

# Premier Bank, Nagad ink deal on remittance disbursement

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Premier Bank has signed an agreement with Nagad Ltd for the distribution of wage earners' foreign remittance directly to the beneficiaries' e-wallets.

Shamsuddin Chowdhury, additional managing director of the bank, and Maruful Islam Jhalak, executive director of the mobile financial service (MFS) provider, inked the deal at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

The agreement will increase remittance inflow to Bangladesh and facilitate MFS users to receive foreign remittance conveniently, the bank said in a press release.

Among others, Mamun Mahmud, senior executive vice president and CHRO of the bank, Mohammad Akram Hossain, company secretary, Syed Md Hasib Reza, first vice-president and head of remittance division, and Shah Arafat Hossain, assistant vice-president, and Mohammad Ziaul Hoque, head of remittance of Nagad, were also present.



PHOTO: PREMIER BANK

Shamsuddin Chowdhury, additional managing director of Premier Bank, and Maruful Islam Jhalak, executive director of Nagad, shake hands and exchange documents of an agreement on remittance disbursement at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

# UK jobless rate rises as wage growth eases

AFP, London

British unemployment has risen as wage growth has eased, official data showed Tuesday, leaving the door open for an interest rate cut according to analysts.

The UK unemployment rate rose to 4.2 percent in the three months to the end of February, up from 3.9 percent in the three months to January, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

"We are now seeing tentative signs that the jobs market is beginning to cool," said Liz McKeown, ONS director of economic statistics.

The ONS added that average regular pay growth, excluding bonuses, dipped to 6.0 percent from 6.1 percent.

However, taking into account Britain's annual inflation rate during the period, real wages rose by only 2.1 percent.

"Easing pressure in the labour market keeps the Bank of England on track for a summer rate cut," commented Yael Selfin, chief economist at KPMG UK.

"The slight easing in regular pay growth will bring some comfort for the BoE which has relied on the pay data as a key gauge of domestic inflationary pressure."

# Unimart offers benefits to Eastern Bank cardholders

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank has recently penned an agreement with Unimart Limited, one of the premium superstores in Bangladesh.

M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking of the bank, and Shahin Mahmud, chief operating officer of the superstore, inked a deal to this effect in Dhaka recently.

Under this agreement, the bank's cardholders will get special benefits for purchases from the superstore, the bank said in a press release.

Among others, Farzana Qader, senior manager for retail alliance of the bank, and HUM Mehedi Sajjad, head of brand and communication of the superstore, were also present.



M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking of Eastern Bank, and Shahin Mahmud, chief operating officer of Unimart Ltd, pose for photographs after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently.

# Community Bank declares 10.40% cash dividend

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Community Bank Bangladesh yesterday declared a 10.40 percent cash dividend for the year 2023.

The declaration came at the bank's 51st board meeting at the Bangladesh Police Headquarters in Dhaka, the bank said in a press release.

Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, inspector general of police and chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting, where the bank's audited financial statements for 2023 were approved. Investment

proposals and different issues were also discussed.

Md Kamrul Ahsan, additional IG (admin) of Bangladesh Police, M Khurshid Hossain, director general of Rapid Action Battalion, SM Ruhul Amin, additional IG of anti-terrorism unit at Bangladesh Police, Md Mazharul Islam, additional IG (L&AA), Md Atiqul Islam, additional IG (crime and operations), Abu Hasan Muhammad Tarique, additional IG (finance), Habibur Rahman, additional IG and commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police,

and Md Aminul Islam, deputy IG (admin), were present.

Among others, Quazi Zia Uddin, deputy IG (HRM) of Bangladesh Police, Shoeb Reaz Alam, additional DIG (development revenue-1), Muntashirul Islam, additional DIG of Police Welfare Trust at Police Headquarters, Sufian Ahmed, additional DIG and director (academic) of Police Staff College, Masud Khan and Kazi Masihur Rahman, independent directors of the bank, and Masihul Huq Chowdhury, managing director, were also present.



Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, inspector general of police and chairman of Community Bank Bangladesh, presides over the bank's 51st board meeting at the Bangladesh Police Headquarters in Dhaka yesterday. The board declared a 10.40 percent cash dividend for the year 2023.

PHOTO: COMMUNITY BANK BANGLADESH

# BASIC Bank officials 'terrified'

FROM PAGE B1

Responding to a query, Haque said although BASIC is government-owned, it is unlike any other state-run bank.

Other state-run banks were formed through the Banks' Nationalization Order but BASIC Bank was not formed the same way, which is why there will be no difficulties in merging it with a private commercial bank, he added.

## BB APPOINTS AUDITOR FOR PADMA BANK, EXIM BANK

As part of their merger, Bangladesh Bank has appointed an audit firm

to examine Padma Bank and EXIM Bank and find out the actual financial health of these banks.

The audit firm, Rahman Rahman Huq, was appointed by the central bank recently as a part of the merger plan, Haque said.

He also said the audit firm was instructed to submit its report to the central bank within a fixed period.

EXIM Bank and Padma Bank signed a memorandum of understanding on March 18 to initiate the merger process in the presence of the central bank governor.

Till now, the central bank has

received five merger proposals.

These include state-run Sonali Bank's acquisition of Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd and Bangladesh Krishi Bank's takeover of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank.

Additionally, City Bank, a private commercial lender, wants to acquire state-run BASIC Bank, while another private lender, United Commercial Bank Limited, plans to buy National Bank.

"We will work on the five proposals at this moment. We will receive more proposals after completing the five proposed mergers," Haque said recently.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)**  
**Medical Education and Family Welfare Division**  
**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**  
13/1 Sheikh Shaheb Bazar, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205  
www.niport.gov.bd

### Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/Medical Education and Family Welfare Division			
Agency	National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)			
Procuring Entity Name	Training Research and Development (TRD) Operational Plan of 4 <sup>th</sup> HPNSP, National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT), Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)			
Procuring Entity Code	16206224108800			
Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
Expression of Interest for Selection of	Research/Consulting Firm (National)			
Title of Services (Six packages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS 01: Increasing Trend of Caesarean Section Delivery in Bangladesh: Causes, consequences and Measures.</li> <li>NPS 02: Knowledge, attitude and expectations about the family planning services among adolescent and youth in the socioeconomic and technological changing context of Bangladesh.</li> <li>NPS 04: Poverty and health among older population in Bangladesh: Is older people health improved by Old Age Allowance.</li> <li>NPS 05: Training need assessment of Medical Colleges Teachers.</li> <li>NPS 07: Assessment of the Socio-economic Inequalities in Continuum of Care across Women's Reproductive Life Cycle in Bangladesh.</li> <li>NPS 08: A study on performance and cost effectiveness of Paid Peer Volunteers (PPV) in MCH-FP services.</li> </ul>			
EOI Ref. No.	NIPORT/Research- NIPORT/Research-59.12.0000.003.29.099.21 (part-1)			
Date	16/04/2024			
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
Procurement Sub-Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)			
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget GOB (Dev) and RPA (GOB)			
Development Partners	DP Pool			
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
Project/Programme Name	Training, Research and Development (TRD) Operational Plan of 4 <sup>th</sup> HPNSP			
Last Date/EOI Closing Date and Time	30/04/2024, 2:00 PM			
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>				
Brief Description of Assignment	<p><b>a) Broad objective of above mentioned six packages:</b></p> <p>Overall objective of the assignments is to collect and produce clean data set for the following research studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPS 01: Increasing Trend of Caesarean Section Delivery in Bangladesh: Causes, consequences and Measures.</li> <li>NPS 02: Knowledge, attitude and expectations about the family planning services among adolescent and youth in the socioeconomic and technological changing context of Bangladesh.</li> <li>NPS 04: Poverty and health among older population in Bangladesh: Is older people health improved by Old Age Allowance.</li> <li>NPS 05: Training need assessment of Medical Colleges Teachers.</li> <li>NPS 07: Assessment of the Socio-economic Inequalities in Continuum of Care across Women's Reproductive Life Cycle in Bangladesh.</li> <li>NPS 08: A study on performance and cost effectiveness of Paid Peer Volunteers (PPV) in MCH-FP services.</li> </ul> <p>b) NIPORT now invites eligible research/consulting firms to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for the above service package. Interested consultants (firms) are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to provide the services (procedures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff).</p> <p>Special Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incomplete/partial EOIs will be rejected. EOI proposal should be submitted for each package independently. Each consultant is eligible to submit EOI for one or more packages.</li> <li>Interested firm (s) must provide focused information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services.</li> <li>Each EOI proposal should not exceed 150 pages.</li> <li>Authority may visit concern offices (if necessary).</li> <li>Firms(s) must submit, valid registration certificate, TIN certificate, and VAT Certificate or so.</li> <li>The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EOIs or annul the EOI process at any stage without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected applicant(s).</li> <li>Subject to the approval and availability of fund under TRD-Operational Plan of 4<sup>th</sup> HPNSP, the assigned packages will be implemented.</li> <li>c) A consultant (research firm) will be selected for each package in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2006 and Public Procurement Regulations 2008 (with latest amendments) issued by the GOB.</li> <li>d) Interested consulting firm(s) is required to submit their EOI along with relevant supporting documents (2 copies) in a sealed envelope to the address indicated below by 30 April 2024, 2:00 pm.</li> <li>e) Detailed description of services will be given in the TOR to the short-listed consultants (research firms).</li> </ul>			
Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	<p>The firm shall have at least 15 years of experience in conducting health, demographic and population related research and surveys.</p> <p>The EOIs would be evaluated based on the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age of business of consultant (firm): Duration involved in doing health, demographic and population related research/survey activities</li> <li>Availability of key professional staff: list of key personnel &amp; professionals, their qualifications and experience, list of management staff, their qualifications and experience</li> <li>Total turnover of the consultant (firm) in the last four years minimum Tk. 500.00 lakhs (with supporting bank statement)</li> <li>Experience of the consultant (firm) in similar fields: implementation of at least 3 research studies research, supporting documents in favour of experiences of consultant (firm) should be added.</li> <li>Experience of the consultant (firm) in other works/assignments: Experience in conducting other research activities in similar process at NIPORT or MOHFW.</li> <li>Support service of the consultant (firm): HR, Office Space, Training Facilities, Bank Solvency (with mentioning amount), Equipment's etc.</li> </ol> <p>Consultants (research firm) may associate to enhance their qualifications but should clearly mention whether the association is in the form of a "Joint-Venture" or of "Sub-Consultancy". In the case of a joint venture, all members of such "association" should have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and it is preferable to limit the total number of firms including the associates to a maximum of two.</p>			
Other Details (if applicable)	Submission of EOI for each of the package must be done in closed envelope bearing the name and address of the applicant, Title and No. of EOI and date and addressed to the issuing authority separately			
Association with foreign firms is	Encouraged			
<b>EOI Detail Information</b>				
Ref No	Phasing of Services	Location	Start Date	Completion Date
NPS-01, NPS-02, NPS-04, NPS-05, NPS-07, NPS-08	Single	Dhaka	June 2024	June 2024
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
Name of Official Inviting EOI	Mohammed Ahsanul Alam			
Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Director (Research), NIPORT			
Address of Official Inviting EOI	National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT), Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 13/1 Sheikh Shaheb Bazar, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205			
Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Phone: 02-226683612, Email: slam.niport@gmail.com, diresearch@niport.gov.bd			
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI proposals and to the procurement process at any stage without showing any reason.				
Signed (Mohammed Ahsanul Alam) Director, (Research) NIPORT Phone: 02-226683612				