

Rancon launches Sharp premium products at Rang's eMART

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Rancon Group recently signed an agreement with Sharp, a globally renowned Japanese electronics brand, under which premium electronic products from the brand will now be available at Rang's eMART.

Through the partnership, customers in Bangladesh will be able to access Sharp's portfolio of technology products, bringing innovation, quality, and reliability under one roof.

Romo Rouf Chowdhury, group managing director of Rancon Group, and Tamura Tomoki, BU vice president of global business and general manager at Sharp Corporation, jointly inaugurated the products at a Rang's showroom in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Tomoki expressed optimism about the potential of the Bangladeshi market for Sharp's technology-driven, sustainable, and user-friendly products.

He reaffirmed the company's commitment to delivering innovative

solutions that enhance everyday life.

In his remarks, Chowdhury said the collaboration would allow customers in Bangladesh to conveniently access Sharp's wide range of products directly from Rang's eMART.

He added that the inclusion of Sharp reinforces Rancon Group's commitment to offering authentic, high-quality products supported by strong service and customer experience.

He also noted that Rancon Group has long played a pioneering role in introducing globally reputed brands to the local market, adding that the partnership with Sharp would further strengthen that legacy by offering world-class technology on a trusted platform.

Woo Keat Chew, managing director of Sharp Singapore Electronics Corporation Pte Ltd; Kubo Hirota, division manager of the Product Quality Assurance Division at Sharp Corporation; Farhana Karim, managing director of Rancon Electronics; and Yeamin Sharif Chowdhury, divisional director, among others, were also present.



Tamura Tomoki, BU vice president of global business and general manager at Sharp Corporation, and Romo Rouf Chowdhury, group managing director of Rancon Group, inaugurate Sharp's premium electronic products at Rang's eMART in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: RANCON GROUP

Gold extends gains

REUTERS

Gold prices extended gains on Friday, supported by a weaker dollar and comments from Iran's foreign minister that passage through the Strait of Hormuz remains open during the ceasefire, which pushed oil prices lower and eased some inflation concerns.

Spot gold was up 1.5 percent at \$4,861.32 per ounce at 1:58 p.m. ET (1758 GMT), rising more than 2 percent so far this week.

US gold futures settled 1.5 percent higher at \$4,879.60.

The passage of vessels through the strait will be on the coordinated route as already announced by the Ports and Maritime Organisation of Iran, Iran's foreign minister said in a post on X. US President Donald Trump said talks could take place this weekend and he believed a deal to end the Iran war would come "soon".

"Reopening the strait was a key event, and with oil prices under pressure, it is expected to ease inflation concerns and revive expectations of interest rate cuts - all good news for gold," said Peter Grant, vice president and senior metals strategist at Zaner Metals.

Gold prices could see short-term gains back above the \$5,000 per ounce level, he added.

The US dollar and oil prices extended their fall after the comments on Hormuz opening. A weaker US currency makes bullion more attractive to holders of other currencies.



Sohail RK Hussain, director of Bank Asia Securities Limited, poses for a group photograph at the company's 15th annual general meeting at Rang's Bhaban on Bijoy Sarani in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Bank Asia Securities holds 15th AGM

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia Securities Limited, a subsidiary of Bank Asia Limited, recently held its 15th annual general meeting (AGM) at Rang's Bhaban on Bijoy Sarani in Dhaka.

Romana Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia Securities Limited, presided over the meeting as the chief guest,

according to a press release.

Prof M Shahjahan Mina, Sohail RK Hussain, ANM Mahfuz, and Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil, directors of the company, attended the event.

Sumon Das, chief executive officer of the company; Md Anisul Alam Sarker, company secretary; and Md Nahid Raza, head of finance, were also present at the meeting.

SME Foundation, Prime Bank sign deal to boost CMSME growth

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed a refinancing agreement with SME Foundation aimed at enhancing credit access for cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises (CMSMEs).

This collaboration operates under the government's Tk 300 crore revolving fund and follows credit wholesaling guidelines designed to stimulate economic growth at the grassroots level.

M Nazeem A Choudhury, additional managing director of Prime Bank PLC, and Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of SME Foundation, signed the agreement in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

They emphasised that this strategic alignment will not only create jobs but also strengthen the overall resilience of the CMSME sector in Bangladesh.

Khandakar Abdul Muktadir, minister for industries, commerce, textiles, and jute, attended the programme as the chief guest and highlighted the government's commitment to fostering a



Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, managing director of SME Foundation, and M Nazeem A Choudhury, additional managing director of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

business-friendly environment for small-scale entrepreneurs.

Under the agreement, Prime Bank will facilitate low-cost loans to eligible entrepreneurs, with the maximum interest rate capped at 8 percent per annum. The financing facility is designed to be highly accessible, offering loan amounts ranging from Tk 1 lakh to Tk 25

lakh, depending on the nature of the enterprise.

To further ease the burden on small business owners, the programme provides a flexible repayment period of up to four years, including a six-month grace period to allow businesses sufficient time to generate returns before beginning their monthly instalments.

A core focus of this initiative is the promotion of financial inclusion and social equity. The agreement mandates that a significant portion of the funds be allocated to women entrepreneurs and those operating within specific industrial clusters.

Additionally, the programme prioritises young innovators in the ICT sector, manufacturers of import-substituting goods, and entrepreneurs located in climate-vulnerable or underprivileged regions.

By removing the requirement for formal collateral for loans up to Tk 10 lakh, the partnership ensures that even those without substantial assets can secure the capital necessary to grow their ventures.

The leadership of both SME Foundation and Prime Bank expressed optimism about the impact of this fund on the national economy. Beyond lending, the programme aims to support sustainable industrialisation by encouraging green technologies and helping returning migrants reintegrate into the productive workforce.

Prime Bank, Shahrukh Amin partner to offer discounts for Neera customers



Shahrukh Amin, owner of Shahrukh Amin, and Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability and wealth management of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at Prime Aspire on Gulshan Avenue in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has entered into a strategic partnership agreement with Shahrukh Amin, a renowned fashion and lifestyle brand, to provide benefits to its Neera customers.

Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability and wealth management of the bank, and Shahrukh Amin, owner of the brand, signed the agreement at Prime Aspire on Gulshan Avenue in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under this partnership, Neera customers of Prime Bank PLC will enjoy up to a 15 percent discount on purchases from Shahrukh Amin, enhancing their lifestyle experience with premium offerings.

This collaboration reflects Prime Bank PLC's ongoing commitment to delivering lifestyle privileges and value-added services to its customers through strategic partnerships, the release added.



Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, chairman of Shimanto Bank PLC and director general of Border Guard Bangladesh, poses for a group photograph with participants of the bank's "Business Summit 2026" in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: SHIMANTO BANK

Shimanto Bank holds business summit

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shimanto Bank PLC has organised its "Business Summit 2026" in Dhaka recently.

Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, chairman of the bank and director general

of Border Guard Bangladesh, inaugurated the event as chief guest, according to a press release.

Md Nurul Azim, managing director and chief executive officer, presided over the summit. The daylong event focused on reviewing last year's business performance and setting

future goals and strategies.

Md Sahidul Islam, head of business of the bank, and Mohammad Azizul Hoque, head of operations, along with directors, divisional heads, and managers from branches and sub-branches, attended the summit.

KY Two Tone opens branch in Purbachal

STAR BUSINESS DESK

KY Two Tone, a Chattogram-based real estate developer and a concern of the KDS Group, yesterday launched its branch office in Purbachal, Dhaka.

Jabir Hossain, chief operating officer of KY Steel, inaugurated the branch as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his speech, Hossain said, "This new branch office of KY Two Tone will bring our services closer to our valued customers."

"With a commitment to modern technology, superior quality, and customer satisfaction, we are moving forward with confidence."

"This initiative in Purbachal will open new horizons in the construction sector," he added.

During the programme, speakers highlighted KY Two Tone's development plans, modern architectural solutions, and

dedication to ensuring customer satisfaction.

They expressed optimism that the new branch will play a significant role in delivering quality construction services in Purbachal

and its surrounding areas.

Following the inauguration, the guests toured the new branch office and expressed their gratitude for the continued success of the organisation.



Jabir Hossain, chief operating officer of KY Steel, poses for a group photograph with guests and officials of the company after inaugurating the new branch office in Purbachal, Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: KDS GROUP

STAR BUSINESS DESK

UCB Investment Limited has signed a panel brokerage agreement with Prime Bank Securities Ltd (PBSL), a subsidiary of Prime Bank PLC.

Tanzim Alamgir, managing director and CEO of UCB Investment Limited, and Md Moniruzzaman, managing director and CEO of Prime Bank Securities Limited, signed the agreement at United Commercial Bank's (UCB) head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under this strategic partnership, clients of UCB Investment Limited will benefit from seamless and efficient trade execution on both the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) through Prime Bank Securities Ltd, a leading brokerage house in Bangladesh.

Clients will also enjoy enhanced convenience through Prime TradeX, which offers real-time market access,

easy order placement, portfolio monitoring, and management.

Complementing this capability, UCB Investment Limited will continue to provide market-adjusted margin loans to its clients, enabling them to optimise leverage while maintaining disciplined risk management aligned

with prevailing market conditions.

This collaboration underscores UCB Investment Limited's ongoing commitment to delivering better value, operational efficiency, best-in-class brokerage execution, and prudent financing solutions to its clients in Bangladesh's capital markets.



Md Moniruzzaman, managing director and CEO of Prime Bank Securities Limited, and Tanzim Alamgir, managing director and CEO of UCB Investment Limited, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at United Commercial Bank's head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: UCB