

Prime Bank secures \$20m term loan from German investor

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed a \$20 million term loan agreement with the Invest In Visions Microfinance Fund, a Germany-based impact investor.

Carlos De las Salas Vega, chief investment officer of the Invest In Visions Microfinance Fund, and Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, signed the agreement at a ceremony recently held in Frankfurt, Germany, according to a press release.

The funding will be strategically deployed by Prime Bank for on-lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across Bangladesh.

The initiative underscores Prime Bank's commitment to promoting financial inclusion and supporting economic growth by strengthening the country's MSME sector, widely regarded as the backbone of the economy.

Established in 1995, Prime Bank has a longstanding record of accomplishment of providing impact-driven banking services to corporate, MSME and retail customers through both conventional and Islamic banking modes.

Shams Abdullah Muhaimin, deputy managing director of the bank, was also present, along with other senior executives from both organisations.



Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, and Carlos De las Salas Vega, chief investment officer of the Invest In Visions Microfinance Fund, pose for a photograph after signing the term loan agreement in Frankfurt, Germany recently.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK



Md Nurul Afser, group deputy managing director of Electro Mart, receives certificate and crest from Rambhakta Thakur, former ambassador and election commissioner of Nepal, at an award ceremony in Nepal recently.

PHOTO: ELECTRO MART GROUP

Islami Bank MD honoured at Global NRB Awards-2025

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Omar Faruk Khan, managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, has received the "Lifetime Excellence in Islamic Banking Leadership Award" at the Global NRB Awards-2025 for his outstanding contribution and dynamic leadership in the Islamic banking sector.

Ahsan H Mansur, governor of Bangladesh Bank, handed over the award to Khan at a ceremony held recently

at the Sheraton Dhaka in the capital's Banani, according to a press release.

The award ceremony was organised by NRB World on the occasion of International Expatriates Day on December 30, 2025.

Enamul Haque Enam, founder of NRB World, was also present at the event, along with expatriate entrepreneurs, industrialists, businesspeople, doctors, engineers, scientists, teachers and IT professionals from around 25 countries.

Electro Mart Group wins SDG Champion Prize 2025

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Electro Mart Group, a manufacturer of Konka, Gree and Haiko electronics products in Bangladesh, has won the "SDG Champion Prize 2025" for its contribution to achieving key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Rambhakta Thakur, former ambassador and election commissioner of Nepal, handed over the certificate and crest to Md Nurul Afser, group deputy managing director of Electro Mart, at an award ceremony recently held in Nepal, according to a press release.

Afser said that every recognition brings new responsibilities, motivating the company to work with greater commitment in the future. He also expressed gratitude to customers, well-

wishers, buyers and consumers for their continued trust and confidence in the company's products and services.

The prize recognises Electro Mart Group's contribution to SDG targets 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 through its manufacturing, marketing and after-sales services in Bangladesh.

The group began its journey in the country by introducing Konka and Gree electronics and later expanded from a trading business into manufacturing.

Since 2018, it has been producing Konka, Gree and its own brand, Haiko, electronics and home appliances at its factory in Narayanganj.

Through technology sharing with China, the company manufactures eco-friendly and modern technology-based products for local consumers.



Md Omar Faruk Khan, managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, receives an award from Ahsan H Mansur, governor of Bangladesh Bank, at the Global NRB Awards-2025 at the Sheraton Dhaka in the capital's Banani recently.

PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH

BB promotes Sardar, Nabi to director post



Waheduzzaman Sardar



Mahmudun Nabi

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank has promoted Md Waheduzzaman Sardar and Mahmudun Nabi to the post of director, according to separate office order issued on Thursday by the central bank.

Sardar, previously an additional director in the Research Department, has been promoted to director (research) in the same department.

He joined Bangladesh Bank as an assistant director in 2001 and earlier worked in the domestic economy and Islamic economics sub-divisions.

The other promotee, Mahmudun Nabi, has been attached to the Human Resources Department.

Before his promotion, he served as an additional director at the Banking Regulation and Policy Department-2 (BRPD). Nabi joined Bangladesh Bank in 2003.

During his tenure, he served in the Bank Inspection Department, Foreign Exchange Policy Department and BRPD. He holds honours and master's degrees in chemistry from the University of Dhaka and a master's degree in bank management from the BIBM.

Asif Bin Idris appointed DMD of BRAC Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank has appointed Md Asif Bin Idris to the post of deputy managing director (DMD) and head of corporate, commercial and institutional banking, effective from December 30, 2025.

Idris will also serve as a member of the bank's management committee, according to a press release.

Prior to joining BRAC Bank, he was serving at Prime Bank PLC as senior executive vice-president and head of commercial banking. He previously worked at HSBC and Eastern Bank PLC.

With over 22 years of banking experience, Idris brings strong expertise in strategic leadership, portfolio management and business transformation. He obtained a Master of Bank Management from the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management and a Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS) from the University of Rajshahi.



Md Asif Bin Idris

Mutual Trust Bank holds MTB Annual Town Hall 2026

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mutual Trust Bank PLC (MTB) yesterday held its "Annual Town Hall 2026" in Dhaka.

The town hall focused on reviewing the bank's performance, addressing prevailing challenges and aligning MTB employees with the strategic priorities for the year ahead, with a strong emphasis

on rebuilding customer trust and shaping a resilient future.

Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of Mutual Trust Bank PLC, inaugurated the daylong programme as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Addressing the gathering, Chowdhury said rebuilding and strengthening trust remains at the core of MTB's journey, noting that

integrity, strong governance and consistent customer service are the key pillars guiding the bank's long-term sustainability and progress in an evolving banking landscape.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO, outlined the bank's priorities for 2026, highlighting resilience, customer-centric initiatives and operational excellence.



Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of Mutual Trust Bank PLC, and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO, pose for a group photograph with participants of the "Annual Town Hall 2026" in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: MUTUAL TRUST BANK

Uncertainty hit life insurance

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The unrest was followed by a deterioration in law and order, business closures and the exposure of major financial scandals involving conglomerates linked to the previous government. Inflation also remained elevated throughout the year.

Despite the drop in premium income, the life insurance sector's life fund grew 4.12 percent to Tk 33,232 crore in 2024, while investments rose 2.48 percent to Tk 34,292 crore, BIA data showed. Total assets increased by 4.22 percent to Tk 46,004 crore.

Rahman said the rise in life funds and assets reflected lower claim outflows, a trend associated with

the cyclical maturity of insurance portfolios.

In contrast, the non-life insurance sector maintained growth, with premium income rising 2.46 percent to Tk 4,339 crore in 2024 from Tk 4,235 crore a year earlier.

Quazi Sakawat Hossain, vice-president of the BIA and sponsor director of Agrani Insurance Company, said continued investment activity, issuance of letters of credit and imports of essential goods helped sustain demand in the non-life segment.

While some areas, particularly marine and industrial insurance, experienced slowdowns, overall

demand remained resilient due to the country's growing consumer base, he said.

Total assets in the non-life sector increased 2.29 percent to Tk 11,916 crore, although investments declined 2.74 percent to Tk 5,614 crore.

Nasir Uddin Ahmed, former president of the BIA and current vice-chairman of Karnaphuli Insurance, said the size of Bangladesh's economy is growing steadily, and this is the main reason behind the increase in premium income in the non-life sector.

According to Idra, Bangladesh currently has 36 life insurance companies and 46 non-life insurers.

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Date:04/01/2026

e-Tender Notice No.- 09/Engg. College/2025-26/OTM

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED, Naogaon Districts as mentioned below:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
01	1174007	CONSTRUCTION OF 10-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 10-STORIED FOUNDATION INCLUDING SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT NAOGAON ENGINEERING COLLEGE,NAOGAON DISTRICT.	01-Feb-2026; 17:00	02-Feb-2026; 13:00
02	1174008	CONSTRUCTION OF 10-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 10-STORIED FOUNDATION INCLUDING SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT NAOGAON ENGINEERING COLLEGE,NAOGAON DISTRICT.	01-Feb-2026; 17:00	02-Feb-2026; 13:00
03	1174009	CONSTRUCTION OF 10-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 10-STORIED FOUNDATION INCLUDING SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT NAOGAON ENGINEERING COLLEGE,NAOGAON DISTRICT.	01-Feb-2026; 17:00	02-Feb-2026; 13:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP System Portal and No offline/hard copies will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason what so ever. Published date & Time is 04 January, 2026 at 16:45 PM.

Sd/-
(Prodip Kumar Sarker)
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Naogaon.

GD-27