

Bank Asia organises mental health awareness programme for employees

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC has organised a mental health awareness programme at its corporate office in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka on Tuesday, to highlight the importance of employees' mental well-being.

Moner Bondhu, a specialised mental health service provider in Bangladesh, supported the initiative, according to a press release.

Akhteruddin Mahmood, deputy managing director and chief human resource officer of the bank, supervised the programme.

Kazi Rumana Haque, lead psychological counsellor and head of the mental health programme, and Mehadi Mobarak Aman, senior psychological counsellor at Moner Bondhu, conducted the session.

Other senior officials of the bank also participated in the event.



Akhteruddin Mahmood, deputy managing director and chief human resource officer of Bank Asia PLC, poses for a group photograph after inaugurating the mental health awareness programme at the bank's corporate office in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka on Tuesday. PHOTO: BANK ASIA

BAB elects Rashed Ahmed, Sharif Zahir as vice-chairmen



Rashed Ahmed Sharif Zahir

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Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of Mutual Trust Bank PLC, and Sharif Zahir, chairman of United Commercial Bank PLC, have been elected as vice-chairmen of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB).

The decision was taken at the BAB's 230th executive committee meeting held in Dhaka on Tuesday, according to a press release.

The newly elected vice-chairmen will serve for the remainder of the current tenure, which ends on December 31, 2026.

Abdul Hai Sarker, chairman of BAB and Dhaka Bank PLC, presided over the meeting.

Earlier, Romo Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia PLC, and Monzurur Rahman, chairman of Pubali Bank PLC, had been elected as vice-chairmen.

Samsung Electronics market value tops \$1tn

AFP, Seoul

The market value of South Korea's Samsung Electronics smashed past \$1 trillion for the first time Wednesday as the firm rides an AI chip boom that has sent Seoul's Kospi stock index to record highs.

The company has emerged as a key player – alongside domestic rival SK hynix – in the supply of high-performing chips that are wanted by firms racing to keep up with the fast-evolving artificial intelligence industry.

Samsung logged record first-quarter profit last week, with the announcement coming as the South Korean government pushes to break into the world's top three AI powers alongside the United States and China.

The company's stocks spiked nearly 12 percent in morning trading on Wednesday, pushing its market value past the \$1 trillion milestone.

SK hynix was up around 10 percent.

That came as the country's benchmark Kospi index soared more than five percent, blowing through 7,000 points for the first time at the opening bell. Samsung's shares have risen around 300 percent over the past year as the AI boom boosts South Korean growth.

The company is only the second Asian company after Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing to hit a market capitalisation of \$1 trillion, financial Bloomberg News reported.

The firm said last week that operating profit surged 750 percent on-year to a record first-quarter high of 57.2 trillion won (\$39.3 billion).

Prime Bank clients to enjoy lifestyle benefits at ELYZE Aesthetic Clinic



Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of ELYZE Aesthetic Clinic, and Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability and wealth management at 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 ELYZE Aesthetic Clinic, a Dhaka-based skincare provider, to offer benefits to its customers and employees.

Shaila Abedin, senior executive vice-president and head of liability and wealth management of the bank, and Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of the skincare clinic, signed the agreement at Prime Aspire on Gulshan Avenue in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the partnership, Prime Bank's Neera customers and employees will enjoy attractive discounts on a wide range of aesthetic and wellness services offered by the clinic.

The collaboration reflects the bank's commitment to enhancing customer experience through lifestyle privileges and value-added services via strategic partnerships, the release said.

Fatema Akter, business development manager of Neera at the bank, and Rumana Naznin, aesthetic consultant at the clinic, were also present at the signing ceremony, along with other senior officials from both organisations.

Pubali Bank holds 1st quarter business review meeting

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Pubali Bank PLC recently held its "1st Quarter Business Review Meeting 2026" at its head office in Dhaka.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of the bank, attended the meeting as the chief guest, according to a press release. Md Shahnewaz Khan, deputy managing director, was also present as a special guest.

The session featured in-depth

discussions on business growth strategies, first quarter performance analysis, and future action plans to enhance ADC business, the release said.

Md Rabiul Alam, deputy general manager and division head of the ADC division, presided over the meeting.

Regional managers from Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Dhaka Central, Narayanganj, and Gazipur zones participated in the session, along with ADC officials from the respective areas.



Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, attends the bank's "1st Quarter Business Review Meeting 2026" at its head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Bengal Commercial Bank holds 52nd board meeting

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bengal Commercial Bank PLC has held its 52nd board meeting at its head office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently.

Md Jashim Uddin, chairman of Bengal Commercial Bank PLC, presided over the meeting, according to a press release.

The bank approved the financial statements for the year 2025 and made several important investment decisions.

Ghulam Mohammed Alomgir, vice-chairman of the bank, and Tarik Morshed, managing director, along with other directors, additional managing directors, the deputy managing director, and the company secretary, were also present at the meeting.



Md Jashim Uddin, chairman of Bengal Commercial Bank PLC, presides over the bank's 52nd board meeting at its head office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: BENGAL COMMERCIAL BANK

IFIC Bank opens ATM booth in Nikunja

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IFIC Bank PLC has launched a new ATM booth in the Nikunja area of Dhaka recently, aiming to provide customers with easier, faster and uninterrupted banking services.

Md Ebtadul Islam, independent director and chairman of the risk management committee of the bank, inaugurated the booth as the chief guest, according to a press release.

With the new ATM booth, customers in Nikunja and surrounding areas will be able to access various services, including cash withdrawal, fund transfer to IFIC Bank or other bank accounts, balance inquiry, mini statement, card activation, PIN change and other ATM-related services.

IFIC Bank said it is continuously expanding its banking services across the country to make daily financial transactions more convenient, secure and time-saving.

The bank also plans to install more than 150 ATM booths nationwide this year.

Currently, with more than 1,400 branches and sub-branches, IFIC Bank has further strengthened its position as one of the largest banking networks in the country.



Md Ebtadul Islam, independent director and chairman of the risk management committee of IFIC Bank PLC, inaugurates the bank's new ATM booth in Nikunja, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: IFIC BANK

Dollar tumbles against yen

REUTERS, London

The dollar fell against most major currencies on Wednesday after the US signalled it may be nearing a deal with Iran, while the Japanese yen suddenly jumped to a more than two-month high as markets braced for another round of official buying from Tokyo.

The yen rose by as much as 1.8 percent earlier in a swift move that left the dollar at a session low of 155, around its weakest since February 24. The dollar had earlier broadly strengthened against a range of currencies before a sudden move lower against the yen, which triggered speculation of another round of intervention.

Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama earlier in the week warned against speculative moves in foreign exchange, after a brief jolt higher in the yen sparked speculation Tokyo had again intervened to support the currency.

"As I have said repeatedly, we will take

decisive measures against speculative moves, in accordance with the statement signed between Japan and the United States last year," Katayama told reporters after the Asian Development Bank's annual meeting in Uzbekistan. The Ministry of Finance of Japan could not be reached immediately for comment during a local holiday.

Part of the problem for Japanese authorities in staving off persistent weakness in the yen lies in markets that are beyond their immediate control, such as higher US Treasury yields, which favour the dollar, and oil, CIBC Capital Markets head of GIO FX strategy Jeremy Stretch said.

"It's very tough to get the yen down if oil is going to remain elevated and/or US Treasury yields are, in terms of 10-years, you're nearer 4.4 percent than you are 4.2 percent. So that was always going to be the difficulty the Japanese were going to have.