

# Midland Bank organises annual business conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC organised an “Annual Business Conference 2025” for the heads of branches, sub-branches, agent banking, cards, Islami banking, retail sales, institutional banking, SME, NRB, card, and treasury business divisions at the Amari Dhaka in the capital’s Gulshan on Friday.

Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest and presided over the event, according to a press release.

Zaman urged everyone to ensure excellence in service and help clients meet their financial goals while remaining compliant with regulatory guidelines, maintaining asset quality, ensuring the recovery of non-performing loans, and delivering returns for shareholders.

Didarul Islam, chief financial officer of the bank, presented the overall business performance of the bank, while Khondokar Toufique Hossain, head of ID and NRB, and Md Javed Tarek Khan, head of institutional banking, also presented the business performance of their respective divisions.



PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of an “Annual Business Conference 2025” at the Amari Dhaka in the capital’s Gulshan on Friday.

# Southeast Bank holds workshop on products and service knowledge



Nuruddin Md Sadeq Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank, poses for photographs with participants of a workshop on “SEBPLC Products and Service Knowledge, Cross-Selling Techniques, and Effective Marketing Strategy” in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC recently held a daylong workshop on “SEBPLC Products and Service Knowledge, Cross-Selling Techniques, and Effective Marketing Strategy” in Dhaka.

A total of 60 officers from the head office and various branches of the bank participated in the workshop.

Nuruddin Md Sadeq Hossain, managing director of the bank, attended the closing ceremony of the event, said a press release.

He emphasised the importance of gaining comprehensive knowledge of banking products and services to expand the bank’s business.

He also stated that practicing the highest professional conduct, strategic brand marketing, and cross-selling would not only ensure the success of the bank but also significantly enhance the quality of customer service.

The sessions were conducted by the bank’s experienced and skilled executives and officers.

Omar Nasir Abdullah, senior lecturer and faculty adviser at North South University, shared valuable insights and guidance with the participants based on his experience and expertise.

# Al-Arafah Islami Bank arranges business development conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC arranged a “Business Development Conference 2025” at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka yesterday.

Khwaja Shahriar, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest, the bank said in a press release.

Shahriar said, “We are striving to bring banking services to the doorsteps of our customers through the modernisation of the bank, increasing efficiency, branding, digital innovation, automation, and new products.”

“We want to prioritise sustainable development by further strengthening good governance, accountability, and responsibility.”

The bank’s chairman gave special instructions to the branch managers to reduce default investments of the bank.

While presiding over the meeting, Farman R Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of the bank, said the bank’s branch managers need to be more focused on achieving targets in different areas of the business.

He said there is no alternative to increasing deposits and quality investments.



PHOTO: AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK

Khwaja Shahriar, chairman of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, attends a “Business Development Conference 2025” at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka yesterday.

# UCB holds ‘Annual Business Conclave 2025’



PHOTO: UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK

Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, managing director and CEO of United Commercial Bank, speaks at an “Annual Business Conclave 2025” for branch managers of the bank at the Rajendrapur BRAC CDM in Gazipur yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank (UCB) PLC held a three day “Annual Business Conclave 2025” for its branch managers at the Rajendrapur BRAC CDM in Gazipur yesterday.

The event, themed “Rise Above the Rest,” brought together managers from all 231 branches of the bank across the country, offering a valuable opportunity to collaborate with the bank’s senior management team.

Sharif Zahir, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the event, the bank said in a press release.

In his speech, Zahir said, “Despite the country’s economic challenges, our strategic steps have led to growth in both our customer base and deposits. We will continue to prioritise digital banking and the integration of cutting edge technologies.”

Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, managing director and CEO of UCB, said, “By maintaining strong business practices and aligning with future economic trends, we are confident that we will strengthen our position in the domestic market.”

The conference focused on enhancing the skills of branch managers, fostering the exchange of innovative ideas, and underscoring the significance of digital transformation and service modernisation in banking.

Throughout the conference, the bank’s branch managers, alongside senior management, outlined strategic goals and initiatives for the coming year and the next five years.

# IFIC Bank organises banking network business conference



PHOTO: IFIC BANK

Syed Mansur Mustafa, managing director of IFIC Bank, poses for photographs with participants of an “IFIC Largest Banking Network Business Conference” at Khulna Shilpakala Academy on Friday.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IFIC Bank PLC organised an “IFIC Largest Banking Network Business Conference” at Khulna Shilpakala Academy in Khulna on Friday.

The conference brought together over 300 employees from the bank’s 15 branches and 116 sub-branches operating under the greater Khulna business zone.

Syed Mansur Mustafa, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the daylong event, according to a press release.

During the event, Sazzad Zahir, director of the bank, presented crests to outstanding employees in recognition of their exceptional contributions to deposit mobilisation, loan disbursement, and recovery efforts.

# IDLC Finance unveils Shariah-compliant ‘IDLC Islamic’

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IDLC Finance PLC recently launched the Shariah-compliant financing window, named “IDLC Islamic,” at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

Md Zakir Hossain Chowdhury, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the new window as the chief guest, said a press release.

The event featured a presentation on “Succeeding Sustainability through Shariah-Compliant Financing,” followed by an engaging panel discussion on the same

a significant step in our journey to create Shariah-based, ethical, and sustainable financial solutions. It reflects our commitment to addressing the diverse needs of our customers while adhering to the highest standards of governance and Shariah compliance.”

IDLC Islamic embodies IDLC’s commitment to fostering innovation in Shariah-compliant financing and serving the growing demand for Shariah-compliant financial products in Bangladesh.

Its offerings include mudarabah



Md Zakir Hossain Chowdhury, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, and Aziz Al Mahmood, chairman of IDLC Finance, attend the launch of the Shariah-compliant financing window, named “IDLC Islamic,” at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: IDLC FINANCE

theme, highlighting IDLC Islamic’s alignment with Shariah finance and sustainability.

Aziz Al Mahmood, chairman of IDLC Finance, and Prof Mohammad Gias Uddin Talukder, chairman of the Central Shariah Board for Islamic Banks of Bangladesh, attended the programme.

Speaking at the event, M Jamal Uddin, CEO and managing director of the non-bank financial institution, said, “IDLC Islamic is

deposit schemes, providing various term and recurring deposit options for individuals and institutions, as well as Shari’ah-Compliant Financing Solutions, including Ijarah Muntahia Bit Tamleek (IMBT) and Murabaha, tailored to meet the needs of MSMEs, corporates, and individuals.

Mohammad Manzur-e-Elahi, chairman of the Shariah Supervisory Committee at IDLC Finance, along with Shariah scholars and other stakeholders, was also present.

# Bank of Japan hikes interest rate to 17-year high

AFP, Tokyo

The Bank of Japan increased interest rates on Friday to their highest in 17 years and signalled more hikes to come, sending the yen higher against the dollar.

The well-flagged 25-basis-point rise to 0.5 percent comes as data indicates the Japanese economy is developing in line with BoJ expectations and follows another bumper inflation reading.

The move, which leaves borrowing costs at the highest since 2008, was also underpinned by “steadily” rising wages and financial markets being “stable on the whole”, the BoJ said in a statement.

“Japan’s economic activity and prices have been developing generally in line with the Bank’s outlook, and the likelihood of realising the outlook has been rising,” it said.

If its outlook is met, “the bank will accordingly continue to raise the policy interest rate and adjust the degree of monetary accommodation”, it added.

BoJ chief Kazuo Ueda told a news conference that the pace and timing of future hikes was yet to be determined.

“We would like to make a decision after we have studied the impact of this rate hike,” he said.

The hawkish comments sent the yen up as much as 0.7 percent against the dollar to 154.84 yen. Even as other central banks have raised borrowing costs in recent years -- and started cutting again in 2024 -- the BoJ has remained an outlier.

But it concluded last March that Japan’s “lost decades” of economic stagnation and static or falling prices were over, finally lifting rates above zero.

That increase was followed by another in July that caught investors off guard and sparked turmoil in global equity and currency markets.

This time Ueda prepared markets for an increase -- some 75 percent of economists expected one -- and the reaction was more muted on Friday.

“With no market turbulence after (US President Donald) Trump’s inauguration,” conditions for the BoJ to hike its policy rate have been met, Ko Nakayama, chief economist of Okasan Securities Research, said before the announcement.

“Raising just 25 basis points to 0.5 percent won’t cool the economy.”

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (JAN 25, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 70-Tk 85	4.73 ↑	13.14 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 54-Tk 58	6.67 ↑	9.80 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-13.27 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	0
Soybean (litre)	Tk 170-Tk 173	4.57 ↑	8.89 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 20-Tk 30	-60.00 ↓	-47.37 ↓
Onion (kg)	Tk 45-Tk 50	-40.63 ↓	-44.12 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 44-Tk 48	-3.16 ↓	4.55 ↑

SOURCE: TCB