

## Prime Bank's Neera customers to enjoy discounts at Nishat Linen

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has recently signed a strategic partnership agreement with Nishat Linen, a lifestyle brand, to offer discount benefits to Prime Bank Neera customers.

Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability of Prime Bank PLC, and Md Tanvir Ferdous, managing partner of Nishat Linen, signed the agreement at Prime Aspire in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Prime Bank Neera customers will enjoy attractive discounts on a wide range of products from Nishat Linen, a renowned fashion and lifestyle brand known for its quality fabrics and contemporary designs.

The collaboration aims to enhance the Neera banking experience by providing exclusive shopping benefits to customers.

The partnership reflects Prime Bank's continued commitment to delivering meaningful, lifestyle-focused benefits to its valued customers, the release added.

Hossain Mohammad Zakaria, head of customer proposition of the bank, was also present at the signing ceremony, along with other senior officials from both organisations.



Md Tanvir Ferdous, managing partner of Nishat Linen, and Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at Prime Aspire in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

## Gold edges higher

REUTERS

Gold prices edged higher on Thursday as the widening Middle East conflict drove investors towards the safe-haven asset, while a rebound in the dollar limited gains.

Spot gold was up 0.4 percent at \$5,153.11 per ounce, as of 0638 GMT. US gold futures for April delivery were up 0.5 percent at \$5,161.30.

"I think this crisis is something that supports gold prices in the long run. But the uncertainty surrounding the war means we will continue to see heightened volatility until we see signs that we've reached peak escalation," said Kyle Rodda, a senior financial market analyst at Capital.com.

The dollar rebounded from the previous session's losses, making greenback-priced bullion expensive for holders of other currencies.

The war widened sharply on Wednesday after a US submarine sank an Iranian warship off Sri Lanka, killing at least 80 people, and NATO air defences destroyed an Iranian ballistic missile fired towards Turkey. The escalation came as the son of Iran's slain supreme leader emerged as a frontrunner to succeed him, suggesting Tehran was not about to buckle under pressure, five days after the US-Israel launched a military campaign that has killed hundreds and convulsed global markets.

## Eastern Bank unveils Visa infinite debit card



M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking at Eastern Bank PLC, inaugurates the "EBL Visa Infinite Debit Card" at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank, in collaboration with Visa, yesterday launched the "EBL Visa Infinite Debit Card", a premium-tier debit card designed for the priority segment of its retail portfolio.

The dual-currency card, secured with advanced EMV chip technology, offers

enhanced security, global acceptance and seamless convenience for everyday transactions at home and abroad.

Designed to complement the lifestyle and travel needs of Priority customers, the EBL Visa Infinite Debit Card combines banking efficiency with premium privileges. M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing

director and head of retail and SME banking at Eastern Bank, inaugurated the card as the chief guest at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka, according to a press release.

Cardholders will enjoy 12 complimentary global airport lounge visits per year, along with unlimited domestic and international SkyLounge access, including entry for one guest and two children under the age of 12.

The card also comes with welcome vouchers worth Tk 10,000 at selected grocery, fuel station, electronics, lifestyle and travel outlets. Additionally, the issuance, annual and renewal fees are fully waived, making the card a highly rewarding and cost-effective proposition for Priority customers.

Ahsan Ullah Chowdhury, head of digital financial services; Tasnim Hussain, head of cards; Sarmin Atik, head of liability and wealth management; Tanzeri Hoque, head of priority and women banking; and Farzana Qader, head of retail alliance of the bank attended the launching programme.

Sabbir Ahmed, country manager for Bangladesh at Visa, and Tawfik Imam, head of products for Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Abul Alam Ferdous, additional managing director of United Commercial Bank PLC, speaks at the "Hajj Agency Conference" at a hotel in Chattogram recently.

PHOTO: UCB

## UCB holds Hajj agency conference in Ctg

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB) recently organised a "Hajj Agency Conference" at a hotel in Chattogram to strengthen partnerships with Hajj agencies and ensure improved and seamless services for pilgrims.

Abul Alam Ferdous, additional managing director of United Commercial Bank PLC, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his speech, Ferdous said Hajj is a highly sensitive and sacred religious obligation and that UCB remains committed to ensuring secure and timely financial services for pilgrims.

He said the bank, through its 423 branches and sub-branches and more than 602 agent banking outlets nationwide, has been providing Hajj services for the past four years and currently stands as the fifth-largest bank in Hajj operations in the country.

Starting with services for 61 agencies, the number increased to 107 in 2026, with a target to bring more than 200 agencies under its service network by 2027.

Shariat Ullah Shahid, chairman of the Chattogram Zonal Committee and vice-chairman of the central committee of the Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), and Mohammed Abdul Malek, secretary of the Chattogram Zonal Committee and joint general secretary of the central committee of HAAB, attended the programme as special guests.

The conference also highlighted new initiatives aimed at making Hajj operations easier and more secure.

A dedicated team will work closely with agencies to ensure the prompt resolution of financial matters, while the participation of senior UCB officials and Hajj agencies from Chattogram made the event a platform for dialogue and collaboration.

## Southeast Bank launches Visa student credit card

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC has launched the country's first-ever "Visa Student Credit Card" at a ceremony held at Sheraton Dhaka on Wednesday.

The card is designed for eligible undergraduate and postgraduate students of recognised universities and will be backed by parental guarantees to ensure prudent risk management.

The product aims to encourage responsible financial behaviour from an early stage while helping students manage their educational, digital and lifestyle expenses through a controlled and secure credit facility.

Md Zakir Hossain Chowdhury, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the card as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Addressing the event, he praised Southeast Bank for introducing a structured and safeguarded student-focused credit product and highlighted the importance of promoting financial literacy and responsible borrowing habits among young people.

MA Kashem, chairman of Southeast

Bank PLC, said the initiative reflects the bank's commitment to empowering the younger generation by providing structured financial tools and promoting financial inclusion.

He said Southeast Bank believes in investing in future leaders by equipping them with structured and responsible financial tools.

Md Khalid Mahmood Khan, managing director and CEO of Southeast Bank, presided over the ceremony.

Aziz Al Kaiser, chairman of the board of trustees of North South University, and Sabbir Ahmed Khan, country manager for Bangladesh at Visa, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Md Zakir Hossain Chowdhury, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurates the "Visa Student Credit Card", launched by Southeast Bank PLC, at Sheraton Dhaka on Wednesday. MA Kashem, chairman of Southeast Bank PLC, was also present.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Madaripur Public Works Division, Madaripur  
Phone: 0661-61825, Fax: 0661-61418  
Memo No. 25.36.5400.111.07.066.24-718 Date: 04.03.2026

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tenders are being invited through Open Tendering Method (OTM) in e-GP System by Executive Engineer, Madaripur Public Works Division, Madaripur for the Procurement of:

Sl. No.	ID Reference No.	Name of procurement package	Closing date
01.	1240625	Construction of 4-Storeyed Building with 6-Storeyed foundation Madaripur Sadar Thana Building (Rural Type-1) (in/c Civil, Sanitary & Electrification etc.) at Madaripur under the project of Construction of administrative and barracks buildings of Bangladesh Police stations in various places of the country.	02-Apr-2026 12.15pm

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP Portal.

*Abdullah Al Mamun*  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works Division, Madaripur  
ee\_mdpr@pwd.gov.bd

GD-497

## China sets lowest growth target in decades

AFP, Beijing

China set its annual growth target at 4.5-5 percent on Thursday, its lowest figure in decades but at the centre of plans to tackle sluggish consumption and a flagging property market.

Beijing also used its showpiece annual political gathering to announce a seven percent increase in its defence budget, the second largest in the world, in line with previous years as it looks to counter the United States and enforce its claims over Taiwan and the South China Sea.

China is the world's second-largest economy and accounts for a third of global growth, but it faces serious structural imbalances and US trade pressures despite sustaining strong exports.

"The achievements of the past year were hard-won," Premier Li Qiang said, as he opened the annual meeting of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's parliament, on Thursday morning.

"Rarely in many years have we encountered such a grave and complex landscape, where external shocks and challenges were intertwined with domestic difficulties and tough policy choices."

This year's growth target is the lowest since 1991, according to AFP research.

The only exception was in 2020, when none was set as the economy reeled from the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Jhalakati Road Division, Jhalakati  
E-mail: eejha@rhd.gov.bd  
Memo No. 35.01.4240.432.04.001.25-355 Dated: 04/03/2026

**Invitation of RHD Quotation for Ferry Toll Collection (4th Call)**

1	Lease Quotation Notice No.	Lease-02/2025-2026/JRD
2	Name of Quotation	Lease for Toll Collection from Kachua Ferry at 6th km of Binapani-Kachua-Betagi-Mirjaganj-Patuakhali (Z-8052) (Jhalakati Part) Road during 03 (three) financial years under Jhalakati Road Division.
3	Lease implementation period	3 (three) financial years (1095 days).
4	Price of lease quotation schedule	Tk. 2,000.00 (two thousand) per set.
5	Security money	10% of Quoted Rate. (including VAT and Tax) (in favour of Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jhalakati in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft).
6	Quotation last selling date	24/03/2026 up to office hour (4:00pm).
7	Tender closing date and time	25/03/2026 at 12:00pm.
8	Eligibility of lease quotationer	All interested Persons/Firms regardless of whether enlisted or not with the employer may submit Quotation provide that they are otherwise qualified who can fulfill the qualification criteria stipulated in the Quotation's document.
9	Selling quotation document	Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/DC Office, Jhalakati EE (RHD), Road Division-Jhalakati/Barisal/Bhola/Pirojpur/Planning Division-1, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka/SDE (RHD) Road Sub-Division, Jhalakati.
10	Receiving quotation document	EE (RHD), Road Division, Jhalakati. SE (RHD), Barisal Road Circle, Barisal. DC Office, Jhalakati
11	Quotation opening place, date & time	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Jhalakati. 25/03/2026 at 2:00pm.
12	a. The concern authority reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Quotations. b. If it is not possible to receive/open the Quotation the Schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time and same venue. GD-501 c. The Quotationer will quote the rate in figures & words. d. This Quotation Notice will also be seen at RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd.	

*Shahriar Sharif Khan*  
ID No. 602247  
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD  
Road Division, Jhalakati

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