

Bank Asia leads ‘open loan disbursement’ for small clients in Chapainawabganj

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC hosted an event, titled “Open Loan Disbursement” programme in Chapainawabganj on July 3, targeting marginalised or landless farmers, low-income professionals, school banking account holders, and small businessmen within the district.

The initiative forms part of the Bangladesh Bank’s Tk 750 crore revolving refinancing scheme, which aims to enhance access to finance for holders of Tk 10, Tk 50, and Tk 100 accounts, according to a press release.

Held at the Town Club Hall, the programme brought together all scheduled banks operating in the district, with Bank Asia serving as the lead organiser.

Md Habibur Rahman, deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank, attended the event as the chief guest.

Rup Ratan Pine, executive director of the central bank, and Md Iqbal Mohasin, director of the Financial Inclusion Department, were present as special guests.

ANM Mahfuz, managing director (current charge) of Bank Asia PLC, presided over the proceedings.

A total of Tk 2.75 crore in loans was



Md Habibur Rahman, deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank, hands over a cheque of loan to a client at the event, titled “Open Loan Disbursement” programme, organised by Bank Asia PLC as the lead organiser, at the Town Club Hall in Chapainawabganj recently. ANM Mahfuz, managing director (current charge) of Bank Asia PLC, was present.

PHOTO: BANK ASIA

disbursed to 221 customers during the event. Of the sums, Bank Asia alone distributed Tk 6.9 million in loans to 116 customers.

These loans are anticipated to enable

marginal entrepreneurs to expand their operations and embark on new ventures, thereby fostering financial inclusion and empowering communities at the grassroots level.

Such disbursement initiatives are instrumental in cultivating a culture of financial literacy and inclusion, whilst also strengthening public trust in the formal banking system.

HSBC named ‘Bangladesh International Trade Finance Bank of the Year’

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The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) in Bangladesh has been recognised as the “Bangladesh International Trade Finance Bank of the Year” at the Asian Banking & Finance Wholesale Banking Awards 2025.

This achievement stands as a testament to the bank’s continued commitment to supporting Bangladesh’s trade ambitions and delivering best-in-class solutions for its customers, according to a press release.

Ahmad Rabiul Hasan, acting head of global trade solutions at HSBC Bangladesh, received an award from Tushar Agarwal, core member of financial institutions practice at Boston Consulting Group, at the Asian Banking & Finance Wholesale Banking Awards 2025 in Singapore recently.

Through this award, Asian Banking & Finance celebrates outstanding performance, innovation, and leadership in Asia’s financial services sector.

This recognition underscores HSBC’s strong global connectivity, advanced

digital capabilities, and consistent focus on customer needs—empowering businesses in Bangladesh to navigate international trade with greater confidence and efficiency.

Md Mahbub ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, said, “This award reflects the trust of our customers and the dedication of our team. We are grateful to receive this honourable recognition and look forward to building on this success as we continue to support Bangladesh’s economic growth.”

“With its global network and deep local expertise, HSBC is uniquely positioned to help businesses unlock cross-border opportunities. The bank continues to invest in innovative solutions to make banking simpler, safer, and faster,” he added.

Ahmad Rabiul Hasan, acting country head of global trade solutions at the multinational bank, commented, “We’re truly grateful to our customers for their trust and partnership. This award is a testament to our team’s relentless effort and commitment to delivering excellence.”



Ahmad Rabiul Hasan, acting head of global trade solutions at HSBC Bangladesh, receives the award from Tushar Agarwal, core member of financial institutions practice at Boston Consulting Group, at the Asian Banking & Finance Wholesale Banking Awards 2025 in Singapore recently.

PHOTO: HSBC

Citizens Bank celebrates 3rd anniversary



Chowdhury Mohammed Hanif Shoeb, chairman of Citizens Bank PLC, inaugurates the anniversary celebration alongside directors and senior officials of the bank at its head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: CITIZENS BANK

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Citizens Bank PLC has recently celebrated the third anniversary of the commencement of its commercial operations.

Chowdhury Mohammed Hanif Shoeb, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the celebration as the chief guest at the bank’s head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Masuduzzaman, chairman of the executive committee of the bank, along with directors Mukhlesur Rahman, SM Shofiqul Hoq, and AKM Shahidul Haque, attended the event.

Members of the bank’s senior management and managers of different branches across the country were also present on the occasion.

Emirates, US-Bangla Airlines honoured at ShareTrip-Monitor awards

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Emirates has been voted “Best International Airline”, US-Bangla Airlines “Best Domestic Airline”, and Saudia Cargo “Best Cargo Airline”, based on the preferences of frequent flyers in the ShareTrip-Monitor Airline of the Year 2024 awards.

This year’s online survey garnered responses from over 3,000 frequent travellers.

Airlines were presented with gold, silver and bronze trophies across a record 23 award categories.

Md Fahimul Islam, secretary to the Ministry of Railways, attended the ceremony as the chief guest and presented the awards at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, according to a press release.

The jury committee conferred a Lifetime Achievement Award upon Taufiq Uddin Ahmed, founder and chairman of Galaxy Bangladesh, in special recognition of his exceptional contributions to the advancement of

Bangladesh’s travel industry.

This year’s edition introduced several new award categories, notably “Most Popular Airline Brands in Bangladesh”, under which 12 airlines were recognised.

The “Best Airport Lounge” category also continued, with MTB Air Lounge receiving Gold, EBL SkyLounge Silver, and City Bank

Amex Lounge Bronze.

The winners were selected under the supervision of an 11-member jury panel comprising distinguished figures from various sectors. The panel thoroughly reviewed and validated the survey results prior to the announcement.

This year marked the 11th edition of the awards.



PHOTO: SHARETRIP

Md Fahimul Islam, secretary to the Ministry of Railways, poses for group photographs with award recipients in the “ShareTrip-Monitor Airline of the Year 2024” awards at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka recently.

Japan chamber to submit EPA proposal to govt

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The Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) will submit its proposal to the government regarding the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan, based on feedback received from its members.

The EPA/FTA Standing Committee of the chamber reached this decision at a meeting held in Dhaka, following the sixth round of negotiations on the Japan-Bangladesh Economic Partnership Agreement, which took place from 21 to 26 June this year, as part of the ongoing negotiation process, according to a press release.

Tareq Rafi Bhuiyan (Jun), president of JBCCI; Asif A Chowdhury, chairman of the EPA/FTA standing committee; Matiur Rahman, founding president of JBCCI; Maria Howlader, secretary general; Hiroaki Oura, vice-president; Mohammed Soheli, director; and Tahera Ahsan, executive director, spoke at the meeting.

Bangladesh and Japan have agreed to sign the Economic Partnership Agreement by the end of 2025 or early 2026, with the aim of deepening and expanding bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.

The agreement holds particular significance in light of Bangladesh’s forthcoming graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status to Middle-Income Country status, scheduled for November 2026.

This transition will result in the phasing out of several preferential trade and tariff arrangements currently enjoyed by Bangladesh.

JBCCI has remained actively engaged in the negotiation process from the outset and has made consistent efforts to support the initiative in the interest of both nations.

As part of these efforts, JBCCI commissioned the renowned think-tank “Policy Exchange of Bangladesh Limited” to prepare an EPA Study Report, which was formally launched at a ceremony supported by the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, held at the embassy’s Multipurpose Hall on November 13 last year.

Oil price eases


REUTERS, Singapore

Oil prices retreated on Tuesday after rising almost 2 percent in the previous session as investors assessed new developments on US tariffs and a higher-than-expected Opec+ output hike for August.

Brent crude futures dipped 22 cents, or 0.3 percent, at \$69.36 a barrel by 0630 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate crude fell 27 cents, or 0.4 percent, at \$67.66 a barrel.

US President Donald Trump on Monday began telling trade partners, which included major suppliers South Korea and Japan as well as smaller US exporters like Serbia, Thailand and Tunisia, that sharply higher US tariffs will start August 1, though he later said that deadline was not 100 percent firm.

Trump’s tariffs have prompted uncertainty across the market and concerns they could have a negative effect on the global economy and, consequently, on oil demand.



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e-Tender Notice No. 03/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the below Packages.

SL. No.	Tender ID Number	Project name	Tender documents last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
01	1130458	(02) Con. of CC Casting at Sharifpur Up Dakkhin Tarua Abdu Mia House to Chowdhury House (31) Dev. of Abdul Kadir Sha Pathagar under Ashugonj Upzila. (34) Con. of Water Passing Drain at Late Ramuz Ali Master House front to Bot Toli (47) Con. of Drain at Shazadapur Shahi Eidgah Math Road to Kari Shaheb House Via Nazu Mia House under Sarail Upazila. (10) Dev. of Nasirnagar Bhuban Islamia Hussinia Anowarul Ulum Madrasa (33) Dev. of Road at Gokama Nure Madina Madrasa Road under Nasirnagar Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
02	1130459	(25) Dev. of Churia Amena Shufia Hafizia Madrasa and Etimkhana (32) Dev. of Abdur Rahim Smreety Pathagar (35) Dev. of Sinamashi Dakkhinpara Gaucia Jame Moszid under Nabinagar Upzila. (11) Dev. of Office and Wash Block at Gopinathpur Alhaz Sha Alam Degree College (50) Con. and Dev. of Retaining Wall at Bayek Union Shampur Graveyard under Kasba Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
03	1130460	01. Con. of Road Tiles at Sadar Paurasava 1 No. Ward Sharifpur Graveyard Internal Road 02. Con. of Shahid Minar at Scholars School and College 08. Dev. of Habboluccha Eishanagar Graveyard under Sadar Upazila and 03. Dev. of Nabinagar Govt. College Field under Nabinagar Upazila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
04	1130461	04. Con. of Retaining Wall at Araishidha Talshahar Road to Bhabanipur Puraton Jame Moszid 05. Dev. of Ashugonj Up Dakkhinpara Surat Ali Bapari House Moszid Janaja Math 06. Con. of Drain at Ashugonj Char Chartola Up 4 No. Ward Bacchu Mia House to Maholam Mia House 07. Con. of Retaining Wall at Ashugonj Tarua Up Alamin Mia House to Jabber Mia House under Ashugonj Upzila and 09. Dev. of Baropaika Kifayetullah Bhuiyan Jame Moszid under Sarail Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
05	1130462	10. Dev. of Kasba Upazila Kandrio Jame Moszid under Kasba Upazila and 12. Repair of Akhaura Port Moszid Slab and Floor 13. Con. of Retaining Wall at Akhaura Chandpur Anowar Chowdhury House to Kibria Chowdhury House Pond 14. Con. of CC Road from Radhanagar Das Para Shree Shree Durga Mondir Prosha Distribution Place 15. Repair and Painting Upazila Moszid Muzayzin Room. 16. CC Road Casting at Akhaura Dakkhin Up Annandapur Main Road to Graveyard under Akhaura Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
06	1130442	01. Imp. of Road from Evening Bazar to T-Ghar Connecting Road. Ch.00-311m (South Side of Sarail Upazila Parishad) under Sarail Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00
07	1130413	01. Con. of Imam Ghar at top of Nasirnagar Upazila Complex Moszid 1st Floor Ojukhana 02. Dev. of Nasirnagar Shishu Karon School Directed by Upazila Proshasan 03. Dev. of Mosh Shassan at Buriswar Chanpara under Nasirnagar Upzila.	27/07/2025 Time: 17:00	28/07/2025 Time: 13:00

These are 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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