

Bank Asia, Rancon British Motors team up to offer auto loans for MG vehicles

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Rancon British Motors Limited (RBML), the authorised distributor of MG (Morris Garages) vehicles in Bangladesh, to enhance customers' accessibility and convenience.

Syed Zulkar Nayen, deputy managing director and head of retail banking at the bank, and Hussain Mashnoor Chowdhury, chief executive officer of Rancon British Motors Limited, signed

the agreement at a ceremony held in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Bank Asia will offer attractive and convenient auto loan facilities to individual customers for purchasing MG vehicles.

The collaboration reflects Bank Asia's commitment to providing value-added services in the retail banking sector and improving the overall customer experience, the release said.

Senior officials from both organisations were present at the event.



Hussain Mashnoor Chowdhury, chief executive officer of Rancon British Motors Limited, and Syed Zulkar Nayen, deputy managing director and head of retail banking at Bank Asia PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Al-Mamun appointed AMD of Shahjalal Islami Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC has appointed Md Abdullah Al-Mamun to the post of additional managing director (AMD).

Prior to this appointment, Al-Mamun served as deputy managing director at Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC (AIBPLC), according to a press release.

He has 28 years of professional experience at AIBPLC, where he worked in various capacities. He began his banking career with AIBPLC as a probationary officer in 1998.

Al-Mamun has a proven track record and extensive hands-on experience in different areas of banking. He has also demonstrated strong performance in branch business development, having served for a long time as the manager of three corporate branches of the bank.

He obtained his graduate and postgraduate degrees from the University of Dhaka, along with an MBA in accounting.



Abdullah Al-Mamun



Jiaoqun Shi, representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bangladesh, and Ali Ahmed, chief commercial officer of bKash Limited, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the FAO Bangladesh country office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: BKASH

FAO partners with bKash to streamline cash aid, incentive disbursement

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has signed an agreement with bKash Limited, a leading mobile financial service (MFS) provider in Bangladesh, to disburse cash assistance and incentives directly to beneficiaries through MFS.

The initiative aims to simplify, enhance transparency, and strengthen the security of FAO's field-level financial management.

Beneficiaries will be able to receive funds instantly in their bKash accounts and use them for emergency and daily needs.

Ali Ahmed, chief commercial officer of bKash Limited, and Jiaoqun Shi, FAO representative in Bangladesh, signed the agreement at the FAO Bangladesh Country Office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, FAO will use bKash's "Disbursement Solution" to provide unconditional cash assistance to disaster-affected communities, including farmers, fishermen, livestock keepers, and day labourers.

The system enables immediate disbursement at any time, including weekends and holidays, helping recipients meet urgent needs and support early recovery.

Pubali Bank opens sub-branch at Shishu Hospital

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC has opened a sub-branch at the Bangladesh Shishu Hospital & Institute, aiming to provide modern and convenient banking services to patients and their families.

This is the bank's 280th sub-branch, according to a press release.

Prof AKM Azizul Hoque, chairman of the Shishu Hospital, inaugurated the sub-branch as the chief guest.

Speaking at the ceremony, Hoque said the initiative to set up a sub-branch at a sensitive and important institution like Shishu Hospital was highly commendable.

"Such coordinated efforts will play

a significant role in making healthcare more humane and accessible in the future," he said.

He expressed hope that the new sub-branch would help enhance the overall quality of services at the hospital and further strengthen public trust.

Prof Md Mahbulul Haque, director of the hospital, and Md Azaharul Islam, deputy director (hospital), attended the event as special guests.

AKM Abdur Raqib, general manager and regional manager for Dhaka North, presided over the programme.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of the bank, said they will remain committed to delivering customer-centric services.



Prof AKM Azizul Hoque, chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Hospital & Institute, inaugurates Pubali Bank PLC's 280th sub-branch on the hospital premises in Dhaka on Wednesday. Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of the bank, was also present.

PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

IFIC Bank launches Islamic banking windows, service desks

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IFIC Bank PLC recently launched five new Islamic banking windows along with Islamic banking service desks across the country to ensure easier, faster, and more efficient services.

Md Mehmood Husain, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the initiatives at a ceremony held at the Multipurpose Hall of IFIC Tower in Dhaka as the chief guest, according to a press release.

During the event, Husain unveiled the bank's Islamic banking logo and the slogan "A Blend of Purity and Blessing" to further strengthen Shariah-based banking activities and enhance customer service.

In his speech, Husain said, "The demand and growth of Islamic banking in Bangladesh are highly promising. By leveraging IFIC Bank's robust network, the youth will be the driving force behind the expansion of this sector."

"Our goal is to further strengthen the skills of young people and ensure quality, customer-friendly services through proper guidance," he added.

Syed Mansur Mustafa, managing director

of the bank, said, "The logo, slogan, and service desks have been launched as part of IFIC Bank's commitment to expanding its Islamic banking services."

"In the near future, more innovative and demand-driven products will be introduced

for customers," he added.

Mohammad Zamal Uddin, head of the Islamic banking division, along with deputy managing directors, heads of divisions and departments, and senior officials, also attended the event.



Md Mehmood Husain, chairman of IFIC Bank PLC, inaugurates the bank's Islamic banking windows and service desks at IFIC Tower in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: IFIC BANK

IPDC Finance declares 10% dividend

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IPDC Finance PLC has announced a 10 percent dividend for 2025, including 5 percent in cash.

The non-bank financial institution reported a 25.39 percent year-on-year (YoY) rise in net profit to Tk 45.5 crore, reflecting resilience amid persistent macroeconomic headwinds.

The performance was driven by robust investment income, higher interest earnings, strategic portfolio diversification, and disciplined cost management. Earnings per share (EPS) increased to Tk 1.11 in 2025, according to audited financial statements.

Gross interest income grew 8.50 percent YoY to Tk 956 crore, supported by portfolio expansion and prudent lending.

Operating income rose 7.43 percent YoY

to Tk 348.4 crore, bolstered by a sharp 93.29 percent increase in investment income to Tk 132.4 crore due to stronger treasury yields and active capital market strategies, said a press release.



Rizwan Dawood Shams, managing director of the NBFI, said, "2025 was a year of disciplined execution and strategic resilience for IPDC. Despite a challenging macroeconomic environment, we strengthened our earnings base through diversified income streams

across various products and prudent cost management."

"Our focus on portfolio quality, efficient capital deployment, and strong risk governance enabled us to deliver sustainable profitability while reinforcing balance sheet strength."

"We remain committed to creating long-term value for our stakeholders through responsible growth and financial stability," he added.

Operating expenses rose 10.33 percent YoY to Tk 163.1 crore, while operating profit increased 5.01 percent YoY to Tk 185.3 crore.

At the end of 2025, loans, leases, and advances stood at Tk 7,462.2 crore, up 7.31 percent YoY. Deposits rose 14.60 percent to Tk 6,224.9 crore, reflecting continued depositor confidence.

City Bank's Q1 profit jumps 162%

STAR BUSINESS DESK

City Bank PLC reported a 162 percent year-on-year increase in net profit in the first quarter (Q1) of 2026, driven by robust growth in core banking income.

The bank's profit after tax (PAT) rose to Tk 241 crore in the January-March period, up from Tk 92 crore a year earlier.

Earnings per share (EPS) also climbed to Tk 1.6 from Tk 0.6, reflecting improved returns for shareholders. Mashrur Arefin, managing director and CEO of the bank, welcomed the strong performance but flagged concerns over slowing credit growth.

"While I am happy with such a strong increase in profit, I am equally concerned about the sharp slowdown in credit growth in the first quarter," he said.

"The direction in which credit growth in our sector is heading is, quite frankly, a matter of concern," he added.

The bank's performance was underpinned by solid gains in interest, investment, and fee-based income.



Interest income from loans grew 14 percent to Tk 1,306 crore from Tk 1,143 crore. Investment income surged to Tk 1,014 crore from Tk 603 crore, accounting for 32 percent of total operating income.

Fee and commission income also rose 27 percent, supported by higher foreign exchange earnings, card-related fees, and trade services.

Total income increased more than 38 percent to Tk 1,338 crore in the first quarter. Costs remained contained, with expenses at Tk 595 crore. As a result, the cost-to-income ratio improved to 44 percent, down from over 52 percent in the same period last year.

Dutch-Bangla Bank announces 30% dividend

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC (DBBL) has declared a 30 percent dividend, including a 25 percent cash dividend, for the year that ended on December 31, 2025.

The decision was taken at the 307th meeting of the bank's board of directors held in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Sadia Rayen Ahmed, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting.

The bank reported a net profit after tax and provisions of Tk 965 crore for 2025, marking a 104 percent increase from the previous year.

Earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 9.98 as of December 31, 2025, up from Tk 4.90 a year earlier.



Net asset value (NAV) rose to Tk 62.14, compared to Tk 53.39 in the previous year, reflecting improved shareholder value.

The board also approved the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025.

In terms of financial stability, the bank's capital-to-risk-weighted assets ratio stood at 17.13 percent in 2025, up from 13.83 percent in 2024, remaining well above the regulatory requirement.