

StanChart, Channel i honour 11 agriculture heroes at 9th Agrow Award

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Standard Chartered Bangladesh and Channel i jointly awarded 11 individuals and institutions at the 9th Agrow Award for their contributions towards achieving climate adaptation goals, building sustainable networks, supplementing value chains, research initiatives, and driving tangible change across homesteads and commercial agricultural operations.

Md Abdur Rahman, minister for fisheries and livestock, attended the ceremony as chief guest and handed out crests and prize money to winners at the InterContinental Dhaka on Friday, according to a press release.

Although the organisers were supposed to confer awards in 12 categories, they did not get qualified nominees in one category.

Md Abul Kalam Azad was awarded "Farmer of The Year (male)", while Tania Parvin won in the female category.

Sanwar Hossain got the "Heroes for Change" award while Md Siddik Hosen and Sabitri Biswas were awarded the "Most Resilient Farmer of the Year" award in the male and female category respectively.

Besides, Mrinmoy Guha Neogi won the "Climate Adaptation Solution of the Year", Shahanuare Shaid Shahin of Daily Kaler Kantho bagged the "Best Journalist" prize, and Mohammad Al-Mamun was chosen as "Jury Special".

MA Sattar Mandal, professor emeritus of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), won the lifetime achievement award.

PRAN Dairy bagged the award for the "Best Agricultural Exporter" while



Md Abdur Rahman, minister for fisheries and livestock, poses for photographs with award winners at the 9th Agrow Award, jointly organised by Standard Chartered Bangladesh and Channel i at the InterContinental Dhaka on Friday.

PHOTO: STANDARD CHARTERED BANGLADESH

Farmer was awarded as the "Best Agricultural Organisation in Support and Execution".

The most Agrow Award honorees bring the total number of recipients to 77.

At the event, Naser Ezaz Bijoy, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, said: "This year's Agrow Award winners do exactly what is needed

to meet the need of the hour – their efforts reflect resilience and the urgency in use of technology and innovation."

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Channel i, said: "Agriculture and farmers are playing an important role in the progress of Bangladesh. From agricultural production to agricultural trade, a light of immense potential is

constantly spreading. We want to spread that light throughout the country."

Shykh Seraj, director and head of news at Channel i, said: "Those who received the Agrow Award have made a great contribution in their respective fields. Channel i is delighted to honour these dedicated people in collaboration with Standard Chartered Bangladesh."

Faruque Ahmed elected chairperson of RDRS board of trustees

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Faruque Ahmed has been elected chairperson of the Board of Trustees of RDRS Bangladesh for a three year term, effective from yesterday.

Ahmed has been a member of the RDRS Board of Trustees since March 16, 2020, the development organisation said in a press release.



Ahmed is a board member of the Social Marketing Company (SMC) Enterprise and an active member of the Bangladesh Health Watch working group.

He was the executive director of BRAC International and worked at the World Bank office in Dhaka.

He was also a board member of the vaccine alliance, GAVI, in Geneva and worked in various committees of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.

His continued commitment to the organisation's mission underscores his passion for development, RDRS said in a press release.

Ahmed obtained his master's degree in economics from the University of Dhaka and another master's in health sciences from Johns Hopkins University in the US.

Oil settles higher

REUTERS, Houston

Oil prices settled higher on Friday, garnering support from tensions in the Middle East, but a strong dollar and US inflation data quashed hopes that the Federal Reserve would cut interest rates soon, giving prices a ceiling.

Brent crude futures settled up 49 cents, or 0.55 percent, to \$89.50 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures settled up 28 cents, or 0.34 percent, to \$83.85 a barrel.

Supply concerns supported prices as tensions continue in the Middle East.



AMM Moyeen Uddin, deputy managing director of Dhaka Bank, inaugurates a Shanir Akhra sub-branch of the bank in the capital's Jatrabari recently.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

Dhaka Bank opens sub-branch at Shanir Akhra

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Bank recently opened a sub-branch in the Shanir Akhra area of the capital under its Jatrabari branch. It is the bank's 31st sub-branch.

AMM Moyeen Uddin, deputy managing director of the bank, inaugurated the sub-branch, the bank said in a press release.

Tipu Sultan, senior executive vice-president and head of Islamic banking division, Altamas Nirjhor, senior vice-president and head of general services division, and Mostaq Ahmed, ward commissioner of the 62nd ward in Dhaka, attended the programme.

Among others, Md Moniruzzaman, first vice-president and manager of Jatrabari branch and in-charge of Shanir Akhra sub-branch, along with other senior officials were also present.

Green Delta, Truck Lagbe strike deal on motor insurance services

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Green Delta Insurance recently signed an agreement with Truck Lagbe to facilitate motor insurance services to the latter's customers.

This collaboration is set to transform truck insurance by offering comprehensive motor insurance exclusively tailored to the fleet of trucks operating under the Truck Lagbe umbrella.

Syed Moinuddin Ahmed, additional managing director of the insurer, and Anayet Rashid, founder and CEO of Truck Lagbe, penned the deal at the insurer's office in Dhaka, read a press release.

The collaboration between the two organisations is poised to set a benchmark in the logistics industry, potentially inspiring similar partnerships and products that could lead to widespread improvements in safety standards and insurance coverage across the sector.

Both companies have expressed their commitment to not only maintaining but also expanding their partnership to include more innovative insurance products and services tailored to meet the evolving needs of the logistics industry.

Among others, Shubashish Barua, head of impact business of the insurer, and Md Nafees Ur Rahman, senior vice-president for operations of Truck Lagbe, alongside other officials from both organisations were also present.



Syed Moinuddin Ahmed, additional managing director of Green Delta Insurance, and Anayet Rashid, founder and CEO of Truck Lagbe, pose for photographs after signing an agreement on motor insurance services at the insurer's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: GREEN DELTA INSURANCE

Delta Life Insurance Company organises annual business conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Delta Life Insurance Company recently organised its "Annual Business Conference 2023" at Hotel Sea Palace in Cox's Bazar.

Hafiz Ahmed Mazumdar, chairman of the life insurer, attended the programme as chief guest, the insurer said in a press release.

Anwarul Haque, chief executive officer (current charge) of the life insurer, presided over the event, where Adeeba Rahman, director and chairman of the executive committee, and Zeyad Rahman and Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, directors, were present as special guests.

More than 1,000 qualified development officers of the insurer attended the programme, where the best performers were awarded.

Among others, Uttam Kumar Sadhu, deputy managing director and convener of the conference management committee of the life insurer, was also present.



Hafiz Ahmed Mazumdar, chairman of Delta Life Insurance Company, attends an "Annual Business Conference-2023" of the life insurer at Hotel Sea Palace in Cox's Bazar recently.

PHOTO: DELTA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

China's EV execs bullish on Western pressure at Beijing car show

AFP, Beijing

Electric vehicle executives at a top car show in China were bullish on prospects for growth, despite a gruelling price war and mounting Western pressure on the industry.

Thousands of car lovers and company representatives descended on Beijing this week for the Auto China show – a chance for industry giants to show off new designs and cutting edge technologies aimed at getting ahead in the fiercely competitive sector.

And even as firms face down a cut-throat price war at home and mounting regulatory pressure overseas, executives and attendees were upbeat.

"I've never seen anything like this before," one company representative who declined to be named told AFP.

"There's a lot of expectation about what new models, new technologies Chinese carmakers will unveil."

One of the stars of the show was Lei Jun, CEO of consumer electronics giant Xiaomi, fresh from declaring he had staked his "reputation" on the success of his firm's first-ever EV, the SU7.

Lei was mobbed by scores of people, some shouting his mimetic slogan "are you OK?" – a joke referring to the CEO's broken English which fans have reclaimed as proof of his likeability.

All were keen to get a snap of the latest player in the hotly contested EV sector.

Lei has said his SU7 is the most "Apple-friendly" EV on the market – tapping into a prominent theme at the Auto Show: the emphasis on smart technology.

With everything from high-tech navigation systems to built-in karaoke machines, Chinese EVs can

sometimes feel equipped with more gadgets than James Bond.

"Chinese customers are now more attuned to fast-evolving digitalization, internet-stage and smart technology inside their vehicles," Brian Gu, President and Vice Chairman of EV giant XPeng, told AFP.

"Using voice, using large screens and relying on more smart-driving technologies – that's also already becoming a hallmark of Chinese products," he said.

European customers, he said, aren't yet ready for that technology.

"It will take time, but I think ultimately, technology will converge," Gu explained.

"We're very confident about that."

But before that can happen, Chinese carmakers will have to get past European regulators.

The European Union launched an investigation last year into Chinese state EV subsidies, which it said had given companies from the country an "unfair" leg up in the local market.

And Brussels – along with allies in Washington – has raised fears that Chinese industrial "overcapacity" created by excessive state subsidies could see global markets flooded with cheap Chinese EVs.

"We certainly hope that there won't be an introduction of tariffs. I think it is not good for consumers," said William Li, CEO of Nio, another EV giant.

"Every place, region, and country has some consideration for protecting employment in their own industries," he said.

"This is a reasonable demand, but we still hope to return to common sense."

XPeng, Gu said, is also determined to make headway into the European market.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (APR 27, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 64-Tk 76	-71 ↓	2.19 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 54	1.96 ↑	9.47 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	-10.53 ↓	-24.78 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	13.16 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 148-Tk 154	-33 ↓	-11.95 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 46-Tk 50	23.08 ↑	43.28 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 58-Tk 60	-9.23 ↓	24.21 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 40-Tk 44	1.20 ↑	-4.55 ↓

SOURCE: TCB