

# Prime Bank, IBA launch certification programme for entrepreneurs

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC, in collaboration with the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) at the University of Dhaka, has launched a new initiative, titled "Entrepreneurship & Business Development Certification Programme", aimed at aspiring entrepreneurs across the country.

M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of the bank, and Sheikh Morshed Jahan, professor of the IBA, signed an agreement to this effect at the latter's campus premises in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

The eight-week programme is designed to equip entrepreneurs with critical business acumen and leadership competencies necessary for building

sustainable enterprises. Participants will receive comprehensive training in areas such as financial management, marketing strategy, business model innovation, and digital transformation.

Delivered through expert-led sessions, real-world case studies, and interactive discussions, the curriculum seeks to strengthen decision-making abilities and nurture an entrepreneurial mindset.

The certification will be open to the public, with participants selected through a competitive screening process.

Prof Md Ridhwanul Haq, coordinator of the management development programme at IBA; Prof Md Mohiuddin; Prof Khaled Mahmud; and Prof Sutapa Bhattacharjee; were also present, along with other senior officials from both organisations.



Sheikh Morshed Jahan, professor of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) at the University of Dhaka, and M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing the agreement on the IBA campus in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

# Dollar strengthens against peers

REUTERS, New York

The US dollar rose against major currencies including the yen and euro as President Donald Trump rekindled trade tensions with new tariffs on Canada and other trading partners.

Trump issued a letter late on Thursday that said a 35 percent tariff rate on all imports from Canada would apply from August 1. The European Union was set to receive a letter by Friday.

The US president, whose global wave of tariffs has upended businesses and policymaking, floated a blanket 15 percent or 20 percent tariff rate on other countries, a step up from the current 10 percent baseline rate.

This week he surprised Brazil, which has a trade surplus with the United States, with duties of 50 percent, and hit copper, pharmaceuticals and semiconductor chips.

"There do appear to be some tariff jitters creeping in once again after Trump floating the blanket tariffs yesterday," Michael Brown, market analyst at online broker Pepperstone in London, said.

"Overall the moves that we have seen in the FX space are relatively contained, and recent ranges seem to still be respected for the time being," he added.

The US dollar was up 0.79 percent to 147.4 against the Japanese yen, on track to add nearly 2 percent for the week - the biggest weekly gain since early December. It was flat against the Swiss franc at 0.79695 franc.

The market reaction to the slew of new tariffs has been largely muted compared to the manic sell-off that followed April's "Liberation Day" announcement, but investors remain on edge over the future of global trade and whether the August 1 deadline is final.

While the resurgence of tariff worries was helping support the buck, some traders remained sceptical about the medium-term outlook for the US currency which has come under severe selling pressure this year.

# Daffodil International University, Pubali Bank organise industry-academia summit



PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, inaugurates a banking booth on the Daffodil International University campus in Dhaka recently.

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Daffodil International University (DIU), in collaboration with Pubali Bank PLC, recently organised an "Industry-Academia Collaboration Summit 2025" on its campus in Dhaka.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the summit as the chief guest, according to a press release. The summit brought together experts from both the industrial and academic spheres to engage in discussions on employment generation, innovation, and skills development - key areas for bridging the gap between academia and industry.

Md Sabur Khan, chairman of the DIU; Mohammad Manjurul Haque Khan, director of career development

centre; and Prof Mostafa Kamal, dean of academic affairs and adviser to the real estate department; all of whom attended as special guests.

Earlier in the day, the bank's MD also inaugurated a new banking booth on the university campus.

Among others, Abu Laich Md Samsujjaman, general manager and head for Dhaka central region at the bank; NM Firoz Kamal, deputy general manager and head of card business; Md Rabiul Alam, deputy general manager and head of alternative delivery channel division; Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, public relations officer; along with senior officials of the bank's head office and officials and students of the university's different faculties, were also present.

# Bank Asia, BB launch entrepreneurship development programme in Chattogram



PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Md Mokbul Hossain, executive director of Bangladesh Bank's Chattogram office, and Mohammad Burhan Uddin Khondaker, head (current charge) for Chattogram zone at Bank Asia PLC, pose for group photographs with participants of the month-long entrepreneurship development training programme in Chattogram recently.

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Bank Asia PLC, in collaboration with Bangladesh Bank (BB), has recently organised a month-long entrepreneurship development training programme in Chattogram under the central bank's Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (SICIP) project.

Md Mokbul Hossain, executive director

of Bangladesh Bank's Chattogram office, inaugurated the programme at the Bank Asia zonal office in Chattogram, according to a press release issued by the bank.

The initiative has been designed for 25 selected entrepreneurs from the Chattogram region and will run until August 7, 2025.

Mohammad Burhan Uddin Khondaker, head (current charge) for Chattogram zone at

Bank Asia PLC, chaired the inaugural session of the event.

Mohammad Ashiqur Rahman, director of Bangladesh Bank Chattogram office; Md Nazrul Islam, additional director and SICIP project director; and Mohammad Wasim, joint director of Bangladesh Bank; along with branch heads and the bank's head office and officials of zonal office, were also present at the inauguration ceremony.

# Midland Bank signs MoU with Pizza Hut

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Midland Bank PLC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Pizza Hut, the US-based international restaurant chain.

Md Nazmul Huda Sarkar, chief technology officer of the bank, and Farhan Hadi, head of marketing of Pizza Hut Bangladesh, signed the MoU at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan-2, according to a press release issued by the bank.

As part of this partnership, Midland Bank cardholders will receive a complimentary pizza coupon worth Tk

299 (redeemable for one Ultimate Hot Chicken personal pizza) as a welcome gift upon issuance of their card.

Each coupon may be redeemed once with a minimum purchase of Tk 500 from the regular à la carte menu at any Pizza Hut outlet nationwide. The offer is valid exclusively on à la carte menu items and is not applicable to combo meals, promotional deals, or special offers.

Md Abed-Ur-Rahman, head of cards at the bank, and Md Akib Shikder Nelay, deputy manager of marketing at Pizza Hut Bangladesh, were also present at the signing ceremony, alongside senior officials from both organisations.



Farhan Hadi, head of marketing of Pizza Hut Bangladesh, and Md Nazmul Huda Sarkar, chief technology officer of Midland Bank, pose for photographs after signing the memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan-2 yesterday.

PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

# ACI Pharmaceuticals holds 'Annual Marketing & Sales Conference'



M Mohibuz Zaman, managing director and chief operating officer of ACI Healthcare Limited; Md Muhsin Mia, director of marketing operations; Mohammad Abul Basher Howlader, director of healthcare operations, and Mahmudur Rahman Bhuiyan, director of field marketing operations, pose for photographs at the "Annual Marketing & Sales Conference 2025-26" in Cox's Bazar recently.

PHOTO: ACI

STAR BUSINESS DESK

ACI Pharmaceuticals, a leading pharmaceutical manufacturer and a subsidiary of ACI Limited, recently held its "Annual Marketing & Sales Conference 2025-26" in Cox's Bazar.

The event brought together the company's entire sales and marketing workforce from across Bangladesh, fostering a platform for strategic alignment and celebration of achievements.

M Mohibuz Zaman, managing director and chief executive officer of ACI Healthcare Limited, attended the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his keynote address, Zaman highlighted the company's significant accomplishments during the 2024-25 fiscal year and reaffirmed ACI Pharmaceuticals' unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for the people of Bangladesh.

Mohammad Abul Basher Howlader, director of healthcare operations, provided valuable insights into the current market landscape and outlined strategic objectives for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Md Muhsin Mia, director of marketing operations, introduced innovative marketing strategies aimed at accelerating growth and strengthening market presence in the coming year.

Meanwhile, Mahmudur Rahman Bhuiyan, director of field marketing operations, presented a strategic execution roadmap and offered key directives to achieve performance targets.

The drug maker awarded the best performers of the year 2024 for their excellent achievement and contribution.