

# Eastern Bank inks deal to set up ATMs in metro rail stations

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank signed an agreement with Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL) to set up automated teller machines (ATMs) at all 16 metro rail stations of MRT Line-6 from Diabari to Motijheel.

M Khorshed Anwar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking of the bank, and Mohammad Abdur Rouf, company secretary (additional charge) of DMTCL, inked the deal at the DMTCL office in Dhaka, read a press release.

Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director and CEO of the bank, handed over a cheque to MAN Siddique, managing director of DMTCL, for one year of rent at the event.

"We are thankful to the DMTCL authorities for the opportunity to set up ATMs at metro rail stations. I hope metro rail users will benefit from our modern ATM services," said Iftekhar.

"We are happy to partner with EBL to bring more convenience to our customers. DMTCL is committed to making metro rail travel more hassle-free and enjoyable," said Siddique.

The bank currently has 242 ATMs, 56 CRMs, and 35 RTDMs across the country.

Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external affairs of the bank, Ahsan Ullah Chowdhury, head of digital financial services, Amin Md Mehedi Hasan, head of digital banking, and Mir Rehan Imtiaz, head of ADC, along with senior officials of DMTCL and the bank were also present.



PHOTO: TRIFUNE GROUP

Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director and CEO of Eastern Bank, presents a crest to MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, at the latter's office in Dhaka yesterday.



SM Mahbul Alam, managing director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries, and Nishat Tasnim Shuchi, director, pose for photographs with the awarded employees of the company at Walton's corporate office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: WALTON HI-TECH INDUSTRIES

# Walton awards 381 employees

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Walton Hi-Tech Industries recently awarded 381 officials and sales executives with a "Best Employee Award" for their outstanding performance in boosting the company's sales during the months of December, 2023 and January this year.

The awardees included sales executives from Walton distributor network, Marcel distributor network, and corporate sales and development network, as well as officials from different departments.

SM Mahbul Alam, managing director of the company, and Nishat Tasnim Shuchi, director, handed over awards and crests to awardees at Walton's corporate office in the capital, read a press release.

"Most domestic buyers of electronics products have kept their trust in Walton products because of its latest technology, and innovative features like huge energy-saving inverter technology products," said Didarul Alam Khan, chief marketing officer of Walton.

# National Bank holds annual business conference for Chattogram region

STAR BUSINESS DESK

National Bank organised its "Annual Business Conference" for the Chattogram region at the bank's Chattogram regional office yesterday.

Syed Ferhat Anwar, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the conference as chief guest, the bank said in a press release.

Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO of the bank, chaired the conference, where Khalilur Rahman, director of the bank, and M Kamal Hossain, independent director, were present.

Participants expressed their determination to work tirelessly throughout the year to expand the bank's business, recover non-performing classified loans and achieve set targets. They discussed detailed action plans.

Among others, Krishna Kamal Ghose, executive vice-president and chief financial officer, and Prabir Kumar Bhowmick, senior vice-president and manager for Chattogram region, were also present.



Syed Ferhat Anwar, chairman of National Bank, poses for photographs with participants of an "Annual Business Conference" for the Chattogram region of the bank at its Chattogram regional office yesterday.

PHOTO: NATIONAL BANK



Md Riad Hossain, senior assistant vice-president and head of card division of Shahjalal Islami Bank, and Md Shafiul Asgar, chief financial officer of Astra Airways, shake hands and exchange signed documents of an agreement at the latter's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK

# Shahjalal Islami Bank inks deal with Astra Airways

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shahjalal Islami Bank yesterday signed an agreement with Astra Airways Ltd, known as Air Astra, at the bank's corporate head office in Dhaka.

Md Riad Hossain, senior assistant vice-president and head of card division

of the bank, and Md Shafiul Asgar, chief financial officer of the airline, inked the deal, read a press release.

Under this agreement, all of the bank's debit and credit cardholders will be able to enjoy a 10 percent discount on base fare.

Credit cardholders will also be able to enjoy EMI facilities for 3

months and 6 months with a zero percent profit rate while traveling with Air Astra.

Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO of the bank, and SM Mainuddin Chowdhury and Mian Quamrul Hasan Chowdhury, additional managing directors, were among those present.



Arifur Rahman, managing director of Esquire Electronics, poses for photographs with the awarded employees and participants of an "Annual Sales Conference-2024" at BRAC CDM Rajendrapur recently.

PHOTO: ESQUIRE ELECTRONICS

# China pledges measures to boost domestic consumption in 2024

ANN/CHINA DAILY

China will introduce a raft of measures, such as stimulating purchases of vehicles and household appliances, to boost consumption this year, a commerce ministry official said Tuesday.

"Automobiles, household appliances and home furnishing are the focus of traditional consumption and are closely related to people's lives," vice-minister of commerce Sheng Qiuping told a press conference.

China will work to promote vehicle trade-ins this year due to the great demand among people and the potential for replacement, Sheng said.

Last year, China's new car sales exceeded 30 million units for the first time, up 12 percent year-on-year.

The country's second-hand car trading volume reached 18.41 million units in 2023, an increase of nearly 15 percent.

Car ownership has reached 340 million in China, ranking first in the world, according to the vice minister.

China will also encourage the renovation of old houses and the replacement of home appliances, as part of a package of measures to bolster domestic demand, Sheng added.

On top of that, China will spur new forms of consumption, such as cross-

border e-commerce, new energy vehicles (NEVs) and China chic products, to unleash consumption potential, Sheng added.

China has ramped up efforts to ensure adequate supply of necessities during the upcoming Spring Festival holiday, which runs from Feb 10 to 17.

There are sufficient inventories of daily necessities in wholesale markets across the country, while supermarket inventories of necessities have increased by 10 percent to 30 percent more than usual, Sheng said. He added that major e-commerce platforms will continue to provide delivery services during the holiday season.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (FEB 6, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 62-Tk 75	1.48 ↑	1.48 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 52	2.0 ↑	0
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 50	3.16 ↑	-14.04 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	10.2 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 158-Tk 165	2.54 ↑	-5.00 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 30-Tk 40	-41.67 ↓	40.00 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 85-Tk 100	8.82 ↑	164.29 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 46-Tk 48	8.05 ↑	4.44 ↑

SOURCE: TCB

# Esquire Electronics organises annual sales conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Esquire Electronics, a distributor of Japan's electronics brands Sharp and General, recently organised its "Annual Sales Conference-2024" at BRAC CDM Rajendrapur.

Arifur Rahman, managing director of the company, inaugurated the conference as chief guest, read a press release.

The company awarded several officers from various departments alongside showroom managers for their outstanding performance.

Azman Arif Rahman, director of the bank, along with senior officials of the company and all the officers of the sales and marketing department were also present.

# App stores

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fastest-growing developer community in Bangladesh, he added. The platform came about as a part of Robi's attempts at diversifying its portfolio, offering more tech solutions and digital lifestyle products, he added.

Currently, bdapps offers a vast collection of over 100,000 apps.

It is a groundbreaking platform that empowers coders, non-coders, and "ideators".

Here, anyone with a passion for technology can seamlessly transform their ideas into monetisable ventures, said Robi, the country's second largest operator.

Meanwhile, Banglalink launched AppLink in 2022 for young Bangladeshi developers who can create USSD, SMS and API-based applications and host their app on the platform.

Unstructured Supplementary Service Data or USSD in short is a service that allows mobile phone users to interact with a remote

application from their device in real time.

Currently, AppLink is a community of 8,000 developers and 14,000 apps. Besides, AppLink "campus ambassadors" are present at over 40 universities across the country creating communities of developers in each, said the operator.

Kaan Terzioğlu, group chief executive officer (CEO) of Banglalink's parent company Veon, in an interview with The Daily Star earlier, said Banglalink would make significant investments to transform itself from a traditional telecom operator to a digital one.

This was a part of its efforts to adapt to the changing nature of the industry, he said.

He said a traditional operator sells minutes, data, and SMS. On the other hand, digital operators' services support customers' lifestyles - TV service, music, news, cloud, financing, healthcare, and many more.

Officials of Banglalink said the app store reflected that vision.