshop as chief guest at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Tuesday, said a press release.

Md Afzal Karim, managing director and CEO of the bank, presided over the workshop, where ABM Ruhul Azad, Ishtiaque Ahmed Chowdhury, Daulatunnaher Khanam, Molla Abdul Wadud, Md Matiur Rahman, Abul Kalam Azad, and Gopal Chandra Ghosh, directors, were present.

Mohammad Kaykobad, former professor at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and director of the bank, and Mohammed Ishaque Miah, chief information technology officer of Bangladesh Bank and head of the cyber security unit, conducted the workshop as resource people.



Ziaul Hasan Siddiqui, chairman of Sonali Bank PLC, attends a workshop on cyber security awareness at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SONALI BANK

Walton's industrial expo begins today

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Walton, an electronics manufacturer of Bangladesh, is going to host the country's first-ever mega industrial fair styled “International Advanced Components and Technology (ATS) Expo 2023”.

The three-day exposition will begin today at International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in the capital.

Golam Murshed, managing director and CEO of Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC, disclosed it at a press conference at the ICCB yesterday, said a press release.

The ATS Expo aims to discover the world of possibilities by showcasing various products,



Golam Murshed, managing director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC, attends a press conference at International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: WALTON GROUP

including industrial raw materials, components, testing lab and other industrial services to domestic and international industrialists and visitors, said Murshed.

Over 50,000 industrial materials, components and services will be showcased in the exposition.

Md Humayun Kabir, deputy managing director of Walton and chairman of ATS Expo, Mohammad Yousuf Ali, deputy managing director and co-chairman of ATS Expo, Tofail Ahmed, chief business officer of Walton Refrigerator, Tanvir Rahman, chief business officer of Walton AC, and AFM Nasir Uddin, senior deputy executive director of Walton and coordinator of ATS Expo, were present.



Ibrahim Khalil, chief operating officer of Tasty Treat, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate an outlet of the company at Dilalpur in Pabna on Monday.

PHOTO: PRAN-RFL GROUP

Tasty Treat opens outlets in Pabna

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Tasty Treat, a fast-food retail brand of Pran-RFL Group, has started operations in Pabna by opening two outlets in the Dilalpur and Shalgaria areas of the city on Monday.

Ibrahim Khalil, chief operating officer of the company, inaugurated the outlets, said a press release.

“Tasty Treat is committed to ensuring healthy and hygienic foods at an affordable price. We are witnessing an overwhelming response from consumers wherever we are opening,” said Khalil.

Traditional and birthday cakes, fast-food, pastry, dessert items, savoury items, cookies, biscuits, and sweet items are available at the outlets.

Currently, Tasty Treat has 329 outlets across the country.

Among others, Manwar Hossain, operation manager of the company, and Arif Mahmud Shawn, sub-assistant brand manager, were present.

AIBL organises business review meeting

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd organised a Business Review Meeting for managers of corporate branches at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

Farman R Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of the bank, presided over the meeting, said a press release.

Among others, Shabbir Ahmed, Md Shafiqur Rahman, Syed Masodul Bari, Md Mahmudur Rahman, Mohammed Nadim, Abed Ahmed Khan, Abdullah Al Mamun and Fazlur Rahman Chowdhury, deputy managing directors of the bank, and senior executives were present.



Farman R Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, presides over the bank's business review meeting for managers of corporate branches at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (AUG 9, 2023)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 60-Tk 75	0	-1.46 ↓
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 52	2.04 ↑	2.04 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 52	-4.67 ↓	17.24 ↑
Lentil (kg)	Tk 90-Tk 100	0	-9.52 ↓
Soybean (litre)	Tk 160-Tk 165	-4.97 ↓	-0.91 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 36-Tk 40	-2.56 ↓	31.03 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 70-Tk 80	0	76.47 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 50-Tk 55	9.38 ↑	25 ↑

SOURCE: TCB



Mohammed Yunus, chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank, inaugurates contactless debit, credit and prepaid cards at the bank's corporate head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK

aamarPay teams up with LankaBangla

STAR BUSINESS DESK

aamarPay, a fintech company of the country, has recently entered into strategic payment collaboration with LankaBangla Finance Ltd over payment services.

AM Ishtiaque Sarwer, managing director of the fintech company, and AKM Kamruzzaman, senior executive vice-president and head of operations of the non-bank financial institution, inked an agreement in this regard at the latter's head office in Dhaka, said a press release.

Under the deal, users of the fintech company can pay their LankaBangla credit card bills, DPS instalments, loan EMIs, and even access loan application facilities securely through the aamarPay platform.

Abdul Muktadir Azad, chief operating officer of the fintech company, Mostafa Badrul Hasan, head of commercial department, and Tahrima Tazrin, assistant manager of the strategy and partnership commercial department, and Sheikh Mohammad Fuad, head of ICT of the non-bank financial institution, were present.



AM Ishtiaque Sarwer, managing director of aamarPay, and AKM Kamruzzaman, senior executive vice-president of LankaBangla Finance, pose for photographs during the signing ceremony of a strategic payment collaboration at the latter's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: AAMARPAY SUPER APP

China tips into deflation

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as the problem in real estate re-emerges,” said Gary Ng, Asia Pacific senior economist at Natixis. “It also shows China's slower-than-expected economic rebound is not strong enough to offset the weaker global demand and lift commodity prices.”

The data comes a day after trade figures showed exports and imports both slumping in July and follows a spate of reports on more debt troubles

in China's giant property sector. Worried consumers and companies are hoarding cash rather than spending or investing it, despite lower interest rates.

Asian shares were on the defensive on Wednesday as the Chinese price data confirmed its economic recovery was losing steam. China's anaemic prices contrast sharply with the crippling inflation most other major economies have seen, which forced central banks elsewhere to rapidly raise interest rates.

However, there are signs global inflation may be peaking and, in some cases, reversing. Brazil last week cut interest rates for the first time in three years amid more benign inflationary conditions.

Beijing has set a consumer inflation target of around 3 percent this year, which would be up from 2 percent recorded in 2022, and for now, authorities are downplaying concerns about deflation.

Shahjalal Islami Bank launches contactless cards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd launched contactless debit, credit and prepaid cards with the aim of providing faster services to customers.

Mohammed Yunus, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the cards at a programme in Dhaka, said a press release.

The contactless cards not only provide convenience of contactless payment but also offer all the existing features of regular credit, debit and prepaid cards of the bank.

Among others, Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO of the bank, Abdul Aziz, SM Mainuddin Chowdhury and Mian Quamrul Hasan Chowdhury, additional managing directors, Imtiaz U Ahmed and MM Saiful Islam, deputy managing directors, Md Abul Bashar, company secretary, Md Jafar Sadeq, chief financial officer, and Md Marufur Rahman Khan, head of card division, were present.

India may guarantee

FROM PAGE B1 as the largest export destination for Bangladesh in Asia.

The Bangladesh side requested the Indian side for predictable supply of the essential food commodities.

The Indian side conveyed that Bangladesh's requests will be favourably considered based on prevalent supply conditions in India, and all efforts will be made in this regard, according to the joint statement in September last year.

Afterwards, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi also visited India in December last year and formally placed the import demand with the Indian government.

Later, India suggested that Bangladesh review several of the figures, saying those were too high.

One was the 45 lakh tonnes of wheat. In this regard, India pointed out that currently it was annually providing about 7 lakh tonnes on an average.

Bangladesh annually imports nearly 65 lakh tonnes of wheat from different sources, particularly Russia and Ukraine, to meet local demand.

But following Russia's invasion of Ukraine early on last year, the price of wheat increased worldwide as its availability became uncertain for

the ensuing volatility in the global supply chain.

This prompted the government to look for a guaranteed supply of seven food items to avert any potential food crisis amidst ongoing economic uncertainties.

Later, the commerce ministry formed a five-member committee to assess the actual demand for wheat, rice and sugar, local production and import figures over the last decade, particularly that from India, to send revised figures to India.

The committee was headed by Noor Md Mahbubul Haque, additional secretary to the ministry. Later the commerce ministry sent the revised figures.

The upcoming meeting will be mainly on the import quantities as India recently has shown interest to go into an agreement over the seven essential commodities, Ghosh also said.

However, since the deal has not yet been finalised, it has also not been determined how much the government will import and how much the private importers will import, he said.

Once the deal is finalised, the price and the quantities of both the government and private sector will be determined, he added.

World's largest

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awe of the sophisticated engineering integrated into this floating holiday destination and flocking to buy tickets.

Resembling a village more than a ship, the mammoth vessel boasts colourful waterparks, more than 20 decks and can carry nearly 10,000 people.

A distinct feature of the new ship, which went into construction in 2021 and entered sea trials in June, is a gigantic glass dome that covers part of its front section.

The pandemic dealt a heavy blow to the industry, raising questions about whether it would ever recover.

Cruise companies are now seeing

customers return.

The Cruise Lines International Association has predicted that passenger volume will surpass pre-pandemic levels with 31.5 million passengers in 2023.

“After the restrictions are gone and the situation has eased up, we are seeing that the market is coming back very strong,” Meyer said.

With a gross tonnage of 250,800 – five times the size of the Titanic – Icon of the Seas will snatch the title of the world's largest cruise ship from Royal Caribbean's current flagship, Wonder of the Seas.

Meyer Turku also has two more similar sized Icon-class vessels in their order books.