



Premmit Singh, president and managing director of Toyota Bangladesh Limited, and Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution network of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph during the signing ceremony at the former's office in the Tejgaon Industrial Area of Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Prime Bank customers to get benefits on Toyota car purchases

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Toyota Bangladesh Limited, the brand's official subsidiary and distributor in the country, to offer benefits to its customers and employees on vehicle purchases.

Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution network of

the bank, and Premmit Singh, president and managing director of the automotive company, signed the agreement at the latter's office in the Tejgaon Industrial Area of Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Prime Bank customers will enjoy special discounts on selected Toyota vehicles.

The partnership reflects the bank's ongoing commitment to delivering enhanced

value and lifestyle benefits to its customers through strategic collaborations, the release added.

Joarder Tanvir Faisal, executive vice-president and head of consumer assets and cards of the bank; Yusuke Ogino and Syed Asifur Rahman, vice-presidents of the automotive company, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the ceremony.

Plastics sector at risk

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"We may be able to run for another 15 days with our old stock," he said.

He added that raw material prices have risen by around 40 percent on average, with even steeper increases in some cases.

RFL requires about 10,000 tonnes of raw materials monthly, including PET, polypropylene (PP) and PVC, all of which have seen sharp price hikes.

PVC, used in pipe manufacturing, has surged from about \$800 to around \$1,600 per tonne. The company now sources 60-70 percent of materials from the Middle East and 30 percent from China, reflecting a shift in global supply dynamics.

Paul warned that despite opening LCs, companies are receiving only partial volumes. "If we need 10,000 tonnes, we may get only a fraction," he said, adding

that the situation could shrink market activity by 30-40 percent.

ASM Kamal Uddin, managing director of Luna Polymer, has blamed tax complexities, banking irregularities and global supply disruptions for pushing the plastic manufacturing sector into a deep crisis.

He said that although the nominal import duty on raw materials is around 32 percent, customs assessments often inflate values, increasing the effective burden by an additional 30-40 percent. Global factors have worsened the situation. Rising crude oil prices and supply disruptions have driven sharp increases in raw material costs.

Meanwhile, many Middle Eastern raw material suppliers have halted shipments, while others have raised prices due to higher freight costs.

Uddin said most manufacturers hold only one to one-and-a-half months of raw material inventory, making them highly vulnerable. His company requires about 500 tonnes monthly. He warned that prolonged instability will raise production costs, force price hikes and increase pressure on consumers.

Shamim Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BPGMEA), said prices of key raw materials, particularly resin, have nearly doubled in recent months, driven by global oil price volatility and geopolitical tensions.

He emphasised that the plastic sector is a critical linkage industry, supporting around 30,000 businesses, including food processing, pharmaceuticals, garments and consumer goods.

"Without plastic packaging, many essential products cannot reach the market efficiently," he added.

Despite some growth in domestic production, Bangladesh remains heavily reliant on imports. Annual demand for plastic resin is about 1.7 million tonnes, of which roughly 1.2-1.3 million tonnes are imported, while the rest comes from local production and recycling.

Ahmed warned that many factories are operating at break-even or shutting down, urging urgent policy support to stabilise the sector.

One of the key demands is a reduction or waiver of import duties on raw materials, which can go up to 32 percent when taxes and VAT are included.

"If the government reduces duties — even by 50 percent — it could significantly ease the pressure," Ahmed said.

Gold ticks up

REUTERS

Gold prices rose on Wednesday to their highest in nearly two weeks, supported by a weaker dollar following US President Donald Trump's statement that the war with Iran could wind down in weeks.

Spot gold rose 1 percent to \$4,717.82 per ounce by 0712 GMT, its highest level since March 20. US gold futures for April delivery gained 1.4 percent to \$4,744.30. The US dollar fell 0.4 percent, making bullion more affordable for holders of other currencies. Trump said Tehran did not have to make a deal as a prerequisite for the conflict to wind down and that he would provide an update on Iran in an address at 9 pm EDT on Wednesday (0100 GMT on Thursday).

"Talks that the US might wrap up the war in two to three weeks even if the Strait (of Hormuz) is not reopened reinvigorated the US equity markets (overnight) and pulled gold higher along with it," said Marex analyst Edward Meir.

Gold fell more than 11 percent in March in its steepest monthly decline since October 2008 as elevated oil prices fuelled inflation concerns and bets of a hawkish monetary policy response. Oil prices gained on Wednesday despite hopes of a de-escalation in the Iran conflict, as infrastructure damage is likely to keep supplies tight.

Green Delta declares 27% cash dividend

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Green Delta Insurance PLC has declared a 27 percent cash dividend for its shareholders for the year that ended on December 31, 2025.

The announcement was made at the 40th annual general meeting (AGM) of the insurance company, which was held virtually on Tuesday, according to a press release. Shamsun Nahar Begum Chowdhury, chairperson of the non-life insurance company, presided over the programme as the chief guest.

The chairman expressed her appreciation to the company's shareholders for their continuous support and cooperation in its growth. She also congratulated and thanked members of the Green Delta family for their sincere efforts in ensuring uninterrupted and seamless customer service and business operations during the economic turmoil.

Md Oliullah Khan, company secretary of the non-life insurer, moderated the event.

Farzanah Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of the insurer, thanked the shareholders for helping Green Delta Insurance maintain its leading position in the industry. She also expressed her gratitude to her team for relentlessly pursuing excellence during the challenging economic conditions of 2025.

Expressing optimism about the company's future, Farzanah highlighted its diverse service portfolio, featuring comprehensive digitalised solutions, automated customer service, agriculture insurance, and microinsurance. She also pledged to drive continuous innovation and best-in-class service to ensure financial stability and sustainable growth.

Nasir A Choudhury, founding managing director of the insurer, also joined the AGM, along with a large number of shareholders.



Shamsun Nahar Begum Chowdhury, chairperson of Green Delta Insurance PLC, presides over the non-life insurer's 40th annual general meeting on Tuesday. The meeting declared a 27 percent cash dividend for 2025.

PHOTO: GREEN DELTA INSURANCE

NCC Bank customers to enjoy discounts at Ramada by Wyndham

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ramada by Wyndham Cox's Bazar Kolatola Beach, a beachfront hotel known for its modern amenities.

Md Zakir Anam, deputy managing director of the bank, and Khaled Bin Ahmad, chief operating officer of the hotel, signed the MoU at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, NCC Bank cardholders and employees will enjoy a range of privileges and discounts at the hotel, enhancing their travel experience.

The partnership marks another step in

NCC Bank's efforts to build meaningful collaborations that offer convenience, comfort and exclusive benefits to its stakeholders.

M Khurshed Alam, additional managing director of the bank, was present at the signing ceremony.

The bank said the initiative reflects its continued commitment to providing enhanced lifestyle privileges and value-added services to its cardholders.

By partnering with leading hospitality destinations in Cox's Bazar, NCC Bank aims to enrich customer experiences beyond traditional banking services and strengthen its customer-centric value proposition.



Khaled Bin Ahmad, chief operating officer of Ramada by Wyndham Cox's Bazar Kolatola Beach, and Md Zakir Anam, deputy managing director of NCC Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NCC BANK

Startup investment firm

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Local startups such as 10 Minute School and Shikho have already demonstrated how technology can expand access to education, while digital health ventures could similarly benefit rural communities, he added.

EQUITY-BASED SUPPORT AND BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

Arefin highlighted that the fund will grow each year as participating banks contribute from annual profits. "Unlike loans, the support will be equity-based, meaning

BSIC will take ownership stakes in startups instead of charging interest," he said.

Under a BB directive, participating banks are contributing 1 percent of their profits earned between 2020 and 2024 to build the fund.

Bankers said this reflects an understanding that startups need risk capital rather than traditional loans, which commercial banks are not designed to provide.

According to BSIC sources, BRAC Bank holds the largest share at 7.71

percent, followed by City Bank at 6.74 percent, Dutch Bangla Bank at 6.67 percent, Pubali Bank at 6.5 percent, Sonali Bank at 5.73 percent, Eastern Bank at 5.58 percent, and Prime Bank at 4.98 percent.

Going forward, banks will contribute around Tk 200 crore annually from new profits, allowing the fund to expand and support more startups.

BSIC's nine-member board includes managing directors from City Bank, Prime Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, Sonali Bank,

and Pubali Bank, along with four independent directors, with Light Castle Partners as strategic consultant.

Nazeem A Choudhury, additional managing director of Prime Bank, is interim chief executive officer (CEO) while BSIC searches for a professional with multinational startup investment experience to appoint a permanent CEO and head of investment by May.

BSIC was registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms on December 7 last year.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Commanding Officer, Rapid Action Battalion-14
Aqua Bypass, Mymensingh

Invitation for Re e-Tender

For Financial year 2025-2026, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

SL	Tender ID No & Reference No	Description of Goods	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time
1.	1251577, RAB14/14232/Q/Ration/69 Date: 31/03/2026	Procurement of High quality Soybean Oil for Ration of RAB-14, Mymensingh (4th quarter) FY 2025-26 (April-2026 to June-2026)	19-Apr-2026 17:00	20-Apr-2026 12:00

This is an Online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-tender Documents from the national e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any Registered bank branches. Further Information and Guidelines are available in national e-GP system portal and at e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For details, please contact at 0177711403 (Senior Assistant Director, Quarter Master, RAB-14).

NAIMUL HASSAN
Addl DIG
CO, Rab-14, Mymensingh
Phone: 02223376750

GD-693

বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার
বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ

"জীবনের জন্য বিজ্ঞান"

Issue No: 39.02.1506.068.17.043.26/ Date: 01-04-2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Tender ID.

SL NO	Tender ID No.	Name Of Tender	Last Date and Time for Tender Selling	Last Date and Time for Tender Closing	Date and Time for Tender Opening
1	1241296	Installation and sinking of 150x300 mm dia shrouded production of a deep tube well for water supply to the office and residential areas at Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Chattogram Research Laboratory.	15-April-2026 16:00	16-April-2026 16:00	16-April-2026 16:00
2	1241297	Renovation work of Rooms No. 207, 210, and 211 of the Phytochemistry Research Division in the main building at Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Chattogram Research Laboratory.	15-April-2026 16:00	16-April-2026 16:00	16-April-2026 16:00
3	1241298	Renovation and other related works of the Pharmacology Research Division, including the Animal House, at Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Chattogram Research Laboratory.	15-April-2026 16:00	16-April-2026 16:00	16-April-2026 16:00

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and 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.

(Dr. Barun Kanti Saha)
Director (Additional In-charge)
BCSIR Chattogram Laboratories
Chattogram-4220

GD-697