

Unilever Bangladesh working for a sustainable future

Says British high commissioner

STAR BUSINESS DESK

As Bangladesh continues its journey toward sustainable development, adopting green practices and ensuring transparency, Unilever's efforts demonstrate how business can lead the way in creating a sustainable future while contributing to global sustainable development goals, said British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke.

The envoy made the comment while launching the Sustainability Blue Book 2024, the second voluntary report published by Unilever Bangladesh Limited (UBL) at the "Progressing Sustainably: Together for Bangladesh" programme in Dhaka on Wednesday.

"I commend Unilever Bangladesh, a major UK investor, for their commitment to producing high-quality, locally made products that benefit millions of Bangladeshi households. Their focus on sustainability and inclusive business growth serves as a powerful example for others," said the envoy.

The event brought together UBL's valued partners, key industry players, and sustainability advocates in Bangladesh to share and discuss their progress and vision for a sustainable future for Bangladesh.

Zaved Akhtar, chairman and managing director of UBL, said, "For over six decades, Unilever has been committed



PHOTO: UNILEVER BANGLADESH

Sarah Cooke, British high commissioner to Bangladesh, and Zaved Akhtar, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh Limited (UBL), pose for photographs while launching a "Sustainability Blue Book 2024", the second voluntary report published by UBL, at a ceremony titled "Progressing Sustainably: Together for Bangladesh" in Dhaka on Wednesday.

to Bangladesh's growth, integrating sustainability at the core of our business. By focusing on actionable goals alongside long-term commitments, we aim to protect the planet while creating economic value."

"However, this journey requires collective action. The next era of sustainability will largely depend on how we work together as a community."

"With 2025 set to be a pivotal year for everyone as there will be significant

developments in policy dialogues, primarily related to plastic, nutrition, and the ocean, we have to collectively focus on innovation through collaboration. And, today's engagement with all our partners joining us to celebrate and progress sustainability together for Bangladesh, reflects the power of unity, giving us hope to build a sustainable, inclusive future for Bangladesh and beyond"

Shamima Akhter, director of corporate

affairs, partnerships and communications at UBL, delivered the keynote speech.

The programme also featured three roundtable discussions with experts, focusing on the current problems and collaborative solutions to protect the environment. The UBL team presented four compelling case studies, highlighting their key initiatives under the four focus sustainability pillars: climate, nature, plastic, and livelihood.

Mirza Azhar Ahmad joins Bank Asia as DMD

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Mirza Azhar Ahmad has recently joined Bank Asia PLC as deputy managing director (DMD) and chief operating officer.

Ahmad started his career at Standard Chartered Bank in 1999 and served there till 2022, the bank said in a press release.

He previously worked at ONE Bank PLC as senior executive vice-president and head of operation in February 2022, where he played a pivotal role in heading and managing the operations division.

His area of expertise covered branch operations, card operations, centralised clearing unit, cash management operations, ATM operations, centralised service delivery, retail loan administration, treasury back office etc.

He has more than two decades of banking experience to his credit.

Ahmad obtained his honours and master's degrees in international relations from the University of Dhaka.

Gold price rises

REUTERS

Gold prices rose on Thursday after slowing US inflation data released in the last session firmed bets on a Federal Reserve rate cut next month.

Spot gold was up 0.4 percent to \$2,645.67 per ounce, as of 1024 GMT. US gold futures rose 0.2 percent to \$2,644.80, with low trading volumes expected as US markets are closed for Thanksgiving.

"The precious metal is up roughly 0.3 percent after inflation data in the previous session supported the argument for lower US rates," said FXTM senior research analyst Lukman Otonuga.

While the Fed is widely expected to deliver a third rate reduction in December, minutes of the Nov. 6-7 meeting published on Tuesday showed officials appeared divided over how much farther they may need to cut rates.

BRAC Bank signs cash management deal with Robi

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BRAC Bank PLC recently signed an agreement with Robi Axiata Limited to deliver advanced cash management services tailored to enhance financial operations.

Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, deputy managing director and head of corporate and institutional banking at the bank, and M Riyaaz Rasheed, chief financial officer of the mobile operator, penned the deal at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan, said a press release.

The agreement enables the leading telco to leverage the bank's extensive transaction banking capabilities, including streamlined collection, payment and liquidity management solutions across the country through agent banking outlets of the bank.

This collaboration highlights BRAC Bank's leadership in transaction banking, combining innovative technology with client-focused solutions to meet evolving business needs.

With access to BRAC Bank's vast distribution network, comprising 187 branches, 62 sub-branches and 1,114 agent banking outlets across Bangladesh, Robi can efficiently manage receivables beyond standard banking hours, including holidays.

Additionally, Robi will utilise CORPnet, the internet banking platform of BRAC Bank for corporate and institutional clients, for 24/7 payment processing.

Other senior officials from both the organisations were also present.



Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, deputy managing director and head of corporate and institutional banking at BRAC Bank, and M Riyaaz Rasheed, chief financial officer of Robi Axiata, shake hands and exchange signed documents of a deal on cash management services at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan recently. PHOTO: BRAC BANK



Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank PLC, poses for photographs while handing over a cheque to support grassroots farmers through Nari Unnayan Forum at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

Southeast Bank provides financial aid to farmers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC, in collaboration with Nari Unnayan Forum -- a non-government organisation (NGO) in Bangladesh -- has provided financial support to grassroots farmers from a special fund as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR).

The finance covers areas like "increasing

yield in the agricultural sector," "purchasing agricultural equipment" and "processing agricultural products", according to a press release.

Afroza Sultana, founder and executive director of the NGO, received a cheque at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of the bank, attended the event.



PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

Muhammad Majidul Haq Patwary, vice-president and head of Unit 05, institutional banking division of Midland Bank PLC, and Wong Chi Yu Benjamin, chairman of BP Manufacturing (BD) Co, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding at the latter's headquarters located in Uttara EPZ, Nilphamari recently.

bKash enables fund transfers to Trust Bank

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Trust Bank and bKash recently launched fund transfer services that allow customers to instantly send money to their own or other Trust Bank accounts through bKash app.

Earlier, bKash users could only add money to their wallets from Trust Bank accounts.

With the launching of the new service, bKash and Trust Bank customers now can enjoy two-way fund transfer facilities. This allows more freedom and control over their finance management, said a press release.

Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, and Kamal Quadir, chief executive officer of bKash, jointly inaugurated the service at the bank's head office in Dhaka.

To avail of this integrated service, customers first need to select "Add Money" or "bKash to bank" icon from the home screen of bKash app and find the "Bank Account" option.

Then they have to set up a link between bKash account and Trust Bank account by providing a few essential information after tapping the "Trust Bank PLC" icon.

The registered mobile number of both the accounts should be the same while setting up the link in case of doing "Add Money" or "bKash to bank".

Customers can directly input the bank account number to transfer money to other Trust bank accounts.



Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director of Trust Bank PLC, and Kamal Quadir, chief executive officer of bKash, pose for photographs after jointly launching a fund transfer service at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: BKASH

IFIC Bank app offers QR code-based cashless payment

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IFIC Bank PLC has introduced a QR code-based cashless payment feature in the IFIC Aamar Bank App, the digital banking solution of the bank.

Syed Mansur Mustafa, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the feature by making a payment at a cafeteria at IFIC Tower in the capital yesterday, the bank said in a press release.

The bank customers can now enjoy convenient digital payment options with the addition of the QR code scan feature in the Aamar Bank App.

As a pioneer in digital transformation within the banking industry, the lender remains steadfast in its mission to promote and expand digital payment solutions for its customers. The event was attended by deputy managing directors and other senior officials of the bank.



Syed Mansur Mustafa, managing director of IFIC Bank, poses for a photo on inaugurating a new QR code-based cashless payment feature in IFIC Aamar Bank App at IFIC Tower in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: IFIC BANK

Midland Bank signs MoU with BP Manufacturing

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with BP Manufacturing (BD) Co Ltd, a toy manufacturing company, on online cash management solutions.

Muhammad Majidul Haq Patwary, vice-president and head of institutional banking division of the bank, and Wong Chi Yu Benjamin, chairman of the toy manufacturing company, penned the MoU at the latter's headquarters located in Uttara EPZ in Nilphamari, said a press release.

Under the MoU, BP Manufacturing (BD) will use the robust online cash management solution of MDB "Midland Cash Management (MCM)" application for conducting their daily business banking and cash management activities nationwide.