

Prime Bank offers benefits on home loan transfers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has launched a “Home Loan & Investment Transfer Campaign” under its Hasanah Islami Banking, enabling customers to transfer their existing conventional home loans or Islamic home investments from any financial institution and avail themselves of up to a 2 percent reduction in the prevailing annual profit rate.

The campaign is designed to ease financial pressure on customers and help them redirect savings towards everyday needs and long-term aspirations, according to a press release.



Prime Bank

Through the initiative, customers can shift their conventional or Islamic home financing facilities to Shariah-compliant Hasanah Home Investment, resulting in lower monthly instalments and greater financial flexibility over the long term.

Under the offer, customers will receive competitive profit rates, flexible repayment options, personalised advisory support and a smooth transfer process,

making housing finance easier to manage while unlocking meaningful savings.

Commenting on the initiative, M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank PLC, said, “This home loan and investment transfer offer allows customers to move their existing conventional or Islamic housing finance to Prime Bank’s Hasanah Islami Banking and benefit from up to a 2 percent profit

rate reduction.”

“Our goal is to make home ownership more affordable while enabling customers to enjoy tangible savings,” he added.

Prime Bank’s Hasanah Home Investment solutions are designed to meet diverse customer needs and are backed by transparent pricing, prompt processing and dedicated relationship management, the bank said.

Customers interested in transferring their conventional home loan or Islamic home investment to Prime Bank’s Hasanah Islami Banking can learn more by visiting www.transfer2prime.now or contacting their nearest Prime Bank branch.

Eastern Bank hosts entrepreneur development training under SICIP

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has launched a month-long “Entrepreneur Development Training” programme as part of its ongoing efforts to support entrepreneurship in Bangladesh.

The programme is being implemented under the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP), led by the Ministry of Finance and Bangladesh Bank, according to a press release.

Under the programme, financed by the Asian Development Bank, trainee and trainer selection was carried out through transparent and structured processes by the trainee selection committee and the trainer selection committee.

Husne Ara Shikha, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest at EBL’s

head office in Gulshan, Dhaka yesterday.

In her address, Shikha highlighted the importance of developing skilled, innovative and ethical entrepreneurs to ensure sustainable economic growth in Bangladesh.

She encouraged participants to focus on identifying diversified business opportunities, generating new ideas, practising good governance and acquiring modern entrepreneurial skills.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Reza Iftikhar, managing director of Eastern Bank PLC, said that sound planning, innovation, financial discipline and integrity are the cornerstones of business success.

“Eastern Bank believes that programmes like this play a vital role in developing entrepreneurs and building a sustainable SME sector,” he said while presiding over the event.



Husne Ara Shikha, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of the “Entrepreneur Development Training” programme, organised by Eastern Bank PLC, at the latter’s head office in Gulshan, Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

Shopping Bag Supermarket offers discounts for IFIC Bank customers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IFIC Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Shopping Bag Supermarket, one of the retail destinations in Chattogram.

Md Monjurul Mumin, chief manager of Agrabad branch at IFIC Bank PLC, and Milton Dey, managing director of Shopping Bag Supermarket, signed the MoU at the supermarket’s corporate office in the port city recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, IFIC Bank customers will be able to enjoy a wide range of benefits, according to a press release.

These include a 3 percent special discount at Shopping Bag Supermarket, a 10 percent discount at the Chef’s Terminal Food Court, a 30 percent discount on entry tickets at Kidz Play Land, free home delivery services, early access to promotions and events, and a customer privilege experience.

Sheikh Samsuddin Bayzid, manager of IFIC Bank’s Khatunganj Branch; Shahadat Kabir, head of credit administration at the Agrabad Branch of IFIC Bank; and Md Zafar Ullah, executive director of Shopping Bag Supermarket, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Milton Dey, managing director of Shopping Bag Supermarket, and Md Monjurul Mumin, chief manager of Agrabad branch at IFIC Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing a memorandum of understanding at the supermarket’s corporate office in Chattogram recently.

PHOTO: IFIC BANK

Nvidia seeks

FROM PAGE B4

allowing H200 sales with a 25 percent fee to be paid to the US government.

Nvidia has been burned in the past. Last year, it wrote down \$5.5 billion in inventory after the Trump administration abruptly banned it from selling the H20 chip to China, previously the most powerful product it was able to offer there.

While the US has reversed that decision, China has since banned H20 shipments.

But the payment structure for the H200 effectively transfers financial risk from Nvidia to its customers, who must commit capital without certainty that Beijing will approve the chip imports or that they will be able to deploy the technology as planned.

Chinese internet giants including ByteDance and

others view the H200 as a significant upgrade over currently available chips. The H200, currently Nvidia’s second-most powerful chip, delivers roughly six times the performance of the now-blocked H20 chip that Nvidia had designed specifically for the Chinese market.

Nvidia plans to fulfill initial orders from existing stock, with the first batch of H200 chips expected to arrive before the Lunar New Year holiday in mid-February, Reuters reported last month.

The company has approached contract chipmaker Taiwan Semiconductor Co about ramping up H200 production to meet the Chinese demand, with additional manufacturing expected to begin in the second quarter of 2026, Reuters reported last week.

Startups go public

FROM PAGE B4

Zhao said he did not expect Zhipu or MiniMax to be profitable “any time soon”.

“That depends on two industry-wide shifts: significantly lower computing costs and much larger AI demand to spread those costs across,” he explained.

Beijing has reportedly been encouraging tech firms to use homegrown microchips owing to Washington’s on-and-off restrictions on top-end Nvidia chips, used to train and run AI systems.

Investor faith in the potential of China’s chip industry to challenge US powerhouse Nvidia last month sent shares in semiconductor companies

Moore Threads and MetaX skyrocketing on their market debuts.

Earlier this month, Baidu, the operator of China’s top search engine, said its AI chip unit Kunlunxin has filed a listing application in Hong Kong.

For chatbot providers, the picture is nuanced, said Shengyun Lu, founder of LSY Consulting.

“To run a foundational model company, it costs a lot and takes a lot of time,” he cautioned.

“IPOs allow the companies to raise money for financing their future research activities, but on the other hand, the initial investors are seeking an exit.”

Mutual Trust Bank signs cash management services deal with SMC Enterprise

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mutual Trust Bank PLC has signed a cash management services agreement with SMC Enterprise Limited, an organisation involved in the sales, marketing and production of health, consumer and pharmaceutical products.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank PLC (MTB), and Sayef Uddin Nasir, managing director of SMC Enterprise Limited, signed the agreement at the bank’s corporate head office in Gulshan-1, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the arrangement, SMC Enterprise Ltd will be able to process all types of transactions seamlessly through MTB’s corporate banking solution, named “MTB eBank”.

Users can approve these transactions conveniently using biometric authentication on the MTB eBank app.

Mohammad Mamun Faruk, divisional head of the wholesale banking division at the bank; Eva Rahman, unit head of wholesale banking division-I; Sanjib Kumar Dey, head of the SME and agri banking division; Md Abu



Sayef Uddin Nasir, managing director of SMC Enterprise Limited, and Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the bank’s corporate office in Gulshan-1, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: MUTUAL TRUST BANK

Bokar Siddik, head of the cards division; and Mohammad Ashik Iqbal Khan, divisional head of cash management and transaction banking, attended the event.

Abul Bashir Khan, chief financial officer of SMC

Enterprise Ltd, and Mohammad Tanvir Hossain, deputy general manager of finance and accounts, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.

Meghna Bank strikes participation deal with BB for Start-up Refinance Scheme



Nawshad Mustafa, director of the SME and Special Programmes Department of Bangladesh Bank, and Momtazul Karim N Ahmed, deputy managing director of Meghna Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the BB headquarters in Motijheel, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: MEGHNA BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Meghna Bank PLC has signed a participation agreement with Bangladesh Bank under the BB Start-up Refinance Scheme to help foster an innovation-led entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Momtazul Karim N Ahmed, deputy managing director of Meghna Bank PLC, and Nawshad Mustafa, director of the SME and Special Programmes Department of Bangladesh Bank, signed the agreement at the BB headquarters in Motijheel, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Nurun Nahar, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank (BB), attended the signing ceremony as the chief guest.

Under the scheme, eligible start-ups

will be able to access credit facilities at concessional interest rates, providing financial support for innovative and scalable ventures.

The partnership underscores Meghna Bank’s strategic focus on nurturing high-potential entrepreneurs expected to contribute significantly to the country’s sustainable economic growth.

Husne Ara Shikha, executive director of the central bank; Mohammad Sohel Miah, senior executive vice-president and head of SME banking at Meghna Bank PLC; Md Shahabuddin, head of branch SME and agri banking; and Md Shaidur Rahman, head of micro and small business, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.

DHL Express, NCC Bank team up to cut greenhouse gas emissions

STAR BUSINESS DESK

DHL Express will help NCC Bank PLC reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its international air shipments by 30 percent through the GoGreen Plus service.

The initiative will support the bank in lowering its Scope 3 emissions – the indirect emissions generated across its value chain, particularly from transportation and distribution – by using an “insetting” approach, according to a DHL press release.

Through a book-and-claim system, DHL replaces fossil fuels with sustainable alternatives across its network and allocates the environmental benefits to participating customers.

DHL Express’s GoGreen Plus is the only service in the global express logistics sector that enables customers to use Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) to reduce shipment-related emissions.

Md Miarul Haque, managing director of DHL Express Bangladesh, said the company was pleased to welcome NCC Bank to the GoGreen Plus initiative.

“By adopting sustainable aviation fuel, NCC Bank is taking a meaningful step towards reducing the environmental footprint of its shipments,” he said, adding that the partnership would help accelerate the adoption of SAF across the air transport industry.



DBH’s Shariah Supervisory Committee holds 9th meeting

STAR BUSINESS DESK

DBH Finance PLC, one of the country’s largest housing finance institutions, recently held the ninth meeting of its Shariah Supervisory Committee at its head office in Gulshan.

Muhammad Saifullah, chairman of the Shariah Supervisory Committee (SSC) of DBH Finance PLC, presided over the meeting as the chief guest, according to a press release.

DBH Finance PLC currently offers shariah-compliant Islamic home financing and mudaraba deposit services through all 16 of its branches across the country under the brand name “DBH Islamic,” in addition to its conventional operations.

Md Fariduddin Ahmed, Md Abdul Awwal Sarker and Zubair Mohammad Ehsanul Hoque, members of the SS committee; Nasimul Baten, managing director and CEO; Tanvir Ahmad, deputy managing director and head of Islamic Financing; along with other senior officials of the non-bank financial institution, were also present.

