

Mashrur Arefin named ‘CEO of the Year 2025’ at Bangladesh C-Suite Awards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mashrur Arefin, managing director and CEO of City Bank PLC, has been recognised as the “CEO of the Year 2025” at the 4th Bangladesh C-Suite Awards for his exceptional leadership and more than three decades of contribution to Bangladesh’s financial sector.

Arefin received the recognition in the Financial Institutions category at the award ceremony, organised by the Bangladesh Brand Forum to celebrate outstanding business leaders who demonstrate exemplary integrity and excellence, according to a press release.

Previously, Ali Reza Iftekhar of Eastern Bank PLC, Syed Mahbubur Rahman of Mutual Trust Bank PLC, and Kamal Qadir of bKash Limited received the accolade from the sector.

Under Mashrur’s leadership, City Bank PLC has delivered



Mashrur Arefin, managing director and CEO of City Bank, receives the award at a function on Saturday.

PHOTO: CITY BANK

outstanding results over the past six years: operating profit rose from Tk 699 crore in 2018 to Tk 2,351 crore in 2024; net profit increased from Tk 202 crore to Tk 1,085 crore; ROE rose from 8.2 percent to 26.1 percent; and total capital more than doubled.

Bangladesh Bank also recognised City Bank PLC as the “No. 1 Sustainable Bank” of 2024 for its governance, green financing, and operational excellence.

Mashrur has driven City Bank’s digital transformation by expanding Citytouch and championing breakthrough solutions such as the Digital Nano Loan, reshaping financial inclusion in Bangladesh.

He is also an award-winning novelist, poet, and translator, and currently serves as chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB), chairperson of SWIFT Bangladesh, and a director of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Tajdin Hassan honoured as ‘Most Transformative C-Suite Leader of the Year’

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Tajdin Hassan, chief business officer of The Daily Star, has been recognised as the “Most Transformative C-Suite Leader of the Year” at the 4th Bangladesh C-Suite Awards for leading a multidimensional transformation, driving The Daily Star’s business reinvention while contributing to broader societal impact.

Organised by the Bangladesh Brand Forum, the award ceremony was held at the United Convention Hall in Dhaka on Saturday.

Over the past three years, Hassan has championed a strategic digital shift, modernised revenue and operational frameworks, and delivered consistent digital growth, according to a press release.

His reader-engagement initiatives have also earned global appreciation, including recognition from WAN-IFRA (World Association of News Publishers), reflecting his commitment to innovation and audience-led strategy.

Alongside business transformation, he has played a key role in addressing one of Bangladesh’s critical challenges—upskilling. As the chief operating officer of Keeron, the edtech vertical of The Daily Star, he has led the platform’s rapid expansion to 60,000 registered learners in



Md Tajdin Hassan

just two years.

By providing accessible and industry-relevant learning opportunities, Keeron aims to positively impact people’s lives through upskilling and capability-building.

The platform has also received international recognition from International News Media Association (INMA) for its innovative approach to diversification, scalability, and contribution to a more sustainable and socially responsive media ecosystem.

EXIM Bank holds business development meeting for Chattogram region

STAR BUSINESS DESK

EXIM Bank PLC held a “Business Development Meeting” for the Chattogram region at the bank’s regional office in Chattogram on Saturday.

Md Sawkatul Alam, administrator of EXIM Bank PLC and executive director of Bangladesh Bank,

inaugurated the meeting as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his speech, Alam emphasised the importance of recovering classified investments and advised everyone to work together with unity and dedication.

He further stated that customers’ deposits at the bank are now completely safe and secure under the

supervision of the government and Bangladesh Bank, and that normal transactions will resume very soon.

Abdul Aziz (Jumma), additional managing director of EXIM Bank PLC, and Anisur Rahman, manager for the Chattogram region, along with all branch managers and sub-branch in-charges, were also present.



Md Sawkatul Alam, administrator of EXIM Bank PLC and executive director of Bangladesh Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of the “Business Development Meeting” for the Chattogram region at the bank’s regional office in the port city on Saturday.

PHOTO: EXIM BANK

Konica Minolta unveils new digital printing solutions in Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Konica Minolta, the world-renowned Japanese digital printing machine manufacturer in Japan, in collaboration with its local partner Zeeshan Group, launched a series of new products for Bangladeshi customers on Saturday.

Francis Chua, general manager of regional sales and marketing HQ at Konica Minolta, and Shahab Uddin Khan, chairman and managing director of Zeeshan Group, jointly unveiled the products at an event held at Sheraton Dhaka in the capital’s Banani, according to a press release.

The event was further honoured by the participation of leading printing and packaging companies from both the private and public sectors, adding significant value to the discussions and networking sessions.

The launch of three new Konica Minolta series took place during the programme, followed by in-depth technical discussions on each machine, conducted by Konica Minolta experts.

The event also featured a panel



Shahab Uddin Khan, chairman and managing director of Zeeshan Group, and Francis Chua, general manager of regional sales and marketing HQ at Konica Minolta, inaugurate a series of new Konica Minolta products at Sheraton Dhaka in the capital’s Banani on Saturday.

PHOTO: ZEESHAN GROUP

discussion where industry specialists examined global trends in digital printing, Bangladesh’s market potential, existing challenges, and the sector’s future outlook.

The seminar concluded with an extensive showcase of diverse printing prototypes and a live demonstration of the newly

launched machine series, giving attendees a firsthand experience of Konica Minolta’s latest innovations.

Zoana Shahab Khan, deputy managing director of Zeeshan Group, and Zeeshan Shahab Khan, director, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.

Modhumoti Bank opens relocated branch and new sub-branch in Faridpur

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Modhumoti Bank PLC yesterday launched a relocated Faridpur branch at Sharifunnesa Peace Tower on Thana Road in the Jhiltuli area of the district, and a new Kanaipur sub-branch at the Kanaipur Union Bohumukhi Somobay Somiti Market under the supervision of the Faridpur branch.

Mohammad Ismail Hossain, director of Modhumoti Bank PLC, inaugurated the relocated branch and the new sub-branch as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Md Shafiul Azam, managing director and CEO of the bank, presided over the events, where A Mannan Khan, director of the bank, was present as a special guest.

Shahnawaj Chowdhury, additional managing director; Arab Fazlur Rahman, deputy managing director and chief business officer; and Md Shamim Ashraf, manager of the Faridpur branch, along with other senior officials of the bank and local dignitaries, were also present.



PHOTO: MODHUMOTI BANK

Mohammad Ismail Hossain, director of Modhumoti Bank, inaugurates the relocated branch at Sharifunnesa Peace Tower on Thana Road in Faridpur Sadar yesterday.

IPAG launches Global South-focused G20 publication at Johannesburg summit

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG), an international knowledge outfit from Bangladesh, has launched its global publication, titled “G20’s Global South Years (2022-2025): Towards an Inclusive, Prosperous, and Peaceful World”, at the G20 Leadership Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa on Saturday.

The book presents a comprehensive account of the unprecedented sequence of four consecutive G20 presidencies from 2022 to 2025 – led by Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa – marking



a rare period of Global South leadership on the world stage, according to a press release.

Spearheaded by Prof Syed Munir Khasru, chairman of IPAG and the book’s editor and senior author, the publication features chapters contributed by an exceptional group of G20 Sherpas, including Amitabh Kant, Sherpa of the Indian G20 Presidency in 2023 and the book’s lead author.

Over the years, IPAG has built a strong presence within the G20 and G7 communities through its thought leadership, research, and policy engagement, establishing itself as a credible Global South voice in global governance.

Midland Bank, IUB partner to promote financial literacy



PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

Prof M Tamim, vice-chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh, and Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank PLC, pose for group photographs with participants of a seminar on the university campus recently.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC, in collaboration with the Career Guidance Placement and Alumni Relations (CGP & AR) office of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), recently organised a seminar on financial literacy on the university campus.

Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank PLC, attended the programme as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Prof M Tamim, vice-chancellor of the university, attended the seminar, which was coordinated by Sharmeen Islam, assistant director of the university, and Mukta Rani Nath, assistant career counsellor. The seminar aimed to raise financial literacy awareness among students and future professionals, equipping them with essential knowledge to make informed financial decisions.

The initiative underscores Midland Bank’s continued commitment to

empowering the younger generation through financial education and inclusion. The discussion highlighted the importance of financial inclusiveness, sustainable economic development, access to finance, and informed financial behaviour.

The bank also set up an information booth at Independent University, Bangladesh, from November 16 to 18, 2025, to raise awareness about banking products and services among students and faculty members.

Md Rashed Akter, head of retail distribution division, financial literacy wing and chief bancassurance officer; Mohammad Faruq Ur Rahman, head of agent banking division, retail liability and manager, financial literacy wing; Md Ashrafur Islam, head of retail sales department; Kazi Md Husamuddin and Jyotishi Das, directors of finance and accounts at the university; along with other officials of the bank, faculty members, and students of the university, were also present.

China’s largest

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Timely data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission showing trader positions in the futures market was not available due to the recent US government shutdown.

A backlog of data, opens new tab will be released piecemeal over the next several weeks. Traders will remain in the dark about current positions in markets through January 23, when the CFTC will be fully caught up on its reports. The data release takes time because the CFTC must do a significant amount of manual work and analysis to make sure the reports are accurate, spokesperson Taylor Foy said.

US farmers, who struggled

with low prices for most of the summer and into the fall harvest, accelerated sales of their 2025 soybean harvest during the rally. Growers are estimated to have sold about 30 percent to 40 percent of their harvest so far, based on interviews with six farmers and analysts. These levels would be at or below normal sales in mid-November.

“In some places, the basis is still pretty wide and maybe the farmer is still hoping that the rally may continue,” said Tanner Ehmke, analyst with farm lender CoBank. The basis is the difference between futures prices and the local cash market price, reflecting supply and demand at a particular location.