

Prime Bank signs MoU with icddr,b to tackle TB deaths

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), a leading global health research institute, to strengthen lifesaving tuberculosis (TB) interventions in Sylhet.

Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, and Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director of icddr,b, signed the MoU at the bank's corporate office in the capital's Gulshan, according to a press release.

Under the MoU, Prime Bank will provide funding support for the

continuation of TB screening and treatment services at icddr,b's Sylhet TB Screening and Treatment Centre (TBSTC) for one year.

icddr,b has long been a key national partner in the fight against TB, having screened more than 52 million people between 2020 and 2024, identifying over 148,000 TB cases, including 18,000 children, and facilitating treatment for more than 5,500 drug-resistant TB patients.

In the past two to three years, the country has witnessed alarming mortality rates, with 44,000 TB-related deaths recorded in 2023 alone, which is equivalent to one every 12 minutes, the press release added.



Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), and Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing the memorandum of understanding at the bank's corporate office in the capital's Gulshan recently.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Dollar hits 7-week low

REUTERS, Singapore

The dollar sank to an almost seven-week low on Tuesday as investors braced for US data revisions that could show the jobs market in worse shape than initially thought, shoring up the case for even deeper Federal Reserve interest rate cuts.

The dollar index fell to lows of 97.323 in Asia trade, representing the weakest level for the greenback since July 24, ahead of the release of preliminary benchmark revisions, opens new tab for jobs data covering the period from April 2024 to March 2025.

Economists anticipate a downward revision of as much as 800,000 jobs, which could signal that the Fed is behind the curve in efforts to achieve maximum employment.

"The employment numbers are getting worse and worse at a heavy rate," said Alex Hill, managing director at Electus Financial in Auckland. "That's translating into a weaker US dollar slowly, but we expect that to accelerate."

Advisors to the Trump administration are preparing a report laying out the alleged shortcomings of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which they may publish in coming weeks, The Wall Street Journal, opens new tab reported on Tuesday, citing unnamed sources.

Last month US President Donald Trump fired BLS Commissioner Erika McEntarfer, accusing her, without evidence, of faking the employment data.

US bond investors say they are seeing cracks emerging in the outlook, warning the market is underpricing long-term fiscal risks and the danger posed by White House pressure on the central bank to cut interest rates.

Traders' expectations of more aggressive Fed easing are gradually increasing. Pricing of Fed funds futures on Tuesday implied an 11.6 percent probability of a jumbo 50 basis point rate cut at the Fed's September meeting, compared with an 11 percent chance on Monday, according to the CME Group's FedWatch tool, with a cut of at least 25 basis points viewed as a certainty.



Ahmed Shaheen, additional managing director of Eastern Bank, and Sharful Alam, chief executive officer of Felicity IDC Limited, attend a ceremony to adopt Starlink satellite communication services at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

Eastern Bank adopts Starlink services

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) yesterday became the first bank in Bangladesh to set up connectivity through satellite communication of Starlink, the global satellite internet service provider by SpaceX.

It is expected to herald a new era of innovation, resilience, and efficiency within the nation's financial technology landscape, according to a press release.

Ahmed Shaheen, additional managing director of Eastern Bank PLC, and Sharful Alam, chief executive officer of Felicity IDC Limited, attended the launch at the bank's head office in the capital.

Felicity IDC Limited, an accredited Tier III data centre located at Kaliakair Hi-Tech Park in Kaliakair upazila of Gazipur, is a Starlink service provider in Bangladesh.

With this milestone, EBL has reinforced its position as a leader in banking innovation, committed to leveraging advanced technologies to build a more secure, reliable, and inclusive financial system in the country, the press release added.

Osman Ershad Faiz, additional managing director and chief operating officer of the bank, and Zahidul Haque, chief technology officer, along with senior executives from both organisations, were also present.

Islami Bank, Mastercard launch business debit card for SMEs

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, in collaboration with Mastercard, yesterday launched a new SME Business Debit Card designed exclusively for small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) owners.

This card provides business customers of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC with enhanced convenience, digital transactions, and efficient financial management both at home and abroad.

Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of SME Foundation, inaugurated the card as the chief guest, according to a press release.

"This partnership with Mastercard underscores our commitment to innovation, financial inclusion, and supporting entrepreneurs across the country," Md Omar Faruk Khan, managing director of Islami Bank



Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of SME Foundation, inaugurates the SME business debit card, jointly launched by Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC and Mastercard, in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH

Bangladesh PLC, said while presiding over the programme.

Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard, said, "By providing small business owners with

a globally accepted, secure, and efficient payment solution, we are enabling them to broaden their business horizons, strengthen their operations, and play a vital role in driving Bangladesh's economic growth and resilience."

Pubali Bank signs MoU with SSL on settlement bank partnership in NPSB platform



Sayeeful Islam, managing director of Software Shop Limited, and Mohammad Ali, managing director and chief executive officer of Pubali Bank PLC, exchange signed documents of the memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Software Shop Limited (SSL), one of the most reputed software development, fintech, and ITeS companies in Bangladesh, to establish a settlement bank partnership under the National Payment Switch Bangladesh (NPSB) platform.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and chief executive officer of Pubali Bank PLC, and Sayeeful Islam, managing director of Software Shop Limited, signed the MoU at the bank's head office in the capital, according to a press release.

Md Shahnewaz Khan, deputy managing director of the bank; Indra Mohan Sutradhar, general manager and head of software development division; Asim Kumar Roy, general manager and head of card operations division; and Md Rabiul Alam, deputy general manager and head of alternative delivery channel division, attended the event.

Prime Bank hosts seminar on financial inclusion, youth empowerment at DIU

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC, in collaboration with Daffodil International University (DIU) and its Finance Club, recently organised a seminar, titled "Financial Inclusion: Engaging & Inspiring Youth in Banking", on the university campus in Dhaka.

More than 200 students from various academic disciplines of the university participated, according to a press release.

A key feature of the seminar was the introduction of the Prime Youth Account, a student-oriented banking solution offered in both conventional and Islamic formats.

Designed to cultivate early financial responsibility, the account enables students to embark on their financial journey with convenience and confidence.

Participants were also able to open accounts on the spot, gaining first-hand experience of modern, customer-centric banking services.

Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability at Prime Bank PLC, outlined the bank's journey and its youth-focused initiatives to nurture future leaders, while emphasising the evolving role of young people in the forthcoming AI-driven transformation.



Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability at Prime Bank PLC, receives a crest from representatives of Daffodil International University (DIU) and its Finance Club before the seminar, titled "Financial Inclusion: Engaging & Inspiring Youth in Banking", on the university campus in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
TVET Teachers for the Future (TTF) Program
Directorate of Technical Education
F-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for Tenders

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh		
1	Ministry/ Division	Ministry of Education, Technical & Madrasa Education Division
2	Agency	Directorate of Technical Education
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, TVET Teachers for the Future (TTF) Program
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Procurement of non-consulting services
7	Invitation Reference No	57.03.0000.912.001.07.0003.25-003
8	Date	09-09-2025
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development & GoB
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project / Program Code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project Name (if applicable)	TVET Teachers for the Future (TTF) Program
14	Tender Package No.	DTE/TTF/S-32
15	Tender Package Name	Hiring of two vehicles for TTF Program
16	Tender Publication Date	09-09-2025
17	Tender Last Selling Date	23-09-2025; 5:00 PM
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date: 24-09-2025 Time: 2.00
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date: 24-09-2025 Time: 2.30
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Project Director, TVET Teachers for the Future (TTF) Program, Directorate of Technical Education (Room No: 608), F-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	N/A
NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS		
21	- Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, TVET Teachers for the Future (TTF) Program, Directorate of Technical Education (Room No: 608), F-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
	- Opening Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, TVET Teachers for the Future (TTF) Program, Directorate of Technical Education (Room No: 608), F-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	As Per TDS
23	Brief Description of Services	Rent of 1 (One) Jeep and 1 (One) microbus for PMU of the TTF Program
24	Contract Period	12 (Twelve) Months
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	BDT. 1500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred Only)
26	Amount of Tender Security	1.00 (One) lac
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Shoab Ahmad Khan
	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director (Additional Secretary)
	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Project Director, TVET Teachers for the Future (TTF) Program, Directorate of Technical Education, F-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Mobile: 01711967022 E-mail: pd.ttf.dte@gmail.com
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings		

GD-1967

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