

## Investment, digital finance fair to begin in Washington on April 17

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The International Investment and Digital Finance Fair 2026 is scheduled to begin in Washington, DC, the United States, on April 17.

The two-day exhibition is being organised by In Search of Robi Foundation (ISORF), a US-based non-profit organisation.

Alongside the fair, several seminars, dialogues and investment-related discussion sessions will be held, according to a press release.

The event is expected to be attended by elected representatives from the United States, representatives of the Federal Reserve, members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and senior officials from the US Department of State, according to a press release.

Representatives of the Senate Subcommittee on International Operations and Bilateral International Development, officials from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), high-level officials from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and investors from different countries are also expected to attend.

The non-profit organisation expressed its appreciation to the government of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Bank for their investment-friendly initiatives, saying such policies would boost the confidence of international investors and encourage higher inflows of foreign investment into Bangladesh.

One of the key seminars at the fair will be titled "Strengthening Investment Flows in the US and South Asia: Challenges and Way Forward", focusing on investment opportunities, prospects and challenges in South Asia, including Bangladesh.

The foundation operates under the guidance of an advisory panel that includes Ambassador Osman Siddique, and Faisal M Rahman, professor and founding dean of The Graham School of Management at Saint Xavier University in Chicago.



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

**Shahadat Hossain Bahar, chief executive officer of Best Western Plus Bay Hills, and Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution at Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at Prime Aspire in Dhaka recently.**

## Prime Bank clients to enjoy privileges at Best Western Plus Bay Hills

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has recently signed a strategic agreement with Best Western Plus Bay Hills, a hotel in Cox's Bazar, aimed at enhancing lifestyle and hospitality benefits for Prime Bank cardholders and employees.

Under the agreement, all Prime Bank credit and debit cardholders, along with the bank's employees, will enjoy attractive benefits at Best Western Plus Bay Hills.

These privileges include a 40 percent discount on accommodation from the

rack rate, a 10 percent discount on à la carte dining at the hotel's restaurant, and a 50 percent discount on meeting and banquet hall bookings from the rack rate.

The partnership is designed to provide premium hospitality experiences at special rates for Prime Bank's stakeholders.

Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution at Prime Bank PLC, and Shahadat Hossain Bahar, chief executive officer (CEO) of Best Western Plus Bay Hills, signed the agreement at Prime Aspire in Dhaka,

according to a press release.

This collaboration reflects Prime Bank's continued commitment to delivering enhanced benefits and exclusive lifestyle privileges to its customers and employees through strategic partnerships, the release added.

Joarder Tanvir Faisal, executive vice-president and head of cards and retail assets of the bank, and Md Abu Seheir Ferdous, head of sales and marketing at the hotel, along with senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the ceremony.

## Maldivian resumes Male-Dhaka-Male flights ahead of Eid travel rush

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Maldivian, the national carrier of the Maldives, resumed its Male-Dhaka-Male service yesterday with a ceremonial greeting at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA), reinstating direct connectivity between the two South Asian neighbours ahead of the Eid travel rush.

The inaugural flight, operated by an Airbus A320 carrying a full passenger load, landed at HSIA at 5:20am and departed for Male at 6:20am.

Initially, the airline will operate the route twice weekly, on Sundays and Thursdays, with return fares starting from \$399 (approximately Tk 47,880).

Passengers will enjoy a 30 kilogramme baggage allowance and complimentary onboard meals. Tickets are available via Maldivian's official website, mobile app and call centre (1671).

Mohamed Ibrahim Yasir, managing director of Maldivian, and Ahmed Yusuf Walid, president and CEO of Galaxy Bangladesh Group, signed the

agreement following the resumption on February 23.

Shiuneen Rasheed, the ambassador of the Maldives to Bangladesh; Ahmed Ibrahim, director of ground operations at the airline; and Mohamed Salah, general manager (international commercial), attended the launching ceremony.

The timing of the service's return coincides with the Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr travel season, facilitating travel for Bangladeshi expatriates returning home and Maldivian visitors heading abroad.

## Robi's Ziad Shatara elected AMTOB president

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Ziad Shatara, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of Robi Axiata PLC, has been elected as the president of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB).



Ziad Shatara

His election took place at AMTOB's annual general meeting (AGM), held virtually on March 11, the association said in a statement yesterday.

Shatara succeeds Yasir Azman, CEO of Grameenphone, and will serve a two-year term beginning on April 1.

The newly formed AMTOB board also announced the appointment of Johan Buse, CEO of Banglalink, as senior vice-president; Yasir Azman as vice-president; and Nurul Mabud Chowdhury, managing director of Teletalk, as a director.

Abdus Salam, country manager of Ericsson Bangladesh; Jason Wu, CEO of Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh); Taimur Rahman, chief corporate and regulatory affairs officer of Banglalink; Tanveer Mohammad, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone; Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer of Robi Axiata; and Luthfullahil Mozid, deputy general manager of Teletalk, participated in the AGM.

Lieutenant Colonel (ret) Mohammad Zullikar, secretary general of AMTOB, moderated the session.

## Goldman Sachs raises crude price forecast

REUTERS

Goldman Sachs raised its Brent, WTI crude oil price forecasts for the fourth quarter of 2026 to \$71/67 per barrel from \$66/62 as it sees longer disruption to oil flows in the Strait of Hormuz due to the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Brent prices have gained more than 36 percent since the war began on February 28, while WTI has risen about 39 percent. Both benchmarks briefly topped \$119 on Monday, their highest levels since mid-2022.

The fighting has effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz, leaving tankers stranded for more than a week and forcing producers to suspend output as storage nears capacity.

## Midland Bank, Nagad join hands to speed up remittance delivery

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Nagad Limited has entered into a partnership agreement with Midland Bank PLC to streamline the delivery of expatriate remittances to Bangladesh's grassroots, enabling faster and more secure digital transfers nationwide.

Under the partnership, remittances sent by Bangladeshi expatriates will be credited directly to beneficiaries' Nagad mobile wallets through Midland Bank, using authorised channels including international exchange houses, money transfer operators and banks.

Recipients will have 24/7 access to their funds through Nagad accounts, regardless of

location, including remote and rural areas.

Imtiaz Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank PLC, and Md Motasem Billah, administrator of Nagad Limited, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Ahmed said, "Midland Bank collects remittances through an extensive global partner network. This agreement with Nagad will deliver faster and more convenient remittance services to expatriates and their families."

Billah said, "This partnership ensures expatriates' hard-earned money arrives instantly and securely in recipients' Nagad wallets. Beneficiaries can access funds any time

or withdraw cash at minimal cost from over 300,000 Nagad agent points nationwide, including in remote locations."

He added that the initiative would help modernise the remittance ecosystem and encourage increased inflows through formal channels.

Md Zahid Hossain, deputy managing director and chief risk officer of the bank; Mohammad Javed Tarek Khan and Khandaker Toufiq Hossain Khan, senior executive vice-presidents; and Md Ahsanul Haque Bashar, head of remittance at the mobile financial services (MFS) provider, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the event.



**Md Motasem Billah, administrator of Nagad Limited, and Imtiaz Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank PLC, pose for a photograph during the signing ceremony at the bank's head office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently.**

PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

## Indian source says

FROM PAGE B4  
The company did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

The Indian source said two other foreign-flagged tankers believed to be bound for India had recently transited the Strait, and that Iran had given assurances of safe passage for Indian-flagged vessels after the foreign ministers of both countries spoke by telephone late on Tuesday.

The source said the situation remained fluid, with limited clarity on how instructions were being relayed across different layers of Iran's administration.

In a statement after the talks between India's S. Jaishankar and his

counterpart, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Iran's foreign ministry said the United States should be held accountable for the "insecure situation and problems arising from shipping in the Persian Gulf".

Neither side mentioned any agreement on allowing safe passage for Indian vessels.

On Wednesday, India said 28 Indian-flagged vessels were operating west and east of the Strait with 778 Indian sailors aboard.

"Authorities, ship managers and recruitment agencies are coordinating closely with Indian embassies and local authorities to ensure safety and provide assistance to Indian seafarers," the

Indian petroleum ministry said in a statement.

INDIA SHELTERING IRANIAN SAILORS

India has given safe harbour to 183 Iranian sailors from a vessel that docked after the war broke out between Iran and the United States and Israel.

New Delhi had allowed three Iranian ships that departed following a naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal to dock, but one was later sunk by a US submarine in international waters, and another sought assistance from Sri Lanka.

Iran has attacked at least 16 ships in the Strait since the war began in late February. Tehran has warned that oil prices could nearly double to \$200 a barrel as it retaliates.

## War disrupts

FROM PAGE B4  
Other countries that source their gas from the Middle East to produce fertilisers, such as India, have had to ration supplies to their factories.

Bangladesh has temporarily shut down five out of six of them.

The UN expressed concern this week about access to fertilisers in some of the poorest countries.

CROP PRODUCTION AT RISK

Artificial fertilisers provide nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium necessary for crop growth.

For nitrogen-based fertilisers such as urea, ammonium nitrate and potassium, "global demand never ceases to increase,

driven by Asia," said Sylvain Pellerin at INREA, a French agricultural research institute.

INREA models that without these three key fertiliser inputs, global crop production would fall by a third.

But nitrogen fertilisers require natural gas for their chemical synthesis, and a lot of energy.

As for sulfur, it is a co-product of the oil and gas industry. Where there is gas, you will find urea and ammonia," said the Argus's Marlow.

Production of phosphorus-based fertilisers starts with phosphate rock, of which Saudi Arabia supplies 20 percent of the world total but currently cannot ship it.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Health Engineering Department (HED)  
Old Sadar Hospital Campus, City Bazar Road, Rangpur  
[www.hed.rangpur.gov.bd](http://www.hed.rangpur.gov.bd)

Memo No. 45.02.8549.431.07.003.26-130 Date: 12/03/2026

**e-Tender Notice (LTM-02)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the works  
Details are given below:

Sl No.	e-Tender ID No.	Name of work	Last date & time of selling tender document	Tender closing date & time
1	1238209	Repair and Maintenance Works (Consisting of repairing of the existing solar power system, replacement of the distribution board (DB), painting, street lights, garden lights, and security lights, supplying and installation of IPS, fire extinguishers to ensure fire safety compliance and other associated and ancillary works) at the Office of the Divisional Director (Health) in Rangpur District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
2	1238268	Repair and Maintenance Works (Consisting of both wall and floor tiles work, painting, repair of damaged doors and windows, collapsible gates, sewage and sanitary & water supply lines, painting, supplying and installation of ceiling fans, lights, security lights and fire extinguishers and other associated and ancillary works) at Satgara RD/USC Under Sadar Upazila in Rangpur District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
3	1238265	Repair and Maintenance Works (Consisting of repairing of sanitary, sewage and water supply lines, Painting, tiles work, supplying and installation of security lights, IPS, security lights, Centrifugal Pump and fire extinguishers to ensure fire safety compliance, other associated and ancillary works) at the Hospital Building of Haragach 31-Bedded Health Complex under Rangpur District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
4	1238270	Routine and Periodical maintenance works of Pathology Lab Room, OT Block, Conference Room & Administrative Block at Fulchra UZHC in Gaibandha District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
5	1238267	Routine and Periodical maintenance works of Pathology Lab Room & Extmal Civil works at Sadullapur UZHC in Gaibandha District.	29-Mar-2026 14:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
6	1238266	Routine and Periodical maintenance works of Class-II Quarter at Shagha UZHC in Gaibandha District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
7	1238271	Routine and Periodical maintenance works of Class-III Quarter at Shagha UZHC in Gaibandha District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 13:00
8	1238272	Repair & Maintenance Works of old Hospital Building at Domar Upazila Health Complex (UZHC) Under Domar Upazila in Nilphamari District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
9	1238274	Repair & Maintenance Works of New OPD Hospital Building at Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex (UZHC) under Jaldhaka Upazila in Nilphamari District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
10	1238275	Repair & Maintenance Works of Leprosy Hospital under Sadar Upazila in Nilphamari District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
11	1238276	Repair & Maintenance Works of Community Clinic-3 Nos. (Including Munsipara CC, Rother Pukur CC & Nijbari CC) at Saidpur Upazila in Nilphamari District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
12	1238277	Repair & Maintenance Works of External Electrical Works at Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex (UZHC) under Jaldhaka Upazila in Nilphamari District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
13	1238279	Repair & Maintenance works of School Health Clinic at Saidpur Upazila in Nilphamari District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00
14	1238874	Routine and Periodical maintenance of External Electrical works (Work consist of Supplying Transformer, H Pole, LT Pole, Overhead Cable etc.) at Sundargonj UZHC in Gaibandha District.	29-Mar-2026 13:00	29-Mar-2026 14:00

**This tender invitation only for the following three categories:**  
1. Micro and Small Enterprise: In the last three years (counted from the date of publication of tender), total value of the contract awarded under public procurement is less than or equal BDT 1 crore.  
2. Women-owned Enterprise: An enterprise owned by a woman.  
3. New Enterprise: An enterprise formed in the period of last 2 years (counted from the date of publication of tender).

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal & no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. 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 branches. 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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