

# StanChart contributes Tk 2.9cr to uplift apiculture entrepreneurs with BASA Foundation

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Standard Chartered Bangladesh recently signed an agreement with BASA Foundation to launch an initiative under which the organisations will jointly work to uplift local honey producers and create opportunities for entrepreneurs looking to sell and market honey-related products.

Naser Ezaz Bijoy, chief executive officer of the bank, and AKM Shirajul Islam, executive director of the foundation, signed the deal, the bank said in a press release.

"Apiculture investment not only fosters the growth of honeybee populations but also cultivates a flourishing impact on our nation's agriculture sector by enhancing crop pollination, biodiversity, and overall agricultural productivity," Naser said.

"We are confident that the understanding between Standard Chartered Bangladesh and BASA Foundation will lead to a new level and allow both of us to contribute more to marginalised and vulnerable communities from this collaboration," Islam said.

The bank will contribute Tk 2.9 crore to implement this joint project.

This initiative focuses on three core goals, all of which aim to help 800 apiculture entrepreneurs to enhance food hygiene and safety, promote job and value creation, increase sustainable mechanisation, safeguard pollination, promote sustainable agriculture and empower local actors with end-to-end support.



Naser Ezaz Bijoy, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, and AKM Shirajul Islam, executive director of BASA Foundation, exchange signed documents of an agreement on uplifting apiculture entrepreneurs and local bee production in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: STANDARD CHARTERED BANGLADESH

# BMCCI gets new president

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shabbir A Khan, chief executive officer of Khan & Deen Traders, has been elected as president of the Bangladesh Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) for a two-year term (2024-2025).

Associated with pharma, chemical, fast-moving consumer goods and food industries, Khan has been serving as senior vice-president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) and president of the Bangladesh Indenting Agents' Association (BIAA).

Khan will replace Syed Almas Kabir, who was president for the term of 2022-23.

Md Motaher Hoshan Khan, director of Bengal Technological Corporation Ltd, has been re-elected as secretary general of the chamber, while Md Anwar Shahid, managing director of Shimex International Ltd, was elected as senior vice-president, according to a press release.

The election commission announced the result in the chamber's 22nd annual general meeting at the Sheraton Dhaka in Banani yesterday.

M Riyaaz Rasheed, chief financial officer of Robi Axiata Ltd, and Mahbubul Alam, director and chief operating officer of Quasem Food Products Ltd, were elected as vice-presidents respectively.

Rubaiyat Ahsan, managing director of Alliant Ltd, and Sifat Ahmed Chaudhuri, director of Wingspeed Propellers Ltd, were elected as joint secretary generals while Shahriar Taha, managing director of Remex Corporation Ltd, was elected as treasurer for the same period.

The other elected directors are Mahbub Alam Shah, executive director of SMH New Generation Apparels, Syed A Habib, chairman of iPeople, Kazi Shah Muzakker Ahmadul Hoque, managing director of Infra Construction & Engineering, Md Akther Parvez Chowdhury, managing director of PHP Stocks & Securities, Wali Shahique Menhaz Khan, chief executive officer of Green Delta Securities, Sumaiya Noor Chowdhury, director of KN-Harbour Consortium, M Mahmudur Rashid, managing director of Grasshopper Corporation, and SM Ziaul Hoque, chief executive of Chartered Life Insurance Company.



Md Murshedul Kabir, managing director and CEO of Agrani Bank PLC, receives an award from Nihar N Jambusaria, president of the South Asian Federation of Accountants, at a ceremony at Radisson Blu Hotel in New Delhi, India on Friday.

PHOTO: AGRANI BANK

# Agrani Bank wins SAFA gold award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Agrani Bank PLC has won the SAFA International Gold Award for the best annual report in 2022.

Nihar N Jambusaria, president of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), handed over an award to Md Murshedul Kabir, managing director and CEO of the bank, at a ceremony at the Radisson Blu Hotel in New Delhi on Friday, the bank said in a press release.

Kabir expressed his gratitude to the SAFA authorities and the bank's board of directors, management authorities, customers, and well-wishers.

Among others, Muhammed Didarul Islam, chief financial officer of the bank, was present.



Prof Suborna Barua, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, presides over the company's 47th annual general meeting, which was held virtually yesterday.

PHOTO: INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF BANGLADESH

# Investment Corporation of Bangladesh declares 5% dividends

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) approved 5 percent dividend, including 2.5 percent cash dividend, for the year that ended on June 30 this year.

The approval was given at the state-run company's 47th annual general meeting (AGM), which was held virtually yesterday, read a press release.

Prof Suborna Barua, chairman of the board of directors of the company, presided over the meeting featuring a number of shareholders in attendance.

Among others, Md Abul Hossain, managing director of ICB, and other directors of the board were present.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (DEC 23, 2023)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 60-Tk 70	-5.11 ↓	-4.41 ↓
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 50	-3.92 ↓	-2.97 ↓
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 45-Tk 50	0	-24.00 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	4.88 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 155-Tk 160	3.28 ↑	-6.53 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 55-Tk 65	26.32 ↑	166.67 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 100-Tk 120	0	193.33 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 43-Tk 45	6.02 ↑	18.92 ↑

SOURCE: TCB

# Eastern Bank receives taxpayer award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC has been honoured by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) as one of the highest tax-paying banks for the fiscal year 2022-23.

The bank won the accolade in the banking sector, the bank said in a press release.

Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem, chairman of the NBR, handed over a crest and a tax card to Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director and CEO of the bank, at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Agargaon recently.

Among others, Masudul Hoque Sardar, chief financial officer of the bank, was also present.



Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director and CEO of Eastern Bank PLC, receives an award from NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Agargaon recently.

PHOTO: TRIUNE GROUP

# Bata Shoe Company honoured with taxpayer award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd has been awarded by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) as one of the highest taxpayers for the fiscal year 2022-23.

The company won an award in the category of "Leather and Footwear Industry", said a press release.

Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem, chairman of the NBR, handed over a crest and a tax card to Elias Ahmed, finance director of the company, at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Agargaon recently.

The company won the award for the seventh consecutive time for its contribution to the national exchequer.



Elias Ahmed, finance director of Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd, receives a crest and a tax card from Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem, chairman of the National Board of Revenue, at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Agargaon recently.

PHOTO: BATA SHOE COMPANY



PHOTO: MERCANTILE BANK

M Amanullah, sponsor director of Mercantile Bank PLC and chairman of Mercantile Exchange House (UK) Ltd, speaks at an agricultural machinery distribution programme in Nawabganj upazila of Dhaka recently.

# Mercantile Bank distributes agri-machinery in Nawabganj

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mercantile Bank PLC recently distributed agricultural machinery, including power tillers, among the farmers of Nawabganj upazila in Dhaka.

M Amanullah, sponsor director of the bank and chairman of Mercantile Exchange House (UK) Ltd, handed over the agricultural machinery to the farmers as chief guest at a

programme at the bank's Nawabganj branch, read a press release.

Brig Gen (retd) M Shakhawt Hossain, former commissioner of the Bangladesh Election Commission, Prof Tanvir Ahmed Khan, former vice-chancellor of Hamdard University, Habibur Rahman Khan, a film producer, and SM Mohiuddin, head of Nawabganj branch of the bank, were also present.

# Oil eases

REUTERS, New York

Oil prices eased on Friday ahead of the long Christmas holiday weekend on expectations Angola could increase output after leaving Opec, but rose for the week on positive US economic news and worries Houthi ship attacks would boost supply costs.

Brent futures fell 32 cents, or 0.4 percent, to settle at \$79.07 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 33 cents, or 0.5 percent, to settle at \$73.56.

That left both benchmarks up about 3 percent for the week after gaining less than 1 percent last week.