

Linde's Q2 profit rises 6%

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Linde Bangladesh reported a modest gain in its earnings for the April-June quarter of this year.

Its profit rose 6 percent year-on-year to Tk 10.69 crore in the period.

The industrial and medical gases producer posted basic and diluted earnings per share of Tk 7.03 in the second quarter of 2025, up from Tk 6.65 in the same quarter of 2024, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website yesterday.

The company's net operating cash flow per share plunged to Tk 4.08 for January-June 2025, from Tk 13.69 a year earlier, due mainly to payments under the workers' profit participation fund during the quarter, the disclosure said.

Its net asset value per share also slipped, as hefty dividend payouts outweighed the profit earned in the period.

Heidelberg's profit declines 6% in Apr-Jun

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Heidelberg Materials Bangladesh PLC reported a 6 percent fall in profit for the second quarter of the year, as tighter margins and lower sales volumes took a toll on its bottom line.

The cement manufacturer posted a profit of Tk 2.65 crore for the April-June period, compared to Tk 2.82 crore a year earlier.

Earnings per share edged down to Tk 0.47 from Tk 0.50 in the same quarter of 2024, according to its financial statements.

The company cited "lower margin per tonne and lower volume" as reasons behind the decline. Heidelberg's product line includes ScanCement and RubyCement.

The company's net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) stood at negative Tk 10.14 in the January-June period, a drop from Tk 15.08 a year ago.

Prime Bank records 32% profit growth in H1 2025

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has reported a 32 percent year-on-year growth in net profit after tax (NPAT) for the first half of 2025, reaching Tk 410 crore, up from Tk 311 crore during the same period last year, according to a press release.

The bank disclosed the figures in its unaudited half-yearly financial results for the period ending June 30, 2025.



The board of directors approved the financial statements at a meeting held yesterday.

Earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 3.53, compared to Tk 2.68 in the same period of the previous year.

The net asset value per share rose to Tk 35.29 from Tk 29.83, while the net operating cash flow per share increased to Tk 17.10, up from Tk 8.46.

As of June 2025, the bank's total assets stood at Tk 59,605 crore, with loans and advances amounting to Tk 33,472 crore. Prime Bank's capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio stood at 17.72 percent at the end of the first half of 2025.

NRBC Bank arranges town hall meeting in Rajshahi

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NRBC Bank PLC has recently organised a "Town Hall Meeting 2025" at a hotel in Rajshahi.

Md Ali Hossain Pradhania, chairman of the bank, attended the event as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his address, Pradhania emphasised that there is no alternative to good governance in banking operations.

He underscored the importance of strict compliance with rules and regulations across all areas of activity.

To that end, he highlighted the need to maintain loan quality, recover classified and written-off loans, and mobilise no-interest and low-interest deposits.

Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and chief executive officer of the bank, presided over the meeting.



Md Ali Hossain Pradhania, chairman of NRBC Bank PLC, attends the bank's "Town Hall Meeting 2025" at a hotel in Rajshahi recently. PHOTO: NRBC BANK

EXIM Bank organises half-yearly managers' conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

EXIM Bank PLC organised its "Half-Yearly Managers Conference 2025" at the bank's head office in the capital on Saturday.

Md Nazrul Islam Swapan, chairman of the bank, attended the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his address, Swapan advised all branch

managers to work collectively to achieve the desired outcomes by addressing the current challenges facing the banking sector.

Abdul Aziz Zumma, managing director (current charge) of the bank, presided over the conference. He discussed the bank's overall current activities and outlined a clear action plan to attain the targeted goals.

Md Zoshim Uddin Bhuiyan, Maksuda Khanam, and Md Moidul Islam, deputy managing directors of the bank, were also present, along with all regional managers, branch managers, second officers, GB in-charges, investment in-charges, foreign trade in-charges, and divisional heads of the head office.



Md Nazrul Islam Swapan, chairman of EXIM Bank PLC, addresses the bank's "Half-Yearly Managers Conference 2025" at its head office in the capital on Saturday. PHOTO: EXIM BANK

Citizens Bank holds training on marketing, business development



Alamgir Hossain, managing director of Citizens Bank PLC, poses for group photographs with participants of the training programme on "Capacity Building for Marketing and Business Development" at the bank's training academy in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: CITIZENS BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Citizens Bank PLC has organised a training programme on "Capacity Building for Marketing and Business Development" at the bank's training academy in the capital recently.

Alamgir Hossain, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest and delivered a valuable speech on various aspects of banking operations and business development in the current macroeconomic context, said a press release.

Md Abdul Latif, deputy managing director of the bank; Md Waheed Imam, senior executive vice-president and company secretary; and Md Saiful Islam, chief financial officer, were also present, alongside heads of divisions and branches from across the country participated in the training programme.

Young entrepreneurs

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of finished leather goods to align with international buyer demands. "Value addition is the future," Mursalin said.

But challenges remain—rawhide perishability, price competitiveness, and high production costs due to the need to import the chemicals used in the process.

"Imported inputs and lack of bonded warehouse facilities make it difficult to compete with countries like Pakistan," he explained.

"Still, more leather engineering graduates are entering this field, and with the right policy support—such as export-linked chemical subsidies—we can do much better," said Mursalin.

All in all, over 130 local and foreign companies participated in the fair, including exporters of leather goods, footwear, machinery, and raw materials. The vigour of the exporters gives hope, especially because the sector's earnings from sales abroad

have slightly dropped to \$345 million in the fiscal year 2024–25 from \$353 million in the preceding year.

Md Mizanur Rahman, general secretary of the BTA, expressed optimism over the young entrepreneurs in this sector.

"These young entrepreneurs are innovative and well-educated. They understand quality, global trends, and what the market demands. We support their growth—because they represent the next generation of leadership in our sector," he said.

He said as Bangladesh eyes a bigger stake in global leather exports, the rise of technically trained, self-driven entrepreneurs could be the missing link between potential and performance.

From micro-factories in Hazaribagh to export shipments bound for Europe and Southeast Asia, the transformation is already underway, he added.

The debt supercycle

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debt or debt growth, especially for countries with a reserve currency." The veteran hedge fund manager's "big debt cycle" lasts around 80 years (roughly the same periodicity as Howe's revolution). Over the course of Dalió's cycle, sound money gives way to government-issued fiat money, the private sector takes on too much debt, at which point the government steps in to bail out borrowers, and total debt keeps on rising.

As the cycle nears its end, a country is typically beset by chronic fiscal deficits. Low domestic savings and current account deficits render it dependent on foreign lenders. As lenders become wary, the average maturity of the public debt shortens. The central bank finds it impossible to set interest rates at the level which balances the needs of both creditors and borrowers. Once interest rates rise, governments' debt servicing costs become increasingly onerous. Government finances come to resemble a Ponzi scheme, with new debt being issued to service old borrowing.

That pretty much describes the

situation which several advanced economies, including Britain, France and the United States, find themselves in today.

The investment conclusions from Dalió's historical study are unsurprising. Owning government bonds at the end of a debt supercycle is not a good idea. Faced with a crisis, central banks usually bail out their governments. When inflation picks up, currencies depreciate on the foreign exchanges. Real assets are a safer bet. Stocks tend to decline into the crisis but generally recover their losses in the aftermath. Gold shines, beating bonds on average by 71 percent during crisis periods, according to Dalió.

"History is seasonal, winter is here," writes the dismal prophet Howe. Dalió does not think a debt crisis is imminent, but believes one is likely to arrive within the next decade. Bondholders are forewarned. On the bright side, it's possible that by then a more resolute generation of parliamentarians will have started work on fixing the Palace of Westminster.

Hossain Khaled appointed chairman of City Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Hossain Khaled, a director of City Bank PLC, has been appointed as the new chairman of the bank.



Hossain Khaled

The appointment was confirmed at a meeting of the bank's board of directors held at its head office in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

Khaled is a sponsor director of City Bank and previously served as its vice-chairman for seven years. He is also a member of the board's executive committee and risk management committee.

In addition, he serves as chairman of two of the bank's subsidiaries: City Brokerage Limited and City Hong Kong Limited.

He currently holds the position of group managing director at the Anwar Group of Industries.

He is a former four-term president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former co-chairman of the Bangladesh Better Business Forum, and the founding president of the Bangladesh Chapter of the Entrepreneurs' Organization.

He obtained his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Toledo, Ohio in the US, and did an MBA in international banking from Texas A&M University.

Dollar advances

REUTERS, New York

The US dollar advanced on Friday, bolstered by solid economic data that suggested the Federal Reserve could take its time in resuming interest rate cuts, while tariff negotiations showed more clarity that eased some uncertainty in the market.

The US currency showed little reaction to data showing new orders for key US-manufactured capital goods unexpectedly fell in June while shipments of those products increased moderately. That suggested business spending on equipment slowed considerably in the second quarter.

"The dollar regained some ground the past two days, after being on the defensive earlier in the week ... supported mostly by an encouraging set of US economic data that argues for continued patience at the Fed," said Elias Haddad, senior markets strategist at Brown Brothers Harriman in London.

The greenback was set for its biggest weekly drop in a month, ahead of more tariff dialogue and central bank meetings next week, while sterling dipped after softer-than-expected British retail sales data.

Both the Fed and the Bank of Japan are expected to hold rates steady at next week's policy meetings, but traders are focusing on the subsequent comments to gauge the timing of the next moves.