

# HSBC, Chittagong Port Authority collaborate to launch digital port payments

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) in Bangladesh, in partnership with Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), has recently launched a fully automated, real-time port payment system aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, security, and convenience for the country's maritime stakeholders.

Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, chairman of Chittagong Port Authority, and Bashar M Tareq, head of markets and securities services at HSBC Bangladesh, jointly inaugurated the digital port payment system, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Moniruzzaman said, "An additional 1.5 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) are expected to pass through our port in the next five years. We must enhance efficiency and capacity to ensure the port remains an enabler of trade, rather than becoming a non-tariff barrier."

"This digital payment system addresses part of that challenge by streamlining payments and reducing processing times. To attract investment and compete with regional peers, we must continue improving efficiency across the port ecosystem."

Tareq added: "This partnership reflects HSBC Bangladesh's commitment to delivering cash management solutions that make trade processes faster, safer, and more efficient in response to the country's evolving economic landscape."

HSBC and CPA jointly developed the digital solution to facilitate seamless financial transactions for all port users through HSBC's payments platform, based on secure application programming interface (API) validation.

The collaboration introduces a bespoke, cashless



**Bashar M Tareq, head of markets and securities services at HSBC Bangladesh, and Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman, chairman of Chittagong Port Authority, pose for photographs at the launch of the digital port payment system recently.**

PHOTO: HSBC BANGLADESH

solution that enables port users to settle bills directly from their respective banks digitally, eliminating the need for physical visits to the port.

On this occasion, HSBC and CPA also arranged a panel discussion with senior CPA representatives, industry leaders, global port operators, shipping and C&F agents,

technology partners, and HSBC officials.

The panel discussed ongoing technological investments and strategic partnerships to enhance user experience in port payments, while also highlighting efforts to support port users in adapting to the digital payment system developed by HSBC.

# Dollar steady

REUTERS, Singapore

The dollar stabilised in Asia on Thursday after an unexpected drop in US factory-gate prices bolstered expectations the Federal Reserve will cut rates next week, with traders now awaiting US consumer price data later in the day.

The dollar index nudged up 0.1 percent to 97.83, rising for a third consecutive day after the Producer Price Index for final demand fell 0.1 percent during August, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said on Wednesday. The decline followed a 0.7 percent jump in July, which was also revised downwards.

"The market has positioned for the Fed to ease in September and potentially ease three times this year," said Rodrigo Catril, currency strategist at National Australia Bank in Sydney. "The benign outcome from the PPI tells you pricing expectations look about right."

Markets are trading on expectations that the prospect of the Fed easing is a certainty and the only remaining question is by how much. Traders are pricing in an 8.9 percent chance of a jumbo 50 basis points (bps) rate cut at the central bank's September 16-17 meeting, while a cut of at least 25 bps is viewed as a done deal, according to the CME Group's FedWatch tool.

Appointments to the Fed's rate-setting panel remained in focus, as President Donald Trump's administration on Wednesday moved to appeal a federal judge's ruling temporarily blocking Trump from taking the unprecedented step of firing Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook. The White House is seeking to remove her before the US central bank's meeting next week.

Stephen Miran also moved closer to becoming a Federal Reserve governor, furthering Trump's effort to exert more direct control over interest rate policy.

# Prime Bank joins Tk 500cr BB start-up refinancing fund



**M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank PLC, and Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, additional director of Bangladesh Bank, pose for photographs after signing the agreement at the BB headquarters in the capital's Motijheel recently.**

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has recently signed a participation agreement with Bangladesh Bank (BB) to implement the Tk 500 crore start-up refinancing fund, aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and supporting emerging ventures across the country.

Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, additional director of Bangladesh Bank, and M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime

Bank PLC, signed the agreement at the BB headquarters in the capital's Motijheel, according to a press release.

Commenting on the initiative, Choudhury said: "This collaboration with Bangladesh Bank demonstrates our shared commitment to nurturing innovative entrepreneurs and supporting the country's CMSME sector."

"By facilitating access to finance and capacity-building support, we aim to transform entrepreneurial

ideas into thriving businesses that will generate employment, strengthen the CMSME ecosystem, and contribute to Bangladesh's sustainable economic growth."

Under the agreement, Prime Bank will provide financing to start-up entrepreneurs on easy terms through BB's refinancing facility.

In addition, the bank will offer training, technical assistance, and advisory services to help entrepreneurs manage and scale their businesses more effectively.

# IFIC Bank holds 48th annual general meeting

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IFIC Bank PLC held its 48th annual general meeting (AGM) at the Army Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday.

Md Mehmood Husain, chairman and independent director of IFIC Bank PLC, presided over the meeting, according to a press release.

In his address, Husain said that IFIC, as the country's oldest financial institution and one of its largest banks, remains committed to transparency, accountability, and strategic reforms.

He stressed that the board of directors and management are working tirelessly to safeguard

shareholders' interests, maintaining a strict zero-tolerance policy towards irregularities and corruption.

Husain assured shareholders that, as a result of these efforts, the bank's overall performance and key financial indicators are expected to show significant improvement in the coming year.

Md Ebtadul Islam, chairman of the risk management committee and independent director; Kazi Md Mahboob Kasem, chairman of the audit committee and independent director; Md Golam Mostofa, chairman of the executive committee and director; and Mokammel Hoque, company

secretary, were present at the meeting.

Syed Mansur Mustafa, managing director, said the bank is taking concrete steps to strengthen governance, enhance operational efficiency, and uphold stakeholder confidence.

He emphasised that all initiatives are focused on protecting the interests of shareholders, employees, and depositors, expressing confidence that IFIC Bank would soon achieve greater strength and stability.

A number of shareholders and directors, including Director Md Monzorul Haque, also joined the AGM virtually.



**Md Mehmood Husain, chairman and independent director of IFIC Bank PLC, presides over the bank's 48th annual general meeting at the Army Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday.**

PHOTO: IFIC BANK

# Premier Bank starts journey under new leadership

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Premier Bank PLC has embarked on a new chapter under the leadership of its newly constituted board of directors.

Drawing on extensive experience in banking, finance, and governance, the bank is setting new benchmarks in accountability, transparency, and customer-centric services, according to a press release.

Arifur Rahman, founder vice chairman and entrepreneur shareholder of Premier Bank PLC, now serves as chairman. Other members of the board include Syed Faridul Islam, independent director and chairman of the executive committee; Md Forkan Hossain, independent director and chairman of the audit committee; Md Sazzad Hossain, independent director and chairman of the risk management committee; Sheikh Morshed Jahan, independent director and professor at the Institute of Business Administration, the University of Dhaka; and M Nurul Alam, independent director and chairman of Premier Bank Securities Limited.

This collective expertise is dedicated to strengthening Premier Bank as one of the most trusted financial institutions in Bangladesh.

Since its formation on August 19, 2025, the board has prioritised formulating banking policies with a strong focus on corporate governance and compliance to preserve depositor trust and institutional reputation. It has also initiated recovery of non-performing loans (NPLs) and undertaken effective corrective measures.

The board's key areas of focus include audit matters, divisional strategy, service quality, account segregation, corporate culture, and governance. Special emphasis is being placed on remittance, retail, corporate, SME, cards, digital, and Islamic banking.

Board members are actively participating

in regular board and committee meetings, such as the audit and executive committees, dedicating substantial time on a daily basis. Their extraordinary commitment reflects a customer-first ethos.

Safeguarding depositor funds remains the board's foremost priority. Rigorous analysis is underway on bad loans and audit issues, with maximum measures being taken to protect customers' money. To ensure essential services are delivered with the highest priority, the board has introduced the "Service First" principle.

At a time when many financial institutions


are grappling with dollar shortages and liquidity crises, Premier Bank continues to stand strong. Letters of Credit (LCs) are being opened seamlessly across all branches, demonstrating the bank's stability and resilience. Customers are also benefiting from renewed focus on efficiency, care, and trust.

Over its 25-year journey, Premier Bank has built a legacy of excellence in serving both businesses and individual clients. Today, with its new board and forward-looking strategies, the bank is more determined than ever to safeguard customer trust and reach new heights in service quality.



**Arifur Rahman, founder vice-chairman and entrepreneur shareholder of Premier Bank PLC, presides over a meeting of the newly constituted board of directors at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.**

PHOTO: PREMIER BANK



**দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন**  
ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ

"সবাই মিলে গড়ব দেশ,  
দুর্নীতি মুক্ত বাংলাদেশ"

Invitation for Enlistment (LTM)	
1. Ministry/Division/ Agency	Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh
2. Procuring Entity	Director (Finance & Accounts), Anti-Corruption Commission, Head Office, 1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
3. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka (1, Segunbagicha).
4. Invitation for	Enlistment (SAFE) for Purchasing of OMR Sheet, OMR design delivery, Scanning, Result Processing, Result printing and Exam Paper sheet as well as other related works (Goods & Services).
5. Invitation Ref No	00.01.0000.103.99.058.19 (part-1)47873
6. Date	11/09/2025
7. Procurement Method	<b>Limited Tendering Method (LTM)</b>
Application form Availability and Receiving (Date & Place)	Date: 14 September, 2025, 09.00 AM Anti Corruption Commission, Head Office, 1, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
Last date of Collecting of Application Form Date and Time.	Date: 28 September, 2025, 17.00 PM (Office closing time)
Last date of Submission of Application Form	Date: 29 September, 2025, 12.00 PM
9. Period of Fiscal Year	2025-26
10. Eligibility of Applicant	a. Must have valid Trade License. b. Must have TIN and VAT Registration Certificate c. Must have up-to-date Bank Solvency Certificate d. Minimum 03 years of related work experience;
11. Name & Address of the Office(s)	Anti Corruption Commission, Head Office, 1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
12. Price of Application Form (Tk)	200/-
13. Enlistment Fee (Tk)	5000.00 (Non-Refundable)
14. Name of Official Inviting Application	Touhiduzzaman Pavel, Director (Finance & Accounts), Anti Corruption Commission, Head Office, 1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
15. Designation of Official Inviting Application	Director (Finance & Accounts), Anti Corruption Commission, Head Office, 1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
16. Address of Official Inviting Application	Anti Corruption Commission, Head Office, 1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
17. Contact details of Official Inviting Application	Telephone: 02-58316476 e-mail address: d.finance@acc.org.bd
18. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all applications.	

*(Signature)*  
11.09.2025  
Director (Finance & Accounts)  
Anti Corruption Commission

GD-1992