

# ICCB delegation explores trade, investment opportunities in New Zealand

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A business delegation of the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB), led by its president Mahbubur Rahman, visited Auckland from September 5 to 9 at the invitation of the Auckland Business Chamber and ICC New Zealand.

Rahman was accompanied by AK Azad, vice-president of ICC Bangladesh; Mohammed Abdul Jabbar, managing director of DBL Group; Matiur Rahman, chairman and managing director of Uttara Group of Companies; Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, managing director of Saiham Cotton Mills Limited; and Ataur Rahman, secretary general of ICC Bangladesh.

On September 8, the delegation met Simon Bridges, secretary general of ICC New Zealand and chief executive officer of the Auckland Business Chamber, according to a press release.

Discussions focused on prospects for exporting Bangladeshi readymade garments, pharmaceuticals, and leather products to New Zealand, alongside avenues for investment cooperation.

Mahbubur Rahman also invited Bridges to visit Bangladesh with a business delegation to explore opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade and investment. He noted that such a visit would include tours of industrial units and export processing zones to highlight the country's manufacturing capacity and potential.



**Mahbubur Rahman, president of ICC Bangladesh, receives a souvenir from Simon Bridges, secretary general of ICC New Zealand and chief executive officer of Auckland Business Chamber, in Auckland recently.**

PHOTO: ICCB

# Bank Asia organises BAMLCO training programme



**Mohammad Ziaul Hasan Molla, deputy managing director and chief anti-money laundering compliance officer (CAMLCO) and head of channel banking at Bank Asia PLC, poses for group photographs with participants of the "BAMLCO Training Programme 2025" at the Bank Asia Institute for Training and Development in Lalmatia, Dhaka recently.**

PHOTO: BANK ASIA

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Bank Asia PLC recently organised a daylong "BAMLCO Training Programme 2025" at the Bank Asia Institute for Training and Development in the capital's Lalmatia to enhance anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT) knowledge and awareness among its branch anti-money laundering compliance officers (BAMLCOs).

Mohammad Ziaul Hasan Molla, deputy managing director, chief anti-money laundering compliance officer (CAMLCO), and head of channel banking at Bank Asia PLC, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Md Hafizur Rahman Khan and Md Mahmudul Haque Bhuiyan, joint directors of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, conducted the training session as resource persons.

Mirza Azhar Ahmad and Akhteruddin Mahmood, deputy managing directors of the bank, and Tanfiz Hossain Chowdhury, senior executive vice-president and zonal head, along with BAMLCOs from different branches, centres and Islamic windows of the Dhaka zone, as well as officials from the Central Trade Processing Centre (CTPC), were also present.

# Business leaders stress tax reform, macroeconomic stability

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Experts at a recent programme highlighted the limited availability of key decision-makers, which often delays timely policy implementation and hinders business facilitation.

The event, titled "Bangladesh Business Outlook – The Priorities Ahead", was jointly organised by SMAC Advisory Services Limited and Policy Exchange, Bangladesh, according to a press release.

It brought together business leaders, economists, and policymakers from UCEP Bangladesh, BSRM, HSBC Hirdaramani Apparel Bangladesh, Pacific Jeans Group, CPDL, MAS Intimates Bangladesh (Pvt) Ltd, RSGT Chittagong, Meridian Group, The Woolmark Company, Thianis Apparel, Mostafa Garments Ind Ltd, TK Group, Elite Paint, and others.

Discussions centred on urgent reforms in taxation, macroeconomic stability, and investment competitiveness, with participants stressing the importance of greater decentralisation for Chattogram, positioning the port city as a driver of national growth.

Zareen Mahmud Hosein, director of SMAC Advisory Services Limited, opened the dialogue, emphasising stronger public-private collaboration.

M Masrur Reaz, founder and chairman of Policy Exchange, called for evidence-based policymaking to ensure inclusive development, while Hasnat Alam, economist at Policy Exchange, outlined fiscal priorities for stability and growth. Snehasish Barua, managing director of SMAC Advisory Services Limited, presented private sector perspectives on taxation and emerging policy challenges.

# FRC, ACRA Singapore vow stronger cooperation

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The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) of Bangladesh and the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) of Singapore held a bilateral meeting under the Ministry of Finance at ACRA's office in Singapore, according to a press release.

The meeting was attended by Md Sajjad Hossain Bhuiyan, chairman of the FRC. Anik Kumar Mallick, standard-setting officer of the Standards-Setting Division, and Kuldip Gil, assistant chief executive of ACRA, were also present.

Discussions centred on the mandates, responsibilities, and activities of both institutions, with particular emphasis on enhancing transparency and accountability in financial reporting and auditing, advancing sustainability reporting, and strengthening corporate governance frameworks.

The parties also exchanged views on accounting and auditing standards, digital reporting systems, professional development, and avenues for mutual collaboration.

Both sides expressed strong interest in pursuing joint initiatives, technical exchanges, and knowledge-sharing programmes to deepen cooperation. The engagement was described as an important step towards building a long-term partnership between FRC Bangladesh and ACRA Singapore, with the shared aim of promoting good governance, accountability, and sustainable economic growth.

# Mercantile Bank signs deal with House Building Finance on banking services

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Mercantile Bank PLC has signed a customer service agreement with Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC).

Md Zakir Hossain, deputy managing director of Mercantile Bank, and Mohammed Nazrul Islam, deputy general manager and project director of Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Mercantile Bank will provide banking services to customers of the "Rural & Peri-Urban Housing Finance Project" through its Islamic banking window, Taqwa. Mati Ul Hasan, managing director of Mercantile Bank, and Md Abdul Mannan, managing

director of BHBFC, attended the programme.

Shamim Ahmed, Ashim Kumar Saha and Md Zahid Hossain, deputy managing directors of the bank; Tapash Chandra Paul, chief financial officer; and Shah Md Sohel Khurshid, Mohammad Iqbal Rezwana, and Md Abdul Halim, senior executive vice-presidents, were present.

Md Noor Alam Sardar, deputy managing director of BHBFC; Md Tofayel Ahmed, general manager (administration); Md Khairul Islam, general manager (accounts and finance); ZM Hafizur Rahman, general manager (law and general services); Nipu Rani Mitro, general manager (law and general services); and Md Zahidul Haque, general manager (ICT), along with other senior officials of both organisations, were also present.



**Mohammed Nazrul Islam, deputy general manager and project director of Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation, and Md Zakir Hossain, deputy managing director of Mercantile Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing the agreement recently.**

PHOTO: MERCANTILE BANK

# HSBC highlights key trends shaping real-time payments in Bangladesh

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The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) Bangladesh recently organised a programme, titled "Redefining Treasury through Real-time Payments", in Dhaka.

The forum discussed emerging trends in real-time payments and offered strategic insights to help businesses navigate the evolving global payment landscape, according to a press release.

Arief Hossain Khan, executive director of the Payment Systems Department (PSD) at Bangladesh Bank, attended the event as chief guest.

"Real-time payments are no longer optional; they are now the backbone of modern financial infrastructure," Khan said in his address.

Other speakers included Md Khairul Anam, additional director of the PSD; AKM Mukhlesur Rahman, senior functional consultant (electronic payment and transfer) at the Ministry of Finance; and Uzma Chowdhury, director of finance at Pran RFL Group.

They shared their views on the evolution of real-time payments in Bangladesh, upcoming government initiatives, and the benefits and opportunities of digital transformation in treasury

management. The speakers also underscored the importance of collaboration between regulators and corporates to foster further development.

In his keynote presentation, Patrick Zhu, managing director and head of corporate sales for Asia, Global Payments Solutions at HSBC, outlined global trends in real-time payments.

"Real-time payments are unlocking speed and efficiency for the business community, supported by strong regulatory efforts. Bangladesh can seize this

opportunity to further digitise its payment infrastructure, not only for domestic transactions but also for international settlements," Zhu said.

"With its deep expertise and industry-leading solutions, HSBC is keen to play a pivotal role in supporting this exciting journey," he added.

To better understand evolving treasury priorities and how industry players are addressing uncertainties, HSBC recently surveyed more than 460 treasury and finance leaders across eight markets in Asia Pacific.



PHOTO: HSBC BANGLADESH

**Arief Hossain Khan, executive director of the Payment Systems Department at Bangladesh Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of the programme, titled "Redefining Treasury through Real-time Payments", organised by HSBC Bangladesh in Dhaka recently.**

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর

নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন প্রতিরোধ ও প্রতিরোধে সমন্বিত সেবা জোরদারকরণ এবং কুইক রেসপন্স টিমের কার্যক্রম প্রকল্প

স্মারক নং: মশিবিম/মবিঅ/নাশিনিপ্রসেজোকুরেটি/০২/২০২৫-২০

তারিখ: ২৩/০৯/২০২৫খ্রি:

**সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধীন মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নাধীন "নারী ও শিশু নির্যাতন প্রতিরোধ ও প্রতিরোধে সমন্বিত সেবা জোরদারকরণ এবং কুইক রেসপন্স টিমের কার্যক্রম" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে জনবল সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত বিগত ১২/০৮/২০২৫ তারিখ পত্রিকায় দরপত্র আহবান করা হয়েছে। সরকারি সকল বিধি-বিধান অনুসরণ করে জনবল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচনের কার্যক্রম প্রক্রিয়াধীন। কিন্তু কতিপয় অসাধু চক্র/কুচক্রি মহল বিভিন্ন অনলাইন/ওয়েবসাইটে এ প্রকল্পে জনবল নিয়োগের কথা বলে প্রতারণা করছে মর্মে জানা গেছে। এ বিষয়ে রমনা মডেল থানায় একটি সাধারণ ডায়েরী করা হয়েছে (ডায়েরী নং ১৫৯০ তারিখ:২৩/০৯/২০২৫)। বর্ণিত অনলাইন/ওয়েবসাইটে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল নিয়োগ কার্যক্রমের সাথে মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় বা মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর বা প্রকল্প কর্তৃপক্ষের সাথে কোন ধরনের সম্পৃক্ততা নেই। এ প্রকল্পের জনবল আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে জনবল নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে কারো সাথে কোন ধরনের আর্থিক লেনদেন/যোগাযোগ না করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে সতর্ক থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। কেউ যদি এ ধরনের অসাধুচক্র/ কুচক্রিমহলের সাথে কোন ধরনের আর্থিক লেনদেন করেন তাহলে কর্তৃপক্ষ এ বিষয়ে দায়ী থাকবে না।

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