

Toyota service discounts on Bank Asia cards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC has signed an agreement with Navana Limited, a dealer of Toyota vehicles in Bangladesh.

Zishan Ahammad, head of cards, ADC and internet banking of the bank, and Md Ali Ehsan, head of Toyota after-sales service of Navana, penned the deal at Bank Asia card department office in the capital's Shukrabad recently, the bank said in a press release.

Under the agreement, the bank's credit cardholders, including Visa signature, Visa platinum, Mastercard world elite and Mastercard titanium, will enjoy a 10 percent discount on service charge from Navana Toyota Service Centres. Other senior officials from both the organisations were also present.



Zishan Ahammad, head of cards, ADC and internet banking of Bank Asia, and Md Ali Ehsan, head of Toyota after-sales service of Navana, pose for photographs after signing an agreement at Bank Asia card department office in the capital's Shukrabad recently.

PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Germany calls for Europe EV subsidy plan

AFP, Berlin

Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz called Tuesday for a European subsidy programme for electric vehicles, as the country's flagship auto industry struggles with the transition to battery-powered cars.

"We need incentives to buy electric cars -- as a European bonus or as direct support for electric cars made in Germany," Scholz said on social media after a visit to US automaker Ford's factory in Cologne.

Scholz made the call as campaigning got underway ahead of an expected snap poll in February, brought on by the collapse of the government last month.

The election has not officially been called yet but Scholz has already set out his stall, pledging to protect jobs and support working people if returned to office.

But the context for the campaign is inauspicious for the chancellor. Germany's economy has registered barely any growth over the past two years and the stagnation is widely predicted to continue into next year.

The outlook is particularly gloomy for Germany's automakers, who have struggled with high costs, weak demand and rising competition from China. New help to buy for electric cars has been a key ask for manufacturers, who saw sales suffer after the government ended a subsidy programme at the end of last year.

The financial support programme for EVs was the victim of a budget crunch that would eventually drive a wedge between Scholz's coalition partners and topple the government.

The crisis in the auto industry meanwhile has led to a series of job cut announcements in the key sector.

Volkswagen, Europe's largest carmaker, recently said it was considering closing sites in Germany for the first time in its history.

And at Ford, where Scholz spoke Tuesday, the group has said it plans to cut 2,900 jobs in Germany by 2027.

After companies had invested billions in the switch to electric cars, the government needed to do "what we believe is necessary in terms of support" to drive progress, Scholz told workers at the plant.

Visa to support 78 lakh CMSMEs thru SME Foundation



Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of SME Foundation, and Sabbir Ahmed, country manager for Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan at Visa, pose for photographs while signing a three-year partnership agreement to support CMSMEs at the foundation's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: VISA

STAR BUSINESS DESK

SME Foundation has signed a three-year partnership agreement with Visa to support the country's some 78 lakh cottage, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (CMSMEs).

Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of the foundation, and Sabbir Ahmed, country manager for Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan at Visa, penned the deal at the former's head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

"By integrating advanced digital payment systems, we aim to enhance financial inclusion, reduce operational costs, and drive revenue growth for SMEs," Chowdhury said.

"Beyond payments, our focus extends to equipping SMEs with cutting-edge technologies such as business intelligence, artificial intelligence, and robust cybersecurity measures, ensuring they remain competitive and resilient in the digital age," he added.

"Together with Visa's expertise and our dedication to SME development, we envision creating a smarter, more secure, and sustainable business ecosystem that empowers SMEs to thrive in an ever-evolving global market."

Ahmed said: "We are delighted to support the entrepreneurs of our country through our partnership with SME Foundation. Visa has demonstrated the power of digital transformation over decades and we are happy to bring our global expertise to the vibrant SME community."

"Our financial and digital skills programmes can enable entrepreneurs to integrate technology faster, gain global market access and revolutionise businesses," he added.

With this partnership, Visa and the SME Foundation aim to provide support to small and medium-sized businesses to develop their capabilities using Visa's expert content on financial and business skills.

First Security Islami Bank organises 'Annual Risk Conference 2024'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

First Security Islami Bank PLC recently organised an "Annual Risk Conference 2024" with the participation of all its concerned officials.

ANM Moinul Kabir, director of the Department of the Off-site Supervision (DOS) of the Bangladesh Bank, attended the conference as a chief guest, said a press release.

Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of the bank, presided over the programme, which was held virtually.

Mahmuda Haque, joint director of

the DOS at the central bank, conducted a session on the topic, titled "Risk Management in Banking Activities".

Abu Reza Md Yeahia, additional managing director of the bank, Md Masudur Rahman Shah, Md Sirajul Islam and Md Akmal Hossain, deputy managing directors, were present.

Md Habibur Rahman, principal of the training institute of the bank, and Ali Nahid Khan, head of risk management division, along with zonal heads, related divisional heads of head office, branch managers and manager operations of the bank participated in the conference.



PHOTO: FIRST SECURITY ISLAMI BANK

ANM Moinul Kabir, director of the Department of the Off-site Supervision of the Bangladesh Bank, joins an "Annual Risk Conference 2024", which was held virtually recently. First Security Islami Bank organised the conference.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (DEC 11, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 68-Tk 80	0 ↑	8.03 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 55	-1.87 ↑	2.94 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-10.53 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	0 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 163-Tk 165	-0.91 ↓	6.49 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 65-Tk 80	3.57 ↑	38.10 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 110-Tk 130	-17.86 ↓	-23.33 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 45-Tk 50	-3.06 ↓	11.76 ↑

SOURCE: TCB

Global Islami Bank launches 'Deposit Campaign-2024'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Global Islami Bank PLC launched a "Deposit Campaign 2024" at its head office in the capital's Gulshan on Tuesday to accelerate deposit mobilisation.

While inaugurating the campaign, Sayed Habib Hasnat, managing director of the bank, requested all the officials of the bank to take part in the campaign solely and to participate in the overall development of the bank, the bank said in a press release.

In a statement regarding the campaign, Mohammed Nurul Amin, chairman of the bank, said that the bank is turning around with liquidity support of the Bangladesh Bank and endless efforts of the official, and the campaign is a part of that effort.

He also invited the customers



Sayed Habib Hasnat, managing director of Global Islami Bank, inaugurates a "Deposit Campaign-2024" at its head office in the capital's Gulshan on Tuesday.

PHOTO: GLOBAL ISLAMI BANK

to keep trust in the bank and help expand banking with faith.

Kazi Mashiur Rahman Jayhad, additional managing director of the bank, and Ataus Samad and Sami

Karim, deputy managing directors, along with divisional heads from head office, branch managers and sub-branch in-charges were also present.

Syngenta Foundation renamed SAF Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture changed its name to "SAF Bangladesh" recently.

The company organised an event at a hotel in Dhaka where Mohammad Moshir Rahman, chairman of the organisation, launched the new logo and name of the company, said a press release.

Asif Kibria, vice chairman of the company, Mohammad Farhad Jamil and Simon Winter, executive directors, and MA Sattar Mondal, former vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University, along with other senior officials of the organisation were also present.



Mohammad Moshir Rahman, chairman of SAF Bangladesh, poses for photographs with guests and officials at the launch of the company's new logo and name at a hotel in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: SAF BANGLADESH

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources
Power Division
Power Cell
Biddiyut Bhaban (13th Floor), 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka 1000
Re-Tender
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTING FIRM FOR DETAILED FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR PARK AT JAMALPUR CHAR AREA (Package S-32)

No: 27.71.0000.003.03.009.24-976 Date: 11/12/2024

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a fund from the International Development Agency (IDA) and it intends to apply a part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the contracts for appointment of consulting firm for "Detailed Feasibility Study for Construction of Solar Park at Jamalpur Char Area". Power Cell, therefore, intends to appoint an internationally reputed consultancy firm to accomplish the mentioned services by using this fund under "TA for Strengthening and Development of Sustainable Power Sector in Bangladesh" project of Power Cell, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resource.
- Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating the qualifications to perform the services. The short-listing criteria are:
 - General experience of the firm;
 - Experience in similar projects of compatible size, complexity, and technical specialty; minimum requirement is 100 MW feasibility experience for a single-site, and a min 300 MW feasibility experience for cumulative solar PV generation capacity.
 - Financial soundness of the firm;
 - Should have resources, key experts & support services of the firm.
- A consulting firm is allowed to submit the Expression of Interest (EOI) alone if it considers itself to be fully qualified on its own for the assignment, as it is not mandatory for a consulting firm to associate with any other firm(s), whether foreign or local. Alternatively, if the firm chooses to associate to enhance their qualifications and capability for the assignment, then such associations may either be as a Joint Venture (i.e., all members of the joint venture shall be jointly and severally responsible) and/or sub-consultants (The Consultant will be responsible for the services of the sub-consultant, and the qualification and experience of the sub-consultants will not be evaluated). In case of an association, the Consultants must explain in the EOI submission (a) the rationale for forming the association and (b) the anticipated role and relevant qualifications of each member of the Joint Venture and/or of each sub-consultant for carrying out the assignment, to justify the proposed inclusion of the JV members and/or sub-consultants in the association. Failure to provide the above explanation in the EOI may risk the association not being shortlisted for the assignment.
- Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents against the above mentioned criteria: (a) The Firm's Incorporation/Trade/registration documents from the country of the firm; (b) JV agreement/letter of intent (if applicable); (c) Firm's brochure; (d) Description of similar consultancy contracts, including the scope, contract amount, name of Client, period of the contract (date of contract signing to date of completion), location/country of the services, etc.; (e) Service experience record (including nature, total cost, total inputs in terms of staff month, employer, location, scope of the service etc.); (f) Short biography of key professional; (g) Company's Income Tax certificate/Income Tax registration certificate. The experience of a parent company, subsidiary company, group company or associates (whatever the names) of the applicant (consulting firm) shall not be considered in evaluation.
- Detailed Scope of Work will be available in the Terms of Reference (TOR) which can be downloaded from the website of Power Division (www.powerdivision.gov.bd), Power Cell (www.powercell.gov.bd), and CPTU website from the date of publication of EOI.
- Interested Firms are requested to submit their EOI in 2 (Two) sets, (one original and one duplicate) with soft copy in the address of the undersigned and clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest" for "Detailed Feasibility Study for Construction of Solar Park at Jamalpur Char Area" on or before the submission deadline of **January 9, 2025, 15:00 Hours (BST)**. Any submission received after the submission date & time will not be accepted.

11.12.24
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