

City Bank partners with HSBC to expand employee banking services



Md Mahbub ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, and Mashrur Arefin, managing director and chief executive officer of City Bank PLC, pose for a group photograph after signing the agreement at City Bank's head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: CITY BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

City Bank PLC has entered into a partnership agreement with The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited Bangladesh to expand employee banking services.

Mashrur Arefin, managing director and chief executive officer of City Bank PLC, and Md Mahbub ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release. Hossain Khaled, chairman of City Bank PLC, attended the signing ceremony.

Under the agreement, City Bank will provide employee banking services to HSBC Bangladesh. The collaboration aims to leverage the expertise, resources, and innovation of both organisations, the release added.

Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, additional managing director and chief financial officer of City Bank PLC; Md Ashanur Rahman, chief economist and country business manager; Md Arup Haider, deputy managing director and head of retail banking; and Hasan Uddin Ahmed, head of employee banking, attended the programme, along with other senior officials from both organisations.



Ariful Islam, treasurer of BRAC University, poses for a group photograph with participants at an event, titled "Strengthening Local Capacity for Sustainable Industry", on the university campus in Dhaka on Sunday. PHOTO: BRAC UNIVERSITY

BRAC University, Swisscontact host ESG event to boost sustainability skills

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Swisscontact Bangladesh and BRAC University jointly organised an event, titled "Strengthening Local Capacity for Sustainable Industry", at the university campus in Dhaka, focusing on building environmental, social, and governance (ESG) skills.

The programme brought together around 80 stakeholders, including representatives from industry associations, international brands, academic institutions, and development organisations.

The event, held under Swisscontact's PROGRESS initiative, shared findings from an ESG needs assessment and certified the first cohort of participants from a professional certificate course on ESG.

With support from the embassies of Sweden and Switzerland, the programme marked a step forward in strengthening ESG capacity in Bangladesh's export-oriented industries.

Ariful Islam, treasurer of BRAC University, appreciated the collaboration and reaffirmed the university's commitment to advancing ESG education and strengthening partnerships between academia and industry.

Based on a survey of 106 professionals,

the assessment – conducted by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences at BRAC University – found rising ESG awareness but gaps in technical skills such as reporting, carbon accounting, and risk management. Strong demand for ESG training was also evident.

In response, BRAC University launched a 60-hour certificate course combining theoretical and practical learning for professionals across key sectors.

The course was facilitated by both academic and industry practitioners.

During the presentation, Kazy Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, global sustainability manager at Lindex and an instructor and curriculum designer of the course, said, "The purpose of the course is to build professional capacity to understand, apply, and lead ESG integration."

Kramul H Sohel, senior programme officer for inclusive economic development at the Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka, said sustainability is no longer optional but essential.

Farzana Amin, team leader of the PROGRESS project at Swisscontact Bangladesh, said the initiative aims to meet the growing demand for sustainability professionals and encourage graduates to apply ESG practices in their respective fields.

Prime Bank organises seminar on empowering youth at BUTEX

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC, in collaboration with the Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTEX) and its Career Club, yesterday organised a seminar, titled "Financial Inclusion: Engaging & Inspiring Youth in Banking", under its flagship initiative, PrimeAcademia.

Prof Md Zulhash Uddin, vice-chancellor of BUTEX, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest and underscored the importance of strengthening industry-academia collaboration, according to a press release.

Syed Sazzad Haider Chowdhury, deputy managing director and chief information officer of the bank, delivered the keynote address, sharing insights on career development, critical decision making, and the importance of industry-aligned skillsets.

Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability and women banking, highlighted ethical leadership, informed decision-making, and the evolving role of women in shaping a future-ready workforce.



Prof Md Zulhash Uddin, vice-chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Textiles, poses for a group photograph with participants of the seminar, titled "Financial Inclusion: Engaging & Inspiring Youth in Banking", organised by Prime Bank PLC and the university, on the BUTEX campus in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Pioneer Insurance declares 30% dividend

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pioneer Insurance PLC has declared a 30 percent dividend, including 25 percent in cash, for the year that ended on December 31, 2025.

The declaration came at the insurer's 30th annual general meeting (AGM), held virtually yesterday, according to a press release.

Zakir Ahmed Khan, chairman of the non-life insurance company, presided over the meeting. He thanked shareholders for their continued support

and praised employees for their strong performance, urging them to maintain their efforts in the future.

M Anis Ud Dowla, Munize Manzur, Sanchia Chowdhury, Sylvana Sikder, Munsura Rahmatullah, Parven Akhter, Rozina Afroz, Shahana Rahmatullah, Shaiful Islam Khan, MA Majed, and Sheikh Mohammad Salim Ullah, directors of the non-life insurer, joined the meeting.

A number of shareholders also participated virtually and expressed satisfaction with the company's performance.



Zakir Ahmed Khan, chairman of Pioneer Insurance PLC, presides over the insurer's 30th annual general meeting (AGM) yesterday. The meeting announced a 30 percent dividend, including 25 percent in cash, for 2025. PHOTO: PIONEER INSURANCE

Telcos seek VAT removal on spectrum fees

FROM PAGE B1

required to pay VAT on spectrum fees without being able to claim input tax credits, increasing operational costs.

It said the BTRC's lack of VAT registration prevents it from issuing standard invoices. "This renders the VAT non-creditable and traps it as a pure cost to the operators."

AMTOB warned that the arrangement stifles network investment, 5G rollout, and rural coverage expansion.

It cited frameworks in the European Union, India, the United Kingdom, and Australia, where spectrum charges are treated as sovereign regulatory fees outside the VAT net.

"Bangladesh's current approach deviates from this consensus, creating indefensible inefficiencies," the letter said.

The association noted that the sector already carries a heavy tax burden

— corporate income tax, BTRC revenue sharing, spectrum and licence fees, and VAT on services.

"In 2024, we contributed approximately Tk 22,000 crore," the letter noted, warning that additional non-creditable taxes could affect affordability and innovation in the sector.

In the letter, AMTOB placed two demands before the tax authority: the immediate withdrawal of VAT on spectrum-related payments, and formal clarification categorising these charges as sovereign regulatory fees outside the VAT net.

Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer at Robi Axiata, said, "Treating spectrum fees as VAT-exempt regulatory charges, in alignment with global best practices, would restore tax neutrality, reduce financial pressure, and improve cost efficiency."

Asia-Pacific must act together

FROM PAGE B1

and accelerating reforms to help countries integrate infrastructure, markets, and institutions across the region, he added.

Kanda noted that the ADB has moved decisively to provide crisis response support to its members during the ongoing Middle East conflict, becoming the first development partner to offer financial assistance to affected countries, which are expected to face heightened economic pressures.

Last year, the ADB provided \$29.3 billion in financial support to the region while implementing reforms to deliver assistance more quickly and at scale.

The ADB president cited the launch of a \$70 billion initiative to build regional systems, including \$50 billion for a pan-Asian power grid to integrate renewable energy across borders, enhance energy security, and lower emissions.

Another \$20 billion initiative aims to expand cross-border digital

connectivity and narrow the region's digital divide.

Kanda described the ADB as "an anchor of stability," uniquely positioned to help steer the region through geopolitical fragmentation, conflict, economic disruptions, and escalating environmental stress.

"ADB is the main bank for the region. We have

immense, but our purpose is clear. We have the strategy. We have the resources. We have the collective will to execute," he said.

Founded in 1966, the ADB is a multilateral development bank supporting inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth across Asia and the Pacific. It is owned by

The ADB president cited the launch of a \$70 billion initiative to build regional systems, including \$50 billion for a pan-Asian power grid to integrate renewable energy across borders, enhance energy security, and lower emissions

an unmatched regional mandate," he said.

However, the ADB's work is far from finished, Kanda added, noting that the bank will leverage its operational capabilities as a financier, advisor, and mobiliser to address challenges such as mobilising private sector funds for development and reversing environmental degradation.

"The work ahead is

69 members, including 50 from the region.

Bangladesh joined the ADB in 1973. As of December 31, 2025, the ADB had committed 758 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance totalling \$35.6 billion to Bangladesh. Its current public sector portfolio in the country includes 57 loans and 4 grants worth \$9.5 billion, according to the ADB.



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Mamo No: BTB/Bagancosh-2/2018(Part-02)-123(8)

Date: 04.05.2026

e-GP Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no Offline/ Hand copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>), for more details, please contact support desk contact numbers, e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Secretary, Bangladesh Tea Board, 171-172 Baizid Bostami Road, Nasirabad, Chattogram for the Procurement of:

Tender ID	Name of Goods	Tender/ Proposal Publication Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing/ Opening Date & Time
1267655	Dolomite Powder Supply	05/05/2026, 10AM	17/05/2026, 16PM	18/05/2026, 12PM
1268118	Pesticide Supply	05/05/2026, 10AM	17/05/2026, 16PM	18/05/2026, 12PM
1268433	Tea Packing Bag Supply	05/05/2026, 10AM	17/05/2026, 16PM	18/05/2026, 12PM
1268812	Warehouse Rent	05/05/2026, 10AM	17/05/2026, 16PM	18/05/2026, 12PM
1268864	Appointment of Transport Contractor	05/05/2026, 10AM	17/05/2026, 16PM	18/05/2026, 12PM

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer, e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online on the dates stated above.

04.05.26
Secretary
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Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

প্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রমী হোন এবং সমন্বিত প্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

বিনা কারণে প্যাসের ছুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No: 28.16.9100.098.07.002.26.646

Date: 03-05-2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following International Tender published through the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) as stated below:

SL. No.	Tender ID, Package No & Tender Publication Date	Description of Goods	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
01.	Tender ID: 1264686 Reference No: 28.16.9100.098.07.001.26.05 Tender Publication Date: 03-May-2026 Time: 14:00	Procurement of Rotary Meter, Turbine Meter, Turbine Meter with EVC & Meter Oil	15-June-2026 Time: 16:00	16-June-2026 Time: 15:00	16-June-2026 Time: 15:00

This is an Online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. Interested Tenderers may Visit the website <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to obtain the detailed tender notice and Tender Documents.

To submit an 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 system portal have must be deposited online through any Bank's registered with the e-GP System.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal or from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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