

Berger Paints signs MoU with Eastern Bank for interior service benefits

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Eastern Bank PLC (EBL), offering preferential rates and benefits on Berger's painting and interior design services to EBL cardholders.

This collaboration is intended to make premium home enhancement solutions more accessible to EBL's customers.

Abul Kasem Mohammad Sadeque Nawaj, chief business officer of the paint and coating manufacturer, and M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and

head of retail and SME banking at EBL, signed the MoU at the latter's corporate office on Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Commenting on the partnership, Nawaj said, "We are delighted to collaborate with EBL and invite their cardholders to explore our Experience Zones, where they can access comprehensive home interior solutions under one roof." Farzana Qader, vice president and acting head of retail alliance at EBL; Shabbir Ahmad, general sales manager, corporate sales and service; and Sayed Sharif Russel, category head, brands at Berger Paints, were also present.



M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking at Eastern Bank PLC, and Abul Kasem Mohammad Sadeque Nawaj, chief business officer of Berger Paints Bangladesh, pose for photographs after signing the memorandum of understanding at the bank's corporate office on Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: BERGER PAINTS



Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and chief executive officer of Mutual Trust Bank; Syed Kaiser Kabir, managing director and CEO of Renata PLC; and Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard, attend the launch of the business credit card solutions for Renata in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: MASTERCARD

Agro Series of Exhibitions begins in Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The 8th Food Bangladesh 2025 International Expo and the 5th Food Pack Bangladesh International Expo, held under the banner of the Agro Series of Exhibitions, commenced yesterday at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka.

Tijs Woudstra, deputy head of mission at the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to Bangladesh, inaugurated the international agro exposition as the guest of honour, according to a press release.

The event is jointly organised by CEMS

Global and the BYETS Project, which is implemented by Swisscontact and supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS Global USA and Asia Pacific, presided over the inaugural ceremony.

Md Abdul Hashem, president of the Bangladesh Agro Processors' Association; Nuria Lopez, chairperson of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh; Mahbub Baset, chief operating officer of Ifad Multi Products Limited; and Ihsrat Fatema, deputy country director of Swisscontact, were also present.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Global digital payments service provider Mastercard, in partnership with Mutual Trust Bank PLC (MTB), has introduced a corporate business credit card solution for Renata PLC, one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in Bangladesh.

The new card is designed to enable

the drugmaker to manage its business expenses in a more efficient and effective manner, said a press release.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of MTB; Syed Kaiser Kabir, managing director and CEO of the drugmaker; and Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard, attended the inaugural ceremony.



Tijs Woudstra, deputy head of mission at the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to Bangladesh, inaugurates the Agro Series of Exhibitions at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: CEMS-GLOBAL

Eastern Bank, KBCCI organise seminar to boost Korean investment

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL), in collaboration with the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KBCCI), convened a seminar, styled "Accelerating Korean Investment in Bangladesh: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Reforms" at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan on Wednesday.

The event assembled government officials, policymakers, Korean investors, and business leaders to deliberate on strategies to deepen Korea-Bangladesh economic cooperation, with a particular focus on infrastructure, manufacturing, information and communications technology, renewable energy, and the textile sector.

Park Young Sik, the Korean ambassador to Bangladesh, attended the seminar as the chief guest and reaffirmed Korea's steadfast commitment to



Park Young-Sik, the Korean ambassador to Bangladesh, delivers his address at a seminar, titled "Accelerating Korean Investment in Bangladesh: Opportunities, Challenges, and Policy Reforms", organised by Eastern Bank PLC and the Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka on Wednesday.

enhancing economic engagement with Bangladesh. He lauded the country's conducive investment climate and dynamic workforce.

Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of EBL, highlighted the

bank's pivotal role in facilitating cross-border investment and called for strategic partnerships to maximise the potential of bilateral trade and cooperation.

Delivering the keynote

presentation, Nahian Rahman Roche, head of business development at the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), outlined the evolving investment landscape and BIDA's reform initiatives aimed at enhancing investor confidence.

Jin Hak Hur, director general of the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, and KIM Si Hyung, director of the Korea Overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development Corporation, offered insights into Korea's global investment strategy and shared practical experiences of operating within the Bangladeshi context.

Syed Muntasir Mamun, director general of the international trade, investment, and technology wing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Md Habibur Rahman, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank; and Shahab Uddin Khan, president of KBCCI, alongside other senior officials from various government agencies, financial institutions, and organisations, were also present.

LafargeHolcim to invest Tk 180cr

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said its aggregates business continued to perform well, posting a 20 percent growth in operating profit during the quarter.

"In the first quarter of 2025, we achieved higher volume growth in two key business segments, cement and aggregates, reflecting our strong market performance and customer trust," said Iqbal Chowdhury, CEO of LafargeHolcim Bangladesh.

He said special cement products "Water Protect" and "Fair Face" registered 27 percent growth, reflecting rising consumer recognition of their unique features.

"However, our profitability was impacted by significantly higher energy costs and a softening in cement prices, both of which weighed on our margins," he added.

To tackle these challenges, the company is

pursuing cost optimisation and exploring strategic pricing initiatives, while continuing to focus on innovation and product diversification.

The company said it would continue investing in operational efficiency, digital transformation, and sustainability initiatives to bolster long-term growth and profitability.

As of March 31, 2025, the company's shareholding stood at: sponsor/director 63.97 percent, institutions 21.09 percent, foreign investors 0.83 percent, and public 14.11 percent, according to DSE data.

A f a r g e H o l c i m Bangladesh, a joint venture of Holcim and Molins, is a leading cement manufacturer in Bangladesh, with over \$500 million invested in one integrated plant and three grinding stations, according to its website.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Sirajganj.
Tel: 02588831039, Fax No: 02588830242
Email: eeshid@rhd.gov.bd/erhdsirajganj@gmail.com

Invitation for e-Tendering

Invitation Reference No.	Memo No: 35.01.8800.471.07.001.25-1066	Date: 08/05/2025	
Tender ID & No	Work description	Publication Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1109043, 6-GP/81/EE/SDR/2024-2025	Repair of Damaged Embankment and Shoulder by Earth Work at 6th Km (P), 7th Km (P), 8th Km (P) & 9th Km (P) of Sirajganj (Pepulbaria)-Dhunat (Sonamukhi) Road (Z 5404) under Road Division Sirajganj during the Financial Year 2024-2025.	08 May - 2025 15.30 Hrs	22 May-2025 15:35 Hrs

This is an online tender where only e-tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches for 22.05.2025 Up to 14:00 Hrs. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (+880960911223, +880176265528-31)


(Md. Imran Farhan Sumel)
Identity No-602280
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Sirajganj.

GD-1116

StanChart drives inclusive growth with community initiatives

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Standard Chartered Bangladesh has undertaken a comprehensive suite of initiatives spanning six critical sectors -- agriculture, education, environment, health, entrepreneurship, and disaster management -- generating a positive and wide-reaching impact across various regions of the country.

The multinational bank reaffirmed its enduring commitment to community development and environmental stewardship through these multifaceted efforts.

Among its notable interventions, the bank implemented 11 agricultural projects across 23 districts, addressing areas such as crop productivity, aquaculture, apiculture, mechanisation, and agro-processing. Additionally, it funded seven research initiatives across four universities to foster innovation and enhance resilience within the farming sector.



In the char regions, agricultural support efforts led to 92 percent of households reporting improved dietary outcomes, signifying enhanced food security.

A targeted intervention to improve honey production, processing, and marketing resulted in a 25.89 percent increase in yield, a 13.10 percent rise in sales volume, and a 17.85 percent boost in selling prices.

Within the health sector, the bank facilitated nationwide eye care camps, benefitting over 1.15 million individuals. It also trained 118 nurses and established a fourth medical oxygen plant across four community hospitals, further strengthening healthcare infrastructure.

Commenting on initiatives and its success, Naser Ezaz Bijoy, chief executive officer of the bank, said, "Our community initiatives are not peripheral to our operations; they are integral to our identity and our commitment to serving society."

"At Standard Chartered, we are investing in long-term impact, empowering entrepreneurs, nurturing students, protecting the environment, supporting agriculture, promoting innovation, and standing beside communities in times of adversity," he added.

ক্ষেত্র	কার্যক্রম	মুক্তির প্রক্রিয়া	ক্ষেত্রের প্রভাব
১	ক্ষেত্র বিকাশ	প্রতিক্রিয়া, জীবনস্তোষ বিকাশ।	
২	ব্যক্তি বিকাশ	প্রতিক্রিয়া, জীবনস্তোষ বিকাশ।	
৩	ব্যক্তি গৃহ নির্মাণ	ক্ষেত্র গৃহ নির্মাণ প্রতিক্রিয়া, জীবনস্তোষ বিকাশ।	
৪	ব্যক্তি অর্থনৈতিক পরিকল্পনা	ক্ষেত্র অর্থনৈতিক পরিকল্পনা প্রতিক্রিয়া, জীবনস্তোষ বিকাশ।	
৫	ব্যক্তি নির্মাণ প্রক্রিয়া	প্রতিক্রিয়া প্রক্রিয়া এবং জীবনস্তোষ বিকাশ।	
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১৭	ব্যক্তি নির্মাণ প্রক		