

UK vows stronger economic ties with Bangladesh

High commissioner meets ICCB president, executive board members

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The United Kingdom has reaffirmed its commitment to deepening economic ties with Bangladesh, with a particular focus on boosting trade and investment.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke made the remarks during a meeting with Mahbubur Rahman, president of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh, and members of the ICCB executive board at the chamber's secretariat in Dhaka on Monday, according to a press release.

Praising Bangladesh's steady progress towards graduating from least developed country (LDC) club next year, British High Commissioner Cooke stressed the importance of export diversification to sustain long-term growth.

She said the UK remains a key export market for Bangladeshi goods and continues to support access to the British market through the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS).

Under the scheme, 99.8 percent of Bangladeshi products currently enjoy duty-free access to the UK until 2029. Even after graduation from LDC status, 92 percent of product lines, including garments, will enjoy zero-duty benefits.

The high commissioner identified



British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke holds a meeting with ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman and its executive board members at ICCB Secretariat in Dhaka on Monday.

PHOTO: ICC BANGLADESH

higher education, climate finance, renewable energy and aviation as priority areas for further cooperation.

She also drew attention to UK-led initiatives aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs and supporting their entry into the UK market.

During the meeting, ICCB

representatives called for stronger British support in capacity building, skills development, and scholarship opportunities in higher education.

Reflecting on the enduring partnership between the two countries, ICCB President Rahman described the UK-Bangladesh relationship as one rooted

in shared history, close personal ties and growing commercial links.

He acknowledged the UK as one of Bangladesh's largest export destinations, particularly for garments, and noted the significant presence of British businesses in the country's financial services, energy and education sectors.



AK Azad, chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC, presides over the bank's 24th annual general meeting, which was held virtually yesterday. At the meeting, a 10 percent cash dividend was declared for 2024.

PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK

Shahjalal Islami Bank declares 10% cash dividend

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Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC has announced a 10 percent cash dividend for the financial year ending December 31, 2024.

The declaration was made during the bank's 24th annual general meeting (AGM), which was held virtually yesterday, according to a press release issued by the bank.

The meeting was presided over by AK Azad, chairman of the bank, and was attended by vice-chairmen Mohammed Younus and Mohiuddin Ahmed, along

with directors Anwer Hossain Khan, Md Sanaullah Shahid, Harun Miah, Akkas Uddin Mollah, Khandaker Shakib Ahmed, Md Towhidur Rahman, Fakir Akhtaruzzaman, Md Moshir Rahman Chamak, Tahera Faruque, and Fakir Mashrikuzzaman.

Independent Directors Nasir Uddin Ahmed and Md Reazul Karim were also present.

Md Abul Bashar, senior executive vice president and company secretary, moderated the session, while Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, managing director of the bank, addressed the AGM.

Moinuddin Ahmed elected chairman of DBH Finance

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Syed Moinuddin Ahmed has recently been elected chairman of DBH Finance PLC, a non-bank financial institution (NBFI) in Bangladesh.

The election took place during the company's 158th board meeting, according to a press release issued by the NBFI.

Ahmed has served as a member of the DBH Finance board since September 2019, representing Green Delta Insurance PLC, and was appointed vice-chairman in May 2024.

He is currently the additional managing director of Green Delta Insurance.

Under his leadership, DBH Finance is expected to take a leading role in expanding access to green and affordable housing loans, the release noted.

A seasoned professional, Ahmed brings with him more than 25 years of experience in the banking and financial sectors. He holds an MBA in finance from the University of Dhaka.



Syed Moinuddin Ahmed

Prime Bank's credit rating upgraded to AAA

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Prime Bank's long-term credit rating has been upgraded to AAA by the Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh Limited (CRAB), with a short-term rating assigned at ST-1.

This notable upgrade stands as a testament to Prime Bank's three-decade commitment to financial resilience, responsible banking practices, and sustained trustworthiness.

The ratings reflect the bank's strong capital base, well-diversified loan portfolio, adequate provisioning coverage, and a stable, low-cost deposit structure.

CRAB also cited the bank's robust operational efficiency, sound liquidity position, and prudent risk management practices as key contributors to the upgrade.

KR Ship Recycling Yard wins Green Factory Award 2025

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KR Ship Recycling Yard, a prominent shipbreaking facility in Bangladesh, has been awarded the Green Factory Award 2025 in recognition of its environmentally responsible ship recycling practices.

Brig Gen (retd) Sakhawat Hussain, adviser to the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Jute and Textiles, presented the award to Md Taslim Uddin, managing partner of the company, at a ceremony held on Tuesday at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka, according to a press release.

The event was organised by the Department of Factories and Establishments under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Adilur Rahman Khan, adviser to the Ministry of Industries, attended the event as special guest.

A sister concern of KR Group, the yard commenced operations in 2013 and currently recycles approximately 120,000 metric tonnes of metal annually, supplying raw materials to local steel manufacturers. The facility employs around 250 skilled workers.

KR Ship Recycling Yard is certified by Bureau Veritas and Japan's ClassNK, and is one of the few shipbreaking yards in Bangladesh operating in full compliance with the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.

The yard boasts advanced infrastructure, including a modern jetty, fire safety systems,



PHOTO: KR SHIP RECYCLING YARD

Md Taslim Uddin, managing partner of KR Ship Recycling Yard, receives an award from Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain, adviser to the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Jute and Textiles, in an award-giving ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka on Tuesday. Adilur Rahman Khan, adviser to the Ministry of Industries, was present.

cranes, rainwater harvesting facilities, and dedicated units for hazardous waste management.

Worker welfare is a core focus, ensured through regular medical check-ups, on-site first-aid stations, safety training, and 24/7

ambulance services.

This year, 30 factories across sectors such as garments, textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals, food processing, steel, and shipbuilding were honoured for their commitment to sustainable and environmentally conscious operations.

bKash launches 'Monthly DPS' up to Tk 20,000

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The country's leading mobile financial service (MFS) provider, bKash, has launched a new financial product titled "Monthly DPS" (Deposit Pension Scheme) in partnership with Dhaka Bank PLC and IDLC Finance PLC.

The launch follows the success of bKash's six-month "Weekly DPS" scheme, according to a press release.

Customers can now open a six-month DPS with a monthly instalment ranging from Tk 2,000 to Tk 20,000 without the need for a traditional bank account or any paperwork.

This short-term savings scheme is particularly suited for individuals aiming to accumulate a significant sum over a brief period to meet

specific financial goals.

To open a DPS, users simply need to tap the "Savings" icon on the bKash app's home screen and select "Open New Savings".

From there, they should choose "General Savings" as the type, select the six-month tenure, opt for the monthly deposit frequency, and then choose a preferred deposit amount -- Tk 2,000, Tk 5,000, Tk 10,000, or Tk 20,000.

In the subsequent step, customers must select their preferred financial institution either Dhaka Bank or IDLC Finance and provide nominee details.

After reviewing the deposit information and agreeing to the terms and conditions, users can finalise the process by entering their bKash PIN and tapping the

designated area on the screen.

Upon submission, confirmation messages will be sent by both bKash and the selected financial institution.

Customers can open multiple savings schemes through the same bKash app.

The monthly instalment will be automatically debited on a predetermined date, and upon maturity, the total amount along with the accrued profit will be credited back to the customer's bKash account.

Notably, cashing out the matured amount incurs no withdrawal charges.

Furthermore, early closure of the DPS is also possible directly via the app should the customer wish to access their funds before maturity.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department (EED)
Barishal
www.eed.barishal.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice: 24/2024-25

Memo No. 37.00.0650.000.001.07.0077.25.৩৬৫/০১

Date: 12.01.2025 Eng

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal for the following procurement of works/Goods.

S. L	Name of the tender	Tender ID	Type method	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time
01	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Torki Bondor Girls Secondary School, Gournadi Upazila, Barisal District.	1051830	NCT, OTM	29-Jan-2025 16:00	30-Jan-2025 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Shohidul Islam

Executive Engineer
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"ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত চিটাগাং ড্রাই ডক লিমিটেড (সিডিডিএল), পূর্ব পতেঙ্গা, পোষ্ট অফিসঃ বিমান বন্দর, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২০৫ এ ২০২৫-২০২৬ এবং ২০২৬-২০২৭ এই ০২ (দুই) অর্থ বছর বা চুক্তি সম্পাদনের পরবর্তী ২ বছর পুরকৌশল শাখায় নির্মাণ, মেরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ কাজের জন্য নতুন ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি করণ এবং তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণের নবায়নের আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে, যা বিজ্ঞপ্তি ওয়েবসাইটে (www.cddl.gov.bd/notice) দেওয়া হলো।

খবির উদ্দিন আহমেদ
ক্যান্টেন বিএন
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (উৎপাদন ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ)

GD-1461