UCB partners with IVY Decarb to support net-zero transition

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IVY Decarb Marketplace SL (IVY), a specialised business-to-business digital platform, to promote sustainable net-zero carbon emission initiatives.

Nabil Mustafizur Rahman, managing director and CEO (current charge) of UCB, and Javier Bernal Dionis, chief executive officer of IVY Decarb Marketplace SL, signed the MoU in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Sharif Zahir, chairman of the bank, attended the signing ceremony.

The partnership marks a significant step towards promoting sustainable business practices and supporting decarbonisation efforts in Bangladesh's textile and garment sector.

Under the collaboration, ITX Trading SA may contribute strategic guidance, industry insights and global best practices related to sustainability, supply chain decarbonisation and responsible sourcing.

Through the partnership, the organisations aim to facilitate access to green and climate-focused solutions for textile and garment businesses in Bangladesh.

The initiative will also support the implementation of decarbonisation measures, helping businesses transition towards more sustainable and environmentally responsible operations.

The collaboration reflects UCB's commitment to sustainable finance, green transformation and supporting Bangladesh's journey towards a low-carbon future, the release added.

Javier Bernal Dionis, chief executive officer of IVY Decarb Marketplace SL, and Nabil Mustafizur Rahman, managing director and CEO (current charge) of United Commercial Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: UCB

Premier Bank raises Tk 1,144cr deposits in 26 days

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Premier Bank PLC has reported Tk 1,144 crore in fresh deposits within just 26 working days since April 1 this year, marking a significant milestone in its deposit mobilisation efforts.

The announcement was made at a special meeting held yesterday at the bank's head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

The meeting was conducted online, with all employees of the bank joining virtually.

Arifur Rahman, chairman of the bank, said the achievement reflects strong customer trust and confidence in the institution.

"Our collective efforts will further strengthen the country's financial sector," he added.

Md Monzur Mofiz, managing director, attributed the success to teamwork, customer-centric services and targeted planning.

"We will continue to work with the same dedication to make the bank's growth even more dynamic in the future," he said.

The bank also reported around Tk 523 crore in cash recovery between January and April 2026.

During the meeting, officials reviewed the progress of the ongoing "Deposit & Recovery Campaign 2026" along with key business indicators. Strengthening customer service, innovative deposit mobilisation initiatives, and coordinated efforts across branches and divisions were highlighted as key drivers of the performance.

Among others, Niamat Uddin Ahmed, Amalendu Roy, SM Wali Ul Morshed and Mohammad Al-Amin, deputy managing directors of the bank, were also present at the session along with other senior officials.

NCC Bank organises workshop for women employees

Nasim Jahan, associate professor and head of the Department of Psychiatry at BIRDEM General Hospital and Ibrahim Medical College, poses for a group photograph with participants of a workshop, organised by NCC Bank PLC, at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: NCC BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC recently organised a mental health awareness workshop, titled "Mind Matters: Workplace Mental Health Talk for Women", for its women employees at the bank's head office in Dhaka.

A total of 142 women officials participated in the session, while female employees from branches across the country joined virtually through digital platforms, according to a press release.

Psychiatrist Nasim Jahan, associate professor and head of the Department of Psychiatry at BIRDEM General Hospital and Ibrahim Medical College, conducted the workshop.

She delivered a presentation on key aspects of workplace mental health, including stress management, emotional resilience and maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

Participants were also introduced to internationally recognised mental health assessment tools such as the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS) and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ), which help individuals better understand their mental well-being and support the early identification and management of stress, anxiety and depression.

Nighat Mumtaz, executive vice-president and head of sustainable and women's banking at NCC Bank PLC, moderated the workshop.

Participants appreciated the initiative, describing it as timely and essential amid evolving workplace dynamics, the release added.

Swiss chamber launches magazine 'Helvetic'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Switzerland-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SBCCI) recently held its 14th annual general meeting (AGM) at the Renaissance Dhaka Gulshan Hotel, where it also launched its magazine "Helvetic".

Reto Renggli, ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh, inaugurated the magazine as the chief guest, according to a press release.

The chamber also organised a pre-national budget 2026-27 discussion session led by Debabrata Roy Chowdhury, director and head of the legal and finance standing committee.

Hasan Mohin, a chartered accountant, presented the keynote, highlighting growing trade and investment ties between the two countries.

Following the discussion, participants urged the government to adopt a revenue growth-led tax policy instead of relying on tax rate increases.

Abdur Rashid, president of SBCCI, presided over the event and reaffirmed the chamber's commitment to strengthening bilateral economic relations through collaboration and innovation.

Saad Omar Fahim, secretary general of SBCCI, said Helvetic would serve as a bridge for intellectual, commercial and cultural exchange. Mohammad Abul Hasnat, director and editor of the magazine, said it aims to document success stories, investment opportunities and heritage while fostering dialogue among businesses and policymakers.

Reto Renggli, ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh, inaugurates the magazine "Helvetic", launched by the Switzerland-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry, at the Renaissance Dhaka Gulshan Hotel recently. PHOTO: SBCCI

Global trade fairs on food, agri and healthcare begin in Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS DESK

A series of international exhibitions on food, agriculture, poultry, livestock, medical technology and health tourism began yesterday at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Kuril, Dhaka.

The three-day expos, organised by CEMS-Global USA in association with CEMS Bangladesh, will continue until May 9 and remain open daily from 10am to 7pm.

Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global USA and Asia Pacific, inaugurated the exhibitions as the chief guest, according to a press release.

The exhibitions include the 9th Food Bangladesh International Expo 2026, the 6th Food Pack Expo 2026, the 9th Agro Bangladesh International Expo 2026, and the 9th Poultry & Livestock Bangladesh International Expo 2026.

The events also feature the 17th Meditex Bangladesh 2026 International Expo, the 10th Bangladesh Clinical Lab Expo 2026, the 12th Pharma Bangladesh 2026 International Expo, and the 9th International Health Tourism & Services Expo Bangladesh 2026.

More than 100 companies from over 15 countries, including Bangladesh, India, China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Vietnam, Brazil, Thailand, Switzerland, Japan, Malaysia and the UAE, are participating through more than 160 booths.

A key attraction at the Food Bangladesh International Expo 2026 is the third edition of Coffee Fest, showcasing coffee products, beans, machinery and related technologies.

Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global USA and Asia Pacific, inaugurates a series of international exhibitions on food, agriculture, poultry, livestock, medical technology and health tourism at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Kuril, Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: CEMS BANGLADESH

Akij Agro & Livestock Ltd, Nabil Group of Industries, MH Dhanmondi Ltd, Trade Global Ltd, Thakral Information Systems Pvt Ltd (DJI), and the Embassy of Brazil in Bangladesh are participating at the agro and food expos.

The Food Expo features brands such as Nestlé Bangladesh PLC, Le Bourne, Shilaidaha Dairy-Ultra, Modhumoti Agro & Dairy Firm, Runcha, Puro Foods Ltd, Paragon International, Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Bangladesh and Kiva Han.

The Meditex and Health Tourism Expo showcases medical equipment, surgical instruments, pharmaceuticals, diagnostic devices, hospital supplies and health tourism services.

CEMS-Global has also arranged six specialised seminars on the agro, poultry, livestock and healthcare sectors to encourage knowledge exchange, international collaboration and sustainable development.

The events aim to connect manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and buyers while promoting technological innovation, knowledge-sharing and international trade.

Weak financial governance

FROM PAGE B1

He also warned against excessive regulation.

"Overregulation itself becomes a barrier," he said, stressing the need for balance between government oversight and market freedom.

He added that while government regulation is important, self-regulation by professional bodies is also essential for transparency and accountability.

He noted that statutory professional organisations were created by law to protect public interest in accounting, auditing, and healthcare, highlighting bodies such as ICAB and the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB).

Titumir also pointed to structural weaknesses in the banking sector, saying long-term lending is often financed through short-term funding sources.

He said the main concern is weak certification and approval processes that allowed risky loans and financial statements to go unchecked.

"That is why your role is extremely important," he told professional stakeholders, urging stronger governance and reform support.

He also said public spending in key sectors remains below required levels and that improved public service delivery is essential for better tax compliance.

"Citizens would be more willing to pay taxes if they could clearly see improvements in public services, social protection, and quality of life," he said.

CALLS FOR DIGITALISATION AND TAX REFORM

At the event, Syed Ershad Ahmed, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh, called for faster digitalisation of tax, customs, and accounting systems to improve the investment climate and increase revenue collection.

He said, "Corruption, bureaucratic delays, and complicated tax procedures are still discouraging foreign investment," and urged full customs automation, e-signatures, and a fully digital VAT and tax system under the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to reduce delays and revenue leakage.

He also supported cloud accounting, e-invoicing, and AI-based tax management, adding that informal digital and freelance incomes should be brought into the tax system through automation.

Showkat Aziz Russell, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, criticised inefficiencies in public spending, saying businesses need clearer information on how tax revenue is used for industry, jobs, and investment.

"The government's tendency to spend beyond its income has to change," he said.

He also warned that an excessive focus on revenue collection could undermine efficiency and industrial growth, and criticised reliance on high-cost imports such as fuel and vehicles, urging a more balanced policy approach.

Kamran T Rahman, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Bangladesh must modernise its fiscal system to improve its low tax-to-GDP ratio.

He added that digital accounting is essential for transparency, reducing tax evasion, and strengthening trust between businesses and authorities.

NKA Mobin, president of ICAB, said digital accounting is now essential for a transparent and efficient economy.

He highlighted ICAB's Document Verification System, saying it improves accountability through real-time verification and reduces fraud risk.

Md Farid Uddin, former member of the NBR; Taskeen Ahmed, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Doulot Akter Mala, president of the Economic Reporters' Forum; Sabbir Ahmed, council member of ICAB; and Shamsul Huq Zahid, editor of The Financial Express, also spoke at the event.

Economy

FROM PAGE B1

According to PMI, the future business index points to faster expansion across agriculture, manufacturing, construction and services, suggesting continued business optimism.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman and chief executive officer of Policy Exchange Bangladesh (PEB), said the April PMI showed that the economy remained on an expansion path.

"Although the Middle East conflict has raised oil prices, disrupted supply chains, and increased inflationary pressures, strong future business indicators across all sectors suggest that short-term business confidence remains stable and cautiously optimistic," added the economist.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়
সড়ক বিভাগ সিরাজগঞ্জ।
ফোন-০৭৫১-৬২২৯৪, ফ্যাক্স-০৭৫১-৬৪৫৯৯,
Email: eerhdsirajganj@gmail.com/eeshid@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- ৩৫.০১.৮৮০০.৪৭১.০৭.০০১.২৫-৮১৬ তারিখঃ ০৫/০৫/২০২৬

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে সিরাজগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগাধীন সাসেক সড়ক সংযোগ প্রকল্প-২ এর আওতাধীন ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী হাটিকুমরুল পরিদর্শন বাংলোর অবকাঠামোর ভগ্নাবশেষের ফেস-ভ্যালু নির্ধারণ (লট নং-০১) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য দরদাতা/ক্রেতাদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

১	নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	০১/নিলাম/ইই/এসআরডি/২০২৫-২০২৬ (লট নং-০১)
২	নিলামের বিষয়	২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে সিরাজগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগাধীন সাসেক সড়ক সংযোগ প্রকল্প-২ এর আওতাধীন ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী হাটিকুমরুল পরিদর্শন বাংলোর অবকাঠামোর ভগ্নাবশেষের ফেস-ভ্যালু নির্ধারণ (লট নং-০১) নিলামে বিক্রয় (এক অংশ আহবান)।
৩	বায়নার টাকা	ইজারা মূল্যের ১০%, ইজারা মূল্য= উদ্ধৃত দর + উদ্ধৃত দরের ১৫% ভ্যাট + উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% আয়কর
৪	ঘরবাড়ী অপসারণের সময়সীমা	কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন।
৫	নিলাম দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	আর্থিকভাবে সচ্ছল যে কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান।
৬	নিলাম দলিলের মূল্য	২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
৭	নিলাম দরপত্র আহবানকারী	নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
৮	যে সমস্ত অফিসে নিলাম দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় হবে	(ক) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, সিরাজগঞ্জ/পাবনা/নাটোর। (খ) উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ-১/২/উল্লাপাড়া, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
৯	নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	(ক) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, সিরাজগঞ্জ। (খ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, সিরাজগঞ্জ এর কার্যালয়।
১০	পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের তারিখ	০৮/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ
১১	নিলাম দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১৩/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ সময় বিকাল ৪.০০ মিনিট
১২	নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ সময় দুপুর ১২.০০ মিনিট
১৩	নিলাম দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৪/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রিঃ সময় দুপুর ২.৩০ মিনিট; নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, সিরাজগঞ্জ।

বিঃদ্রঃ
১) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে বিস্তারিত সকল তথ্যাদি নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে এবং আগ্রহী ক্রেতাগন যে কোন দিন বর্ণিত সড়কের তফসিলে উল্লেখিত স্থাপনাসমূহ সরেজমিনে (নিজ খরচে) দেখতে পারবেন এবং নিলাম দরপত্র খোলার দিন নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন। নিলাম দরপত্রের নিয়মাবলী/শর্তাবলী নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরসহ যে সকল দপ্তরে বিক্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা আছে; সে সকল দপ্তর হতে প্রতিটি নিলাম দরপত্র তফসিল নির্ধারিত নগদ মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নির্দিষ্ট তারিখ ও সময় পর্যন্ত উপরোক্ত ক্রমিক নং- ০৮ এর বর্ণিত অফিস সমূহ হতে পাওয়া যাবে।
২) দরপত্রের সাথে দরদাতাকে জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র ও সর্বশেষ তিন অর্থবছরের ২০২৩-২০২৪, ২০২৪-২০২৫, ২০২৬-২০২৬ এর যে কোন একটি অর্থবছরের টিন সার্টিফিকেট সহ আয়কর প্রত্যায়ন পত্র/প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষেত্রে আনুষাঙ্গিক কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
৩) নিলামদাতা কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যেকোন সময় যেকোন বা সকল কোটেশন গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(মোঃ ইমরান ফারহান সুমেল)
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