

Dhaka Bank recognised as ADB's leading partner bank in Bangladesh

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Dhaka Bank PLC has been recognised as the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) leading partner bank in Bangladesh at the 10th Anniversary of the Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program (TSCFP) Awards 2024 organised by the Manila-based multilateral lender.

Akhlaqur Rahman, deputy managing director of Dhaka Bank, received the award from Steven Beck, head of the Trade and Supply Chain Finance (TSCF) at the ADB, in Singapore recently, according to a press release.

Sahabub Alam Khan, executive vice-president and chief financial officer of Dhaka Bank, and Neha Noronha, unit head for South Asia of the TSCF at the ADB, were present along with more than 200 representatives from the ADB's partner banks and financial institutions.

Dhaka Bank has been able to attain this achievement by being the most active partner

bank in Bangladesh to support the highest number of international trade transactions through partnering with ADB in the last fiscal year. The bank has been enlisted as an issuing bank in ADB's TSCF programme since 2009.

Utilising the facilities of this programme, Dhaka Bank is supporting, enriching and expanding the international trade business of its numerous corporate and SME clients and contributing to the country's economic growth.

Currently, a total of 87 banks from developing member countries in Asia and the Pacific are part of the TSCF programme. Of them, 16 banks are from Bangladesh.

This award serves as a testament to Dhaka Bank's unwavering commitment to its global partners, including the Asian Development Bank. It also highlights Dhaka Bank's position as a top player in international trade finance and reflects its motto of "Excellence in Banking", the press release added.



Akhlaqur Rahman, deputy managing director of Dhaka Bank, poses for photographs with an award after receiving it from Steven Beck, head of the Trade and Supply Chain Finance at the Asian Development Bank, at the Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program Awards 2024 in Singapore recently.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

Hanif Shoeb made chairman of Citizens Bank

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Chowdhury Mohammed Hanif Shoeb has been elected chairman of Citizens Bank PLC.

The election was held at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently during the 3rd annual general meeting (AGM), which was attended by most of the shareholders and directors, said a press release.

Chowdhury was the chairman of the risk management committee of the bank.

He contributed meaningfully to ingrain the good risk management and compliance culture as well as practices in the bank.

Chowdhury is a businessperson having an experience of 30 years and exposures in the country's trading and industrial segment with particular concentration in the garments and textile sector.

Chowdhury is the chief executive and managing director of a good number of enterprises of Salma Group, occupying distinctive positions in the corporate business landscape of the country.

Southeast Bank launches co-branded cards with insurance benefits



Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank PLC, Md Rafel Kabir, chief executive officer of Instasure Limited, and Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard, attend the launch of a co-branded card in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: MASTHEAD PR

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Southeast Bank PLC and Instasure Limited in collaboration with Mastercard, launched a co-branded Titanium credit card and a prepaid card.

The new cards will come with multiple insurance and healthcare benefits, such as low premium plans, quick claim processing and settlement, and cost-effective deals on health tests.

Cardholders will be eligible for discounts on pathology tests and radiological imaging, and will be able to avail comprehensive term life, accident, and disability insurance plans with a coverage of up to Tk 500,000.

The new cards will also allow cardholders to access the switch on - switch off insurance feature via the

Instasure platform, according to a press release.

Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of the bank, said, "This collaboration will reinforce Southeast Bank's commitment to provide innovative solutions with healthcare and insurance benefits to its customers."

"With these new products, customers will be able to not only avail healthcare services at top hospitals and other medical facilities but will also be able to access customised insurance plans."

Md Rafel Kabir, chief executive officer of Instasure Limited, said, "With promising coverage options and additional benefits, our customers will enjoy a frictionless experience and be able to optimise their health and secure their future."

Commercial Bank of Ceylon signs deal with Ramada By Wyndham

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Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ramada By Wyndham Cox's Bazar Kolatoli Beach, a five-star hotel nestled in the heart of marine drive, Cox's Bazar, to offer discount facilities for the bank's visa cardholders.

Kasun Herath, deputy chief executive officer and chief operating officer of the bank, and Chevan Gooneratne, general manager of the hotel, penned the MoU at the bank's head office in Dhaka, the bank said in a press release. Other senior officials from both of the companies were also present.



Kasun Herath, deputy chief executive officer and chief operating officer of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, and Chevan Gooneratne, general manager of Ramada By Wyndham Cox's Bazar Kolatoli Beach, shake hands and exchange signed documents of a memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON

BRAC Bank, Kidney Foundation Sylhet sign deal to set up oxygen plant

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BRAC Bank recently signed an agreement with Kidney Foundation Sylhet (KFS) to set up an oxygen plant at the latter's new premises, reinforcing its continued commitment to the healthcare sector.

Meheriar M Hasan, chairperson of the bank, and Col (ret'd) Mohammad Abdus Salam, secretary general of the KFS, penned the deal at the foundation, the bank said in a press release.

Hasan said, "We at BRAC Bank are honoured to contribute to this vital initiative that embodies the spirit of service and compassion exemplified by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed. The oxygen plant will ensure patients have access to critical medical resources."

"Through the Sir Abed Kidney Dialysis Fund, we aim to alleviate the burden of healthcare costs for those facing financial hardship."

"Our commitment to the wellbeing of our communities is at the heart of our 'BRAC Bank Oporajeyo Ami' initiative, and we will continue to champion such causes for a healthier and more equitable society," he added.

Through the health initiative 'BRAC Bank



Meheriar M Hasan, chairperson of BRAC Bank, and Col (ret'd) Mohammad Abdus Salam, secretary general of Kidney Foundation Sylhet, pose for photographs after signing an agreement at the foundation in Sylhet recently.

PHOTO: BRAC BANK

Aporajeyo Ami', the bank remains committed to creating a lasting impact in the health sector and empowering society's most vulnerable.

The foundation designed a dedicated floor named after Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, in honour of the visionary founder of BRAC, to provide life-saving kidney dialysis services to patients.

As part of its ongoing commitment to

supporting vulnerable communities, the bank will also contribute to the 'Sir Abed Kidney Dialysis Fund', providing free dialysis services to financially disadvantaged patients.

Among others, Sheikh Mohammad Ashlaque, deputy managing director and head of branch distribution network of the bank, and Ekram Kabir, head of communication, were also present.

Pragati Life inaugurates construction of new head office



Abdul Awal Mintoo, chairman of Pragati Life Insurance Limited, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the commencement of construction work of the life insurer's new head office in the capital's Gulshan recently.

PHOTO: PRAGATI LIFE INSURANCE

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Pragati Life Insurance Limited recently held a function to mark the commencement of the construction of its new headquarters in the capital's Gulshan.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, chairman of the life insurer, inaugurated the construction work, the insurer said in a press release.

Syed M Altaf Hussain, founding chairman of the insurer, attended the programme. The new head office will be equipped with modern facilities and will provide better services to customers.

Additionally, it will provide a congenial work environment for employees.

Md Jalalul Azim, managing director and CEO of the insurer, along with director and other senior executives of the life insurer were also present.

Easy, convenient, cheap

FROM PAGE B4

Since they appeared in the 1990s, water sachets have become a major pollutant across much of Africa, but they remain popular for drinking, cooking and even washing.

Some 200 firms produce the sachets in Lagos, and several hundred more recycle plastic, but supply vastly outstrips capacity in a country with few public wastebins and little environmental education.

Lagos banned single-use plastic in January, but with little impact so far.

The United Nations estimates up to 60 million water sachets are discarded across Nigeria every day.

Rio

Each day, vendors walk the sands of some of Rio de Janeiro's most beautiful beaches, lugging metal containers filled with the tea-like drink mate.

The iced beverage, infused with fruit juice, is dispensed into plastic cups for eager sun worshippers dotted along the seafloor.

"Drinking mate is part of Rio de Janeiro's culture," explained Arthur Jorge da Silva, 47, as he scouted for customers. He acknowledged the environmental impacts of his towers of plastic cups, in a country ranked the fourth-biggest producer of plastic waste in 2019.

But "it's complicated" to find affordable alternatives, he told AFP.

The tanned salesman said mate vendors on the beach had used plastic for as long as he could remember.

He pays a dollar for a tower of 20 cups and charges customers \$1.80 for each drink. Bins along Rio's beaches receive about 130 tons of waste a day, but plastic is not separated, and just three percent of Brazil's waste is recycled annually.

Evelyn Talavera, 24, said she does her best to clean up when leaving the beach.

"We have to take care of our planet, throw the garbage away, keep the environment clean."

Plastic straws have been banned in Rio's restaurants and bars since 2018, and shops are no longer required to offer free plastic bags -- though many still do.

Congress is also considering legislation that would ban all single-use plastic.

Paris

In France, single-use plastic has been banned since 2016, but while items like straws and plastic cutlery have disappeared, plastic bags remain stubbornly common.

At Paris' Aligre market, stalls are piled with fruit, vegetables and stacks of bags ready to be handed out.

Most are stamped "reusable and 100 percent recyclable", and some are described as compostable or produced from natural materials.

But experts have cast doubt on the environmental relevance of some of these claims.

Vendor Laurent Benacer gets through a 24-euro (\$26) box of 2,000 bags each week.

"In Paris, everyone asks for a bag," he told AFP.

"I'd stopped, but my neighbours continued, so I had to restart."

There are alternatives like paper bags, but some customers are simply not convinced.

"Plastic bags remain practical, so everything doesn't spill everywhere," insisted 80-year-old customer Catherine Sale.

Dubai

At the Allo Beirut restaurant in Dubai, plastic containers are piled high, waiting to be filled and delivered across the city.

"We receive more than 1,200 orders a day," said delivery manager Mohammed Chanane.

"We use plastic boxes because they are more airtight, and better preserve the food," he said.

With few pedestrians and an often-scorching climate, many of Dubai's 3.7 million residents rely on delivery for everything from petrol to coffee.

Residents of the United Arab Emirates have one of the highest volumes of waste per capita in the world.

And single-use plastic accounts for 40 percent of all plastic used in the country.

Since June, single-use plastic bags and several similar items have been banned. Polystyrene containers will follow next year.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (SEP 17, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 64-Tk 80	2.86 ↑	9.09 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 52-Tk 55	0 ↑	9.18 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-8.60 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	0 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 145-Tk 155	1.01 ↑	-4.76 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 55	0	10.53 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 110-Tk 115	-2.17 ↓	50.00 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 53-Tk 55	10.20 ↑	5.88 ↑
SOURCE: TCB			