

Prime Bank holds seminar on financial inclusion, youth empowerment

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Prime Bank PLC, in partnership with the Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST) and its Career Club, has recently organised a seminar, entitled "Financial Inclusion: Engaging & Inspiring Youth in Banking" on the university campus.

The seminar was held under the banner of PrimeAcademia, Prime Bank's campus-based initiative, conceived as a comprehensive banking service tailored to the needs of academic institutions across Bangladesh.

The event drew over 200 students from a wide range of academic disciplines, providing a dynamic forum to promote financial literacy, prudent money management, and career pathways within the banking and financial services sector.

Prof Md Abdul Mazid, vice-chancellor of JUST, attended as the chief guest, according to a press release. The programme sought to raise awareness of financial inclusion while equipping students with the knowledge and competencies essential for employability and entrepreneurship.

Md Iqbal Mohsin, director of the Financial Inclusion Department at the Bangladesh Bank, delivered the keynote address, underscoring the vital connection between financial



Prof Md Abdul Mazid, vice-chancellor of the Jashore University of Science and Technology, receives an award from MM Mahbub Hasan, senior vice-president and head of financial inclusion and school banking at Prime Bank PLC, during a recently held seminar titled "Financial Inclusion: Engaging & Inspiring Youth in Banking" on the university campus.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

literacy, youth empowerment, and national financial inclusion strategies in advancing inclusive economic growth under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A focal point of the seminar was the introduction of

the Prime Youth Account, a banking solution specifically designed for students to foster early financial responsibility. On-site account opening facilities enabled participants to experience modern banking services firsthand.

Pubali Bank donates microbus to Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology



Prof Golam Rahman, chairman of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, receives the dummy key of the microbus from Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, on the university campus in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

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Pubali Bank PLC has donated a microbus to the Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, handed over a dummy key of the microbus to Prof Golam Rahman, chairman of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), during a ceremony held recently on the university campus in Dhaka, according to a press release.

In his remarks, Ali stated, "Pubali Bank is not merely a profit-oriented organisation; it also remains committed to supporting the education sector as part of its social responsibility. As part of this commitment, Pubali Bank has donated a microbus to Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology."

He further noted that the donation would serve as a symbol of friendship and mutual cooperation between the two institutions in the years ahead.

Prof Md Ashraful Hoque, vice-chancellor of AUST; Prof Mohammed Mahbubur Rahman, pro-vice-chancellor; Prof Sharmin Reza Chowdhury, treasurer; and Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, assistant general manager of the bank, along with officials from both organisations, were also present.

China says consumer prices stable in July

AFP, Beijing

Consumer prices in China remained stable in July, official data showed Saturday, providing a respite for the world's second-largest economy, which is facing strong deflationary pressure and fragile domestic demand.

The consumer price index -- a key measure of inflation -- was unchanged year-on-year in July, according to data released by China's National Bureau of Statistics.

The reading was better than the 0.1 percent fall forecast in a survey of economists by Bloomberg.

Prices nevertheless fell year-on-year in rural areas (down 0.3 percent) and for consumer goods (down 0.4 percent).

While deflation may be appreciated by consumers, it poses a threat to the broader economy as households tend to postpone purchases in the hope of even lower prices.

However, a long-term crisis in the real estate sector and high youth unemployment have been weighing on Chinese consumer sentiment for several years.

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The situation has worsened with the heightened turmoil sparked by US President Donald Trump's trade war.

After four consecutive months of decline, prices nevertheless rebounded in June.

"The downward trend of car and phone prices improved, which contributed to the rise of core CPI," Zhiwei Zhang, president and chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, said.

"Nonetheless it is still unclear if this is the end of deflation in China," he said.

"The property sector has not stabilised. The economy is still supported more by external demand than domestic consumption," he noted.

In another alarming sign, Chinese factory gate prices saw another fall in July. The producer price index declined 3.6 percent year-on-year in July, following a similar decline in June.

This decline, which has been ongoing for almost three years, means reduced margins for companies engaged in a fierce price war that authorities are trying to curb.

This week, China recorded a rebound in its foreign trade in July compared to last year. But the tariff truce between Beijing and Washington is due to end on Tuesday, at which point US tariffs could return to higher levels.

National Bank arranges 42nd AGM

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National Bank PLC has organised its 42nd annual general meeting (AGM) at a convention centre in Dhaka recently.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, chairman and sponsor director of National Bank PLC, presided over the meeting as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his address, Mintoo stated that although many incidents had occurred in the past at National Bank, no irregularities or corruption would be tolerated going forward.

"All members of the board of directors and the management team

are making their utmost efforts to restore the bank's reputation and position."

He also assured shareholders that the overall situation and key financial indicators of the bank would improve significantly in the coming year compared to the present.

Moazzam Hossain, vice-chairman and sponsor director of the bank; Muklesur Rahman, chairman of the executive committee and independent director; Md Abdus Satter Sarkar, chairman of the audit committee and independent director; Md Zulkar Nayn and Prof Melita Mehjabeen, independent directors, attended the AGM.

He further noted that all initiatives were aimed solely at protecting the interests of the bank's shareholders, employees, and depositors, and at restoring their trust.

He expressed his belief that, through collective efforts, National Bank would be able to regain its former glory.

Adil Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, was also present, along with deputy managing directors and shareholders.



Abdul Awal Mintoo, chairman and sponsor director of National Bank PLC, presides over the bank's 42nd annual general meeting at a convention centre in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NATIONAL BANK

SBAC Bank holds business review meeting

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SBAC Bank PLC has organised a "Business Review Meeting 2025" for its Chattogram regional branches at a hotel in the port city recently.

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Md Robiul Islam, managing director and CEO (current charge) of SBAC Bank PLC, attended the meeting as the chief guest, according to a press release.

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Mohammad Imtiaz, manager of the bank's Agrabad branch, presided over the event.

Adiba Rahman, chairperson of the executive committee and an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute (ACII), UK, attended the programme as the special guest.

Zeyad Rahman and Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, directors of the company; Uttam Kumar Sadhu, chief executive officer; and Haque, deputy managing director; along with other senior officials, present also were.

conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In the presence of development workers and officers, an open discussion was held, focusing on setting business goals for 2025 and leveraging technology to accelerate digitalisation and ensure quicker claim settlements for customers.

The company also honoured the year's top performers for their outstanding achievements

The meeting focused on reviewing the current business performance of the regional branches, with special emphasis on deposit growth and loan recovery.

Discussions were held to evaluate branch-wise performance, identify challenges, and explore strategies for sustainable growth.

Guidance was provided by senior management to align regional operations with the bank's overall business objectives.

Among others, Md Altaf Hossain Bhuiyan, deputy managing director of the bank; Md Masudur Rahman, head of banking operations; Md Mokaddes Ali, company secretary; Md Abdul Mannan, head of credit division; Mannan Bapari, chief financial officer; Mohammad Shafiqul Azam, head of general services division; and Md Abul Kalam Azad, legal affairs and recovery division; were also present.

Other data including a weakening housing market and services sector data are also pointing to a slowing economy.

Trump on Thursday, meanwhile, said he will nominate Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Stephen Miran to serve out the final few months of a newly vacant Fed seat, while the White House seeks a permanent addition to the central bank's governing board

Dollar heads for weekly loss on dovish Fed expectations

REUTERS, New York

The dollar firmed on Friday but was heading for a weekly fall as weakening economic data leads traders to price in the probability of more interest rate cuts this year, and as investors evaluate US President Donald Trump's nominations to the Federal Reserve.

The dollar has dropped since last week's jobs report for July showed employers added fewer jobs than expected during the month, while job gains from previous months were also revised down sharply.

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Trump on Thursday, meanwhile, said he will nominate Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Stephen Miran to serve out the final few months of a newly vacant Fed seat, while the White House seeks a permanent addition to the central bank's governing board

and continues its search for a new Fed chair.

Bloomberg News reported on Thursday that Fed Governor Christopher Waller, who voted for a rate cut in the Fed's last meeting, is emerging as a top candidate to be the central bank's next chair when Jerome Powell's term ends in May.

"It loads the FOMC with people who presumably are a little bit more favorable to lower interest rates," said Shaun Osborne, chief FX strategist at Scotiabank in Toronto.

The impression is that the Fed is veering towards cutting interest rates probably a little bit quicker than markets had expected, certainly prior to last week. And maybe even speculation that the Fed could cut rates a bit more aggressively than we'd been expecting."

Traders now see a 89 percent chance of a rate cut at the Fed's September meeting, and are pricing in 58 basis points in cuts by year-end.

Delta Life Insurance holds annual business conference in Cox's Bazar

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Delta Life Insurance Company Limited has organised its "Annual Business Conference 2024" at the Hotel Long Beach in Cox's Bazar recently.

The event brought together over 1,500 qualified development workers and officers of the life insurer.

Hafiz Ahmed Majumder, chairman of Delta Life Insurance Company Limited, attended the

conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

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Hafiz Ahmed Majumder, chairman of Delta Life Insurance Company Limited, attends the life insurer's "Annual Business Conference 2024" at Hotel Long Beach in Cox's Bazar recently.

PHOTO: DELTA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY