

Dhaka Bank joins Tk 500cr BB startup refinancing scheme

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Bank PLC has recently signed a participation agreement with Bangladesh Bank (BB) under the Tk 500 crore Startup Fund Refinancing Scheme. Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, additional director of Bangladesh Bank, and AKM Shahnawaj, managing director (current charge) of Dhaka Bank PLC, signed the agreement at the BB headquarters in the capital's Motijheel, according to a press release.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur joined the programme virtually.

According to the central bank's master circular issued on July 9 this year, eligible startup entrepreneurs can now access refinance loans at a 4 percent interest

rate. The circular also raised loan ceilings for startups, setting limits between Tk 2 crore and Tk 8 crore.

Startups introducing new products, services, or processes using technology or intellectual property to meet domestic or global demand, demonstrating rapid scalability, and possessing the capacity to reshape or significantly improve existing markets through disruptive innovation will be eligible to access loans at the 4 percent rate.

Nurun Nahar, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank; Husne Ara Shikha, executive director; and Md Mahbubur Rahman Palash, head of MSME and emerging business division of Dhaka Bank PLC, along with other senior officials, were also present.



AKM Shahnawaj, managing director (current charge) of Dhaka Bank PLC, and Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, additional director of Bangladesh Bank, exchange signed documents of the agreement at the BB headquarters in the capital's Motijheel recently.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

Textile Series of Exhibitions kicks off in Purbachal

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The 24th Bangladesh edition of the Textile Series of Exhibitions began yesterday at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in the capital's Purbachal.

Organised by CEMS-Global USA, the event unites three major fairs under one roof: the 24th Textech Bangladesh 2025 International Expo, the 24th Dhaka International Yarn and Fabric Show 2025 (Summer Edition), and the 48th DyeChem Bangladesh 2025 International Expo.

The fairs will remain open daily

from 10am to 7pm until September 13, according to a press release.

Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global and Asia-Pacific, presided over the inauguration ceremony.

Running until September 13, the exhibitions present the full textile value chain, from advanced machinery and automation to sustainable dyestuffs and chemical innovations.

This year's edition has attracted exhibitors from more than 30 countries, underscoring Bangladesh's growing stature as a global sourcing hub.

Tourists cancel Nepal trips

FROM PAGE B4

Himalaya Airlines, a Nepalese airline operating from Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, cancelled its scheduled flight following the unrest.

Fakhru Hassan Bhuiyan, a tour operator, said Bangladeshi travellers now mostly visit Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, as many other destinations impose strict visa restrictions.

"On average, about 2,000 Bangladeshi fly abroad every day, and 6 to 7 percent of them choose Nepal," he said. "But just yesterday, one of our guests couldn't even land and had to return."

Bhuiyan also said Nepal's popularity surged after India closed its borders. "Earlier, we sold maybe five or six Nepal packages a month. Recently, that number rose to 35-40. Naturally, the unrest has had a major impact."

Communication with Nepalese partners has also broken down.

"They mostly deal B2B with us, not directly with Bangladeshi travellers. WhatsApp was their main channel, and its shutdown has made things even harder," he said.

"Just last week, we were about to finalise a corporate deal with a renowned company to send 88 guests to Nepal, but that too has been put on hold," Bhuiyan added.

However, industry insiders expect the situation not to prolong as Nepal is also dependent on Bangladeshi tourists.

In 2024 alone, nearly 49,000 Bangladeshi tourists visited Nepal, up from over 36,000 the year before, cementing Bangladesh's position as one of Nepal's key source markets.

"Nepal's economy is heavily reliant on tourism, and the people are generally very welcoming. So far, there are no reports of protesters targeting foreign tourists. The situation will likely stabilise soon," said ex-TOAB chief Ahmed.

The market has made up its mind, and probably quite rightly, that the Fed is going to be cutting interest rates," said Jane Foley, head FX strategist at Rabobank.

Dollar firm

REUTERS, London

The dollar held steady on Wednesday ahead of US inflation data this week that could help shape the outlook for Federal Reserve policy, while a fraught geopolitical backdrop underpinned the likes of the Swiss franc.

Employment data in the last week has shown the US economy created far fewer jobs in the last year than expected, which has made a rate cut from the Fed next week look like a certainty.

Yet it has not dented confidence in the equities market, where stocks trade at record highs, nor has it had much immediate impact on the dollar itself, even as investors weigh up the chances of a jumbo half point cut from the Fed next week.

The market has made up its mind, and probably quite rightly, that the Fed is going to be cutting interest rates," said Jane Foley, head FX strategist at Rabobank.

Al-Arafah Islami Bank signs partnership deal with TAP



SM Akram, chief executive officer of Trust And Pay Limited, and SM Abu Jafar, deputy managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC, exchange signed documents of the agreement at the bank's head office in the capital on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Trust And Pay Limited (TAP), the mobile financial services provider wholly owned by Trust Bank PLC, aimed at enhancing digital financial services and delivering greater convenience to customers.

SM Abu Jafar, deputy managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC, and SM Akram, chief executive

officer of Trust And Pay Limited, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in the capital on Tuesday, according to a press release.

Md Sohel Ahmed, executive vice-president and chief technology officer (current charge) of the bank; Jalal Ahmed, executive vice-president and head of brand communication and marketing; and Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, head of MFS and digital banking, attended the event.

The strategic alliance reflects Al-Arafah Islami Bank's continued commitment to introducing innovative Shariah-compliant digital solutions and promoting financial inclusion across Bangladesh, the release added.

Md Alamgir Hossain, head of regulatory and partnership business of TAP, and Md Ahmed Ullah Chowdhury, senior manager, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.

Tropical Homes partners with Shatotto for Bashundhara Lakefront project

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Tropical Homes Limited, a Dhaka-based real estate developer, has signed an agreement with Shatotto, an architectural firm specialising in green living in Bangladesh, for the signature project, named "Tropical Lakefront Residence", at Bashundhara Residential Area in Dhaka.

Sheikh Rabiu Haque, managing director of Tropical Homes Limited, and Md Rafiq Azam, principal architect of Shatotto, signed the agreement in the capital recently, according to a press release.

Following the signing, Azam and his team of architects from Shatotto visited the Lakefront Residence site to gain firsthand insights into the landscape and environment.

The interactive session allowed him to share initial concepts and ideas with landowners and the Tropical Homes management team, laying the groundwork for a design that is not only architecturally distinctive but also rooted in practical considerations.

"We are excited about this partnership and look forward to unveiling a landmark residential development that will redefine modern urban living in Dhaka," said Azam.



Md Rafiq Azam, principal architect of Shatotto, and Sheikh Rabiu Haque, managing director of Tropical Homes Limited, pose for photographs after signing the agreement in Bashundhara Residential Area in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: TROPICAL HOMES

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

www tcb gov bd

Commercial Section

Invitation For Tender (International) for Purchase of

(a) 12,00,000 (One Crore Twenty Lac) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil and (b) 12,500 (Twelve Thousand Five Hundred) M.Ton White Refined Sugar	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce
2 Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
3 Procuring Entity Name	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.
4 Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable.
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
6 Invitation for	a) Refined Soyabean Oil, b) White Refined Sugar
7 Invitation Ref. No.	a) 26.05.0001.016.08.576.25.2407, b) 26.05.0000.016.08.576.25.2408
8 Date	10-09-2025
KEY INFORMATION	
9 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10 Budget and Source of Funds	TCB's Own Fund.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
11 Package No.	a) TCB/Imp-06/Soyabean Oil/2025-26, b) TCB/Imp-06/Sugar/2025-26
12 Package Name	a) Refined Soyabean Oil, b) White Refined Sugar
13 Tender Invitation/Publication Date	11-09-2025
Date	
14 Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	07-10-2025 17:00 P.M
15 Tender Closing Date and Time	08-10-2025 12:00 P.M
16 Tender Opening Date and Time	08-10-2025 12:15 P.M
17 Name & Address of the office(s)	Address
- Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column.	(1) Sonali Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka. (2) Trust Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, and (3) Accounts & Finance Division, TCB's Principal Office at Dhaka.
- Receiving Tender Document	In front of TCB's reception (2 nd floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
- Opening Tender Document	Board Room, TCB.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
18 Eligibility of Tenderer	Refined Soyabean Oil Suppliers. Details conditions will be mentioned in the Tender documents.
19 Brief Description of Import of goods	Import of a) 12,00,000 (One Crore Twenty Lac) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil Packed in 02 (Two) Liter Food Grade PET Bottle [Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 60,00,000 liter]. b) 12,500 (Twelve Thousand Five Hundred) M. Tons White Refined Sugar packed in 50 (Fifty) kg bag [Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 6,000 M. Ton].
20 Price of Tender Document	Price of (a) Refined Soyabean Oil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand), (b) White Refined Sugar tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand)
21 Lot No/ Identification of Lot	Location
1 a) Refined Soyabean Oil	Offers to be made on CFR (C) Chittagong / Mongla Port by Sea or CPT Benapole/ Bangla Hil/ Darshana/ Sonamajid/ Bhomra/ Teknaf by rail/ truck.
b) White Refined Sugar	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: a) USD 360,000 (US Dollar Three Lac Sixty Thousand) or BDT 4,39,20,000/- (BDT Four Crore Thirty Nine Lac Twenty Thousand) Only. b) USD 160,000 (US Dollar One Lac Sixty Thousand) or BDT 1,95,20,000 (BDT One Crore Ninety Five Lac Twenty Thousand) Only.
	Entire quantity of Goods is to be shipped within (a) 10.01.2026 (b) 10.01.2026
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
22 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Golam Khorshed
23 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
24 Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
25 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No. 02-8180060 Fax No. 880-2-8180057 E-mail: tcb@tcb.gov.bd , tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd
26 Special Instructions:	<p>a. All terms and conditions related to the tender and product details are mentioned in the tender document.</p> <p>b. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole/ in part without assigning any reason.</p>

GD-1986

(Md. Golam Khorshed)
Additional Director (Commercial)
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

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