

# Semiconductor association inks SICIP deal to train 3,500 professionals

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) yesterday signed an agreement with the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP) to implement a large-scale, industry-oriented semiconductor workforce development programme.

Mohammed Walid Hossain, executive project director of the SICIP at Finance Division, and MA Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association, signed the agreement at the former's Dhaka office, according to a press release.

Hossain highlighted the importance of high-quality training, strong monitoring, and achieving at least 65 percent job placement for certified trainees.

He expressed confidence that the partnership, supported by robust oversight and industry linkages, will produce professionals ready to contribute to Bangladesh's growing semiconductor ecosystem and compete in the global market.

Jabbar said the agreement marks a milestone for the country's semiconductor sector, creating a critical mass of skilled manpower to support advanced electronics, strengthen industry readiness, and enhance global competitiveness.

Under the agreement, BSIA will train 3,500 graduates in electrical and electronics engineering (EEE), electronics and communication engineering (ECE), computer science and engineering (CSE), applied physics, and related disciplines through six specialised three-month courses (240 hours each).



MA Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association, and Mohammed Walid Hossain, executive project director of the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program at Finance Division, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the latter's office in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: BSIA

# Bank Asia cardholders to enjoy Ramadan benefits at Sheraton Dhaka



Zishan Ahammad, head of cards, alternative delivery channels (ADC), and internet banking at Bank Asia PLC, and Mamunur Rahman Shumon, in-charge of sales and marketing at Sheraton Dhaka, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at The Westin Dhaka recently. PHOTO: BANK ASIA

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC has recently signed a partnership agreement with Sheraton Dhaka to offer Ramadan privileges to its credit cardholders.

Mamunur Rahman Shumon, in-charge of sales and marketing at Sheraton Dhaka, and Zishan Ahammad, head of cards, alternative delivery channels (ADC), and internet banking at Bank Asia PLC, signed the agreement at The Westin Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, the bank's cardholders will enjoy a special buffet iftar offer, attractive discounts on takeaway iftar, and a range of additional benefits at Sheraton Dhaka throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

The partnership reaffirms Bank Asia's commitment to enriching the customer experience through exclusive value-added and premium services during Ramadan, the release added.

Other senior officials from both organisations were also present.

# National Finance signs MoU with Toyota Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

National Finance PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Toyota Bangladesh Limited (TBL), a subsidiary of Toyota Tsusho Asia Pacific and Toyota Tsusho Japan, to extend auto loans to customers purchasing brand-new Toyota vehicles.

Irteza Ahmed Khan, managing director of National Finance PLC, and Premmit Singh, managing director of Toyota Bangladesh Limited, signed the MoU at the automobile company's showroom in Tejgaon, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Through the partnership, National Finance PLC and Toyota Bangladesh aim to enhance the brand-new Toyota ownership experience by offering convenient and tailored financing solutions.

Other senior officials and members of the management teams from both organisations were also present.



Premmit Singh, managing director of Toyota Bangladesh Limited, and Irteza Ahmed Khan, managing director of National Finance PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding at the automobile company's showroom in Tejgaon, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: NATIONAL FINANCE

# Midland Bank opens relocated Bheramara branch in Kushtia

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC (MDB) has launched its relocated Bheramara branch at Babur Ali Super Market on Bheramara-Pragpur highway in Kushtia on Monday.

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

In his speech, Zaman thanked the

audience for attending the programme and encouraged them to strengthen their relationship with the bank by opening accounts.

He also instructed branch officials to provide the best service to customers and urged them to use Midland Online, the bank's free internet banking application, to enjoy safe, secure, and modern banking services from anywhere, at any time.



Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director and chief executive officer of Midland Bank PLC, inaugurates the relocated Bheramara branch at Babur Ali Super Market on Bheramara-Pragpur highway in Kushtia on Monday. PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

# UK jobless rate rises to five-year high

AFP, London

Britain's unemployment rate rose to a five-year high of 5.2 percent in the final quarter of 2025, official data showed Tuesday, as the country's economy struggled to grow.

It was a slight increase from the 5.1 percent jobless rate seen in the three months to end-November, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

It was the highest level since January 2021, which coincided with the Covid pandemic.

"The number of workers on payroll fell further in the final quarter of the year, reflecting weak hiring activity," ONS director of economic statistics Liz McKeown said in a statement.

# Pubali Bank opens 518th branch in Ishwarganj

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC has recently launched a new branch in Ishwarganj, Mymensingh, aimed at providing modern banking services to its clients.

This is the bank's 518th branch. Md Shahnewaz Khan, deputy managing director of Pubali Bank PLC, inaugurated the branch as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Mohammad Homayun Miah, deputy general manager and regional manager for Mymensingh, presided over the inaugural ceremony, where Md Faizul Hoque Sharif, general manager of the general banking and operations division, was present as the special guest.

In his speech, Khan said the expansion of banking services is vital for Bangladesh's economic development, the growth of

trade and commerce, and the advancement of people's savings and investment activities.

"By opening a new branch of Pubali Bank in the Ishwarganj region, local residents will have the opportunity to access modern and

convenient banking services," he said. "This branch will provide new impetus to savings, loans, remittances, and other financial services, and will play an important role in the economic development of the area," he added.



Md Shahnewaz Khan, deputy managing director of Pubali Bank PLC, inaugurates the new branch of the bank in Ishwarganj, Mymensingh recently. PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

# Islami Bank launches remittance campaign for Ramadan

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC yesterday launched a campaign, titled "Islami Bank Ria Money Transfer Remittance Fiesta", at Islami Bank Tower in Motijheel, Dhaka.

Under the campaign, the bank will offer a motorcycle through a digital raffle draw on each banking day (Sunday to Thursday) for customers sending cash remittances through Ria Money Transfer. A total of 20 motorcycles will be awarded during the campaign period.

The offer will begin on February 19 and continue until March 18, 2026, during the holy month of Ramadan.



Md Omar Faruk Khan, managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, inaugurates the campaign titled "Islami Bank-Ria Money Transfer Remittance Fiesta" at Islami Bank Tower in Motijheel, Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH

# Community Bank, Tiger New Energy tie up for green finance

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Community Bank Bangladesh PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tiger New Energy and Xpert Solutions Limited to promote an SME and green finance programme framework for battery-swapping stations across the country.

Kimiwa Saddat, managing director (current charge) of Community Bank Bangladesh PLC; Nicole Mao, chief executive officer (CEO) of Tiger New Energy; and Md Abdul Mannan, CEO of Xpert Solutions Limited, signed the tripartite MoU at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Tiger New Energy and Xpert Solutions Limited will act as strategic advisory business partners for Community Bank



Nicole Mao, chief executive officer (CEO) of Tiger New Energy, and Kimiwa Saddat, managing director (current charge) of Community Bank Bangladesh PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: COMMUNITY BANK

Bangladesh PLC to leverage the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprise (CMSME) segment.

Nafur Rahman, country director of Tiger New Energy; Md Tarequl Kabir, head of operations; Ajoy Kumar Paul, director; Md Feroz Al Mozahid Khan, technical director of

Xpert Solutions Limited; Chowdhury Manarat Mahfuza, managing director of Green Engine Bangladesh Pvt Ltd; Hasi Rani Bepari, head of CRM and SAM; and Md Tanjim Morshed Bhuiyan, head of digital financial services and deputy head of RMD, attended the event.

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Memo No-35.01.5900.447.04.008-26-459 Date: 16/02/2026

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

e-Tender is invited in The National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj for the procurement of

SL No	Tender ID # & Package No	e-Tender Description	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	1231124, 48-LTM/e-GP/Mundiv/2025-2026	Repair of Existing Pavement by Aggregate Base Type-I, Carpeting and Seal Coat work at Ch. 7+935 to Ch. 8+685 of Rikabibazar-Rampal-Dighirpar-Banglabazar-Munshiganj -Mukterpur Road (Z-8121) Under Munshigonj Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	02/03/2026 16:00	03/03/2026 10:00	03/03/2026 10:00

1. The above tender is online Tender. Where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-Gp portal and no Offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

2. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National E-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branch.

3. Further information and guidelines are available in the National E-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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ID No-602165  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Munshiganj.

GD-327