Bank Asia holds training on remittance protection in Cumilla

Mohammad Ziaul Hasan Molla, additional managing director of Bank Asia PLC, poses for a group photograph with participants of the capacity-building training programme, titled "Remittance Surokkha", at the BRAC Learning Centre in Cumilla recently. PHOTO: BANK ASIA

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC Agent Banking has organised a capacity-building training programme, titled "Remittance Surokkha", at the BRAC Learning Centre in Cumilla recently.

The training sessions focused on remittance protection services and financial management practices for expatriates and remittance-receiving families.

Participants discussed challenges related to the effective utilisation of remittances and explored practical solutions, including suitable banking products and services, digital financial literacy, and customer awareness initiatives.

Mohammad Ziaul Hasan Molla, additional managing director of Bank Asia PLC, attended the event as the chief guest, according to a press release.

The bank also held an "Agent Banking Business Conference-2026" alongside the training programme at the same venue.

The conference featured detailed discussions on agent banking business development in the respective districts, customer and agent support services, anti-money laundering compliance, and preventive measures.

Agents, customer service officers (CSOs), and field officials from Cumilla, Feni, and Brahmanbaria districts participated in the programme.

Pubali Bank donates student buses to SUST

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC recently donated two buses to the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) to improve transportation services for students as part of its continued commitment to supporting educational institutions and empowering the younger generation.

The bank also opened an e-banking booth named the "SUST Electronic Banking Booth" on the university campus during the programme, according to a press release.

Prof AM Sarwaruddin Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of SUST, attended the event as the chief guest and received the keys from Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of the bank.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali said, "Pubali Bank PLC remains committed not only to providing world-class banking services but also to contributing to the development of education and human resources in the country."

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, hands over the keys of two buses to Prof AM Sarwaruddin Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, on the university campus in Sylhet recently. PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Budget a 'litmus test' for new govt

FROM PAGE B1

"That gap is corruption," he said. "If we can bring this to zero, many of our other tasks will become much easier."

The CPD fellow also warned of a deepening debt risk. Bangladesh's borrowing is becoming increasingly non-concessional, yet the entire development programme still depends on loans.

"Interest and principal repayments are increasing gradually. This is creating a huge risk," he said.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, noted economist and a distinguished fellow at CPD, criticised the government for not producing "a documented assessment of the economy" it inherited.

He said, "This government is focusing more on the outward aspects of political commitments such as Family Card, Farmers Card, canal excavation, and so on.

"But the core issue of the economy is maintaining macroeconomic stability, the biggest expression of which is controlling inflation, reducing interest rates and at the same time keeping the exchange rate stable."

These issues, which are directly linked to people's livelihoods, are not receiving sufficient attention, he said.

Debapriya said they suggested the government adopt a policy of "tough love" by preparing a budget that is consistent with reality.

Instead, he warned, the government is repeating the pattern of its predecessors and is risking passing a conventional budget similar to that of the interim government.

"You are increasing the ADP by another 20 percent even though 40 to 50 percent of the previous ADP could not be implemented. At the same time, you did not clean up the mess within those 1,500 projects," he said. "You are simply reproducing the old situation in a new form."

AK Enamul Haque, director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said a portion of every budget usually remains unimplemented, and therefore, the efficiency level must be improved. He also stressed reducing land dependency in development projects.

"One reason many government projects are delayed is the huge amount of land demanded for project implementation. In a land-scarce country like ours, the land dependency of projects must be reduced," he said.

Sharmind Neelormi, a professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University, suggested introducing a programme to ease tax-related fears among the nearly 82 percent of TIN holders who currently do not pay taxes.

She proposed engaging students from public and private universities in awareness programmes in exchange for an honorarium so that they could help TIN holders.

She also suggested allowing people with incomes below a certain threshold to submit "zero returns" for three years in order to build the habit of filing tax returns.

Mahmuda Habiba, a lawmaker from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party for a reserved women's seat in the 13th National Parliament, said this year's budget is "more of a crisis-management and stabilisation budget."

Zahid Hossain, minister for women and children affairs and social welfare, said the government is focusing on making the country humanitarian and inclusive.

"But it may not happen overnight," he said, urging all to work together.

M Shafiqul Islam, head of marketing and sales at US-Bangla Airlines, and Liyaqat Husain, head of retail and customer experience of Aarong, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at a ceremony in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: AARONG

Aarong, US-Bangla Airlines launch Eid travel rewards campaign

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Aarong, a leading lifestyle retail brand in Bangladesh and a social enterprise of BRAC, has signed a partnership agreement with US-Bangla Airlines to launch a festive campaign, titled "The Grand Eid Getaway", offering customers the chance to win travel rewards through Eid shopping.

The "Grand Eid Getaway" campaign will run until 27 May 2026, after which winners will be selected based on purchase performance and campaign eligibility criteria, according to a press release.

Under the campaign, top shoppers at Aarong during the Eid season will be eligible to win round-trip air tickets to the Maldives, Bangkok, Cox's Bazar, and Sylhet, courtesy of US-Bangla Airlines.

Liyaqat Husain, head of retail and customer experience of Aarong, and M Shafiqul Islam, head of marketing and sales at US-Bangla Airlines, signed the agreement at a ceremony held in Dhaka recently.

SBAC Bank joins Tk 3,000cr refinance scheme for CMSMEs

STAR BUSINESS DESK

SBAC Bank PLC has signed an agreement with the Bangladesh Bank to participate in the central bank's Tk 3,000 crore refinance fund under the Cluster Financing Scheme for the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprise (CMSME) sector, aimed at accelerating economic growth.

SM Mainul Kabir, managing director and CEO of SBAC Bank PLC, and Nawshad Mustafa, director of the SME and Special Programmes Department of the Bangladesh Bank, signed the agreement at the central bank's headquarters in Motijheel, Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

Nurun Nahar, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, attended the signing ceremony as the chief guest.

PHOTO: SBAC BANK

Nawshad Mustafa, director of the SME and Special Programmes Department of the Bangladesh Bank, and SM Mainul Kabir, managing director and CEO of SBAC Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement to participate in the central bank's Tk 3,000 crore refinance fund at the BB headquarters in Motijheel, Dhaka yesterday.

Economy

FROM PAGE B1

Bangladesh's growth model, long driven by cheap labour and protected domestic industries, is no longer delivering sustainable results, said Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

She said the country had achieved impressive economic growth over the years, alongside gains in health, education and poverty reduction. But the momentum has weakened since fiscal year 2021-22 as macroeconomic indicators deteriorated under both external shocks and internal vulnerabilities.

She pointed to persistent weaknesses in the banking sector, saying financial institutions were no longer able to adequately support productive private-sector investment with affordable financing.

According to her, many businesses are now focused more on survival than expansion amid regulatory uncertainty, policy unpredictability and bureaucratic delays.

Piecemeal measures would not be enough to restore stability, Fahmida stressed, calling instead for broad institutional reforms in governance, banking, trade policy and labour markets to ensure sustainable and employment-oriented growth.

Foreign investors are increasingly worried about Bangladesh's unpredictable fiscal and taxation policies, which are hurting long-term investment confidence, said TIM Nurul Kabir, executive director at the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

He said businesses planning investments over 10 years need policy consistency, but sudden changes in taxes and duties are creating uncertainty.

Restoring investor confidence would be a major challenge for the interim government ahead of the budget, he added.

Zaidi Sattar, chairman of the PRI, stressed the need for job-intensive growth, saying employment generation remains central to Bangladesh's economic and social progress.

Rising youth unemployment posed a serious challenge for policymakers, he said, noting that Bangladesh's experience over the past three decades showed that growth, employment and poverty reduction moved together.

Ashikur Rahman, principal economist at PRI, warned that Bangladesh's growth trajectory has weakened since 2019, with slower growth and rising volatility becoming a growing concern.

"The economy's buffers are now very weak," he said, stressing that reforms in the financial and revenue sectors were no longer optional.

Rahman cautioned that Bangladesh could face a middle-income trap without urgent reforms and stronger macroeconomic discipline.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Prevention of Violence and Harmful Practice against Children and Women in Bangladesh Project
Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Doyel Chattar Road, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

e-Tender Notice

Invitation Reference no: MOWCA/PVHP/Procurement/2026/36-355 Date: 18-05-2026

e-Tender is invited in an open tender at the National e-GP system portal for the procurement of the following goods. No hard copies will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Ministry & Project	Prevention of Violence and Harmful Practices against Children and Women in Bangladesh (PVHP) Project, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Description Of Works	Printing and supply of various Registers, IEC Materials, Modules, etc., for 2500 hubs of the PVHP Project.
e- Tender ID	1274524
Last Selling Date and Time	02-June-2026; 12:00 pm
Closing & Opening Date and Time	02-June-2026; 14:00 pm
Name, Designation & Address of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Shamima Nasrin, Joint Secretary & Project Director (Additional Charge), PVHP Project, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Doyel Chattar Road, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

Dr. Shamima Nasrin
Joint Secretary & Project Director (Additional Charge)
PVHP Project
Ministry of Women & Children Affairs
Phone No: +880-41053937

GD-1154

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District-Rangpur.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8500.000.07.012.26-1418 Date: 18/05/2026

Invitation for Tender (Works)
e-Tender Notice No. 56/2025-2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works, details are given below -

SI No	Tender ID No.	Package No	Description of work	Tender Document Last Selling (Date & Time)
1	1274254	GRRIIP/RANG/MITHA/ VRA/W-23	Improvement of Miarhat-Shalmara Bazar road at (Ch.00 - 5540) m Under Mithapukur Upazila, District: Rangpur. [ID No - 185584060] [OTM]	21.06.2026 15.00PM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Musa)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Rangpur
Ph: 02589-962730
E-mail: xen.rangpur@lged.gov.bd

GD-1150

Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL)
Office of the Project Director
Installation of Smart Pre-paid Gas meters, SCADA & GIS at PGCL Franchise Area Project

Project Office: Nalka, Sirajganj, Bangladesh
E-mail: pdpsg.pgcl@gmail.com

Memo No. 28.18.0000.000.087.99.0007.25/183 Date: 18/05/2026

Notice of Cancellation for Tender

This is to notify all concerned that the tender invited under the Specific Procurement Notice **(Ref. No.: 28.18.0000.000.087.99.0007.25/160, dated: 05 March 2026, RFB No: BD-PGCL-PGM-GD5, issued on 09 March 2026)** for ***"Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Smart Prepaid Gas Meters, Meter Calibration System, Web System (Cloud Hosting) & Automated Grievance Redress Centre with Design, Drawing, Necessary Hardware & Software"*** has been cancelled as per ITB clause no. 40 of the Bid Document.

All concerned are requested to take note of the above.

18/05/2026
(Debdip Barua)
Project Director

GD-1153

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়
গাজীপুর
(স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা)
www.gazipur.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- ৪৬.৪১.৩৩০০.০০৮.১৭.০০১.২০২৬- ১৫২ তারিখ : ৩১ বৈশাখ ১৪৩৩ / ১৪ মে ২০২৬

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরে গাজীপুর জেলার ০৫ (পাঁচ) টি উপজেলার ৩৩৮ জন গ্রাম পুলিশদের (দফাদার ও মহল্লাদার) পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি (অত্র অফিসে সংরক্ষিত নমুনার অনুরূপ) সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদারের নিকট হতে পিপিএ, ২০০৬ ও পিপিআর, ২০২৫ এর নিয়মানুসারে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

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