

# BDCOM Online declares 10% dividends

## STAR BUSINESS DESK

BDCOM Online Ltd, one of the leading ICT solutions providers in Dhaka, has declared a 10 percent dividend, including a 5 percent cash dividend, for the year that ended on June 30, 2025.

The declaration was made at the ICT solutions provider's 29th annual general meeting (AGM), which was held virtually yesterday, according to a press release.

Wahidul Haque Siddiqui, chairman of BDCOM Online Ltd, presided over the meeting.

At the meeting, shareholders approved the audited financial statements, the auditors' report and the directors' report for the financial year 2024-25.

Qurrattul Ann Siddiqui and Md Shafiqul Alom, directors of the company; Das Deba Prashad and Air Vice Marshal (retd) Md Zahidur Rahman, independent directors; Air Vice Marshal (retd) Muhammad Nazrul Islam, managing director; and Faker Ahmed, chief financial officer, along with a large number of shareholders, also joined the meeting.



Wahidul Haque Siddiqui, chairman of BDCOM Online Ltd, presides over the company's 29th annual general meeting yesterday. The meeting declared a 10 percent dividend, including a 5 percent cash dividend, for 2025.

PHOTO: BDCOM ONLINE

# BRAC Bank wins ICMAB award for excellence in corporate governance



Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, managing director and CEO of BRAC Bank PLC, receives the trophy from Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin at the "ICMAB Best Corporate Award 2024", conferred by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh, at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in Dhaka on Wednesday.

PHOTO: BRAC BANK

# Dhaka Bank honoured with Remittance Award 2026

## STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Bank PLC has been honoured with the Remittance Award 2026 by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment for its outstanding contribution to remittance collection and disbursement in the fiscal year 2024-25.

The bank was recognised as one of the top 10 remittance disbursing banks in the country during the period, according to a press release.

Chief Adviser Professor Dr

Muhammad Yunus attended the award ceremony as the chief guest, along with other distinguished dignitaries.

Asif Nazrul, adviser to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, handed over the award to AKM Shah Nawaj, managing director (current charge) of Dhaka Bank PLC, at a ceremony held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka on Wednesday.

The ministry organised the ceremony as part of the celebrations marking International Migrants Day and National Expatriates Day 2025.

## STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank PLC won the gold award at the "ICMAB Best Corporate Award 2024", conferred by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB), for its excellence in corporate governance for the ninth consecutive year.

The bank received the award in the Private Commercial Bank category, according to a press release.

Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin presented the award to Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, managing director and CEO of BRAC Bank PLC, at a ceremony held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in Dhaka on Wednesday.

Commenting on the achievement, Khan said, "Good governance, ethics, compliance and transparency are integral to our business philosophy. This continued recognition from ICMAB reflects the strength and consistency of

our corporate governance culture and our resolute commitment to the highest standards of accountability."

"This award further motivates us to elevate our governance practices in line with global benchmarks and reinforces our journey towards becoming the most trusted and best performing bank in Bangladesh. We sincerely thank our customers and stakeholders for their enduring trust in BRAC Bank," he added.

The award recognises organisations that demonstrate exemplary corporate governance, transparency and accountability.

Md Abdur Rahman Khan, chairman of the National Board of Revenue; Mahbubur Rahman, secretary to the Ministry of Commerce; Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, president of ICMAB; and M Masud Rana, additional managing director and chief financial officer of BRAC Bank, among others, also attended the ceremony.



AKM Shah Nawaj, managing director (current charge) of Dhaka Bank PLC, receives the award from Asif Nazrul, adviser to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka on Wednesday.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

# United Commercial Bank signs deal with Trade International Industries



Shahjeb Talat, senior executive vice-president and head of the transaction banking division of United Commercial Bank PLC, and Nurul Afser, deputy managing director of Trade International Industries Ltd, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the company's corporate office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: UCB

## STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB) has signed an agreement with Trade International Industries Ltd, a concern of Electro Mart Ltd and the sole distributor in Bangladesh of Gree, Konka and Haiko.

Nurul Afser, deputy managing director of Trade International Industries Ltd, and Shahjeb Talat, senior executive vice-president and head of the transaction banking division of United Commercial Bank PLC, signed the agreement at the company's corporate office in Dhaka

recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, UCB will provide banking services focused on efficient payment collection from Trade International's nationwide network of distributors and dealers, utilising its extensive branch network.

The collaboration is expected to modernise financial operations in the electronics and home appliance sector, enhancing efficiency, transparency and convenience for all stakeholders.

Senior officials from both institutions were also present at the ceremony.

# China launches

FROM PAGE B4

eye to the overall situation at home and abroad," China's economy tsar said. That

appeared to be a reference to US President Donald Trump's tariffs, which have pushed policymakers to diversify China's \$19 trillion economy from the world's top consumer market and take steps to further consolidate the manufacturing juggernaut's role in global supply chains.

China's leaders have made reversing a drop in investment a priority for next year, seeking to shift the economy from its current reliance on stimulus toward a dual focus on consumption and investment to stabilise growth in the near term, while officials evaluate undertaking painful structural reforms needed to rebalance the economy long term.

Foreign direct investment into China fell 10.4 percent year-on-year in the first three quarters of 2025, official data shows. If liberalisation succeeds in Hainan, economists say policymakers may feel emboldened to expose more of China's economy to market forces.

CHINA'S FREE-TRADE TEST CASE

"The benchmark is something similar to Hong Kong," said Ran Guo, director for Consumer Economy at the China-Britain Business Council.

who has been tracking the plan's developments for the past five years.

"In addition to boosting Hainan's tourism sector, the plan should also encourage more foreign investment and manufacturing," she added.

"Hainan also serves as a logistics and trading hub for China towards Southeast Asia, which carries an important strategic role."

Hainan's GDP stood at \$113 billion last year, official data shows, the equivalent of the world's 70th largest economy, according to World Bank data. Even so, it is far short of Hong Kong's \$407 billion economy.

"The Hainan model basically offers managed liberalisation that will be great for reintegrating supply chains, yet it lacks the legal system and financial openness Hong Kong boasts," said Xu Tianchen, senior economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit.

The island will also have to compete with Southeast Asia and Japan, Xu added, making success far from guaranteed.

Trade negotiators also doubt how seriously CPTPP members will view the Hainan project, noting that membership in the bloc requires opening up the entire economy - something China has yet to demonstrate, no matter how large Hainan is.

# Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Date: 18/12/2025

## Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method, NCT)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal for the following works:

Tender ID & Package No.	1195146, 04/e-GP/PRHD/PMP-Major/Bridge/2025-2026
Name of tender	Construction of 37.920m (1x36.58) Long P.C Girder "Kochuakati Bridge" at 43rd Km (Ch: 42+103m) of Goriarpur-Banaripara-Sharsheha-Swarupkathi-Kawkhali-Naikathi (Z-8033) Road under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026.
Tender last selling date and time	14-January-2026 & Time 16:00
Tender closing & opening date and time	15-January-2026 & Time 12:00
Tender/proposal document price (in BDT)	5,000.00 (Five Thousand only)
Tender/proposal security (amount in BDT)	33,00,000.00 (Thirty-Three lakh only)

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details please contact e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).



Tanvir Ahmed

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Road Division, Pirojpur

# Rafat Ullah Khan becomes MD of Al-Arafah Islami Bank

## STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mohd Rafat Ullah Khan has been appointed managing director (MD) of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC for a period of three years, effective from December 18, 2025.

Prior to this appointment, Khan was serving as the additional managing director (AMD) and chief risk officer of the bank.

Earlier, he served at NCC Bank PLC as deputy managing director (DMD), chief risk officer (CRO) and chief anti-money laundering compliance officer (CAMLCO).

He began his professional banking career at Eastern Bank PLC as a probationary officer in 1994.

Over a career spanning more than 31 years in the banking sector, Khan has held key leadership positions at BRAC Bank, Dutch Bangla Bank and Prime Bank.

He has extensive experience across various bank branches and head offices, covering a wide range of areas, including credit risk management, corporate banking, product development, and process and policy-making in both Islamic and conventional banking.

Khan obtained his master's degree in statistics from the University of Dhaka and an MBA from a private university.

# Showkat Aziz Russell elected president of BTMA

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT



Showkat Aziz Russell

Showkat Aziz Russell, chairman and managing director of Amber Group, has been elected president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) for a two-year term (2025-27).

Russell had been serving as the president of the association following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5, 2024.

The three vice-presidents elected for the 2025-27 term are Md Shamim Islam, managing director of Jamuna Group; Md Abul Kalam, managing director of Chaiti Group; and Shafiqul Islam Sarker, managing director of Purbani Group, according to a press release.

The new executive committee includes Md Badshah Mia, Sajid Israq, Md Tanvir Khan, Md Shahid Alam, Md Khorshed Alam, Afroza Khanam, Ruhul Amin, Mirza Ahmed Ispahani, Nayeem Ahmed, Rubayet Haider, Syed Ishaque Ahmed, Sanchia Chowdhury, Chowdhury Mohammad Hanif Shoyeb, Syed Elias Seraji, Syed Rezwanul Haque, Md Kawser Hossain, Nur-e-Yasmin Fatema, Nadiruzzaman Khan, BM Shoyeb, Md Mizanur Rahman, Md Sohel Khan, Mahbubur Rahman (Monir) and Motiur Rahman.