Bank Asia, BTI partner to facilitate home loans for flat buyers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Building Technology & Ideas (BTI) Limited, a Dhaka-based real estate developer, to provide convenient and attractive home loan facilities to prospective apartment buyers of BTI projects.

The collaboration will also feature joint marketing initiatives, customer engagement programmes, and promotional campaigns to enhance customer awareness and service delivery.

Syed Zulkar Nayen, deputy managing director and head of retail banking of the bank, and Mashrur Hasan Mim, executive director of marketing at the realtor, at a programme held recently at Bank Asia Tower, Karwan Bazar in Dhaka, according to a press release.

The partnership is expected to simplify access to home financing and help fulfil the aspirations of individuals and families seeking quality housing solutions, the release added.

The collaboration will further strengthen the relationship between the two institutions while contributing to the growth of Bangladesh's housing and financial services sectors.

Other senior officials from both organisations were also present.



PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Mashrur Hasan Mim, executive director of marketing at Building Technology & Ideas Limited, and Syed Zulkar Nayen, deputy managing director and head of retail banking of Bank Asia PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at Bank Asia Tower in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka recently.

Emtiaz Uddin made MD of Community Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Mohammed Emtiaz Uddin

Mohammed Emtiaz Uddin has been appointed managing director (MD) of Community Bank Bangladesh PLC, with effect from yesterday.

Prior to assuming his new role, he was serving at Padma Bank PLC as deputy managing director (DMD) and chief business officer, respectively, according to a press release.

Emtiaz also previously served at Premier Bank PLC, Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, HSBC Bangladesh, Eastern Bank PLC and Dhaka Bank PLC, where he worked in different capacities.

He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from the University of Chittagong and later completed an MBA in marketing from the Asian University of Bangladesh.

Eastern Bank cardholders to get healthcare benefits at Ascent Health



Anwarul Iqbal, chief executive officer of Ascent Health, and M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking of Eastern Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has signed a customer benefits agreement with Ascent Health, a Dhaka-based diagnostic centre, to offer healthcare privileges to its cardholders.

M Khorshed Anowar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking of the bank, and Anwarul Iqbal, chief executive officer of the diagnostic centre, signed the agreement in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the partnership, the bank's cardholders will enjoy special discounts and value-added healthcare services at home or in the office, making quality healthcare more accessible and convenient.

Prime Bank clients to get Chery car servicing benefits from Asian Motorspex

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed an agreement with Asian Motorspex Limited, the authorised distributor of Chery vehicles in Bangladesh, to provide benefits on servicing Chery vehicles from the automobile company.

Joarder Tanvir Faisal, head of consumer assets and cards of the bank, and Mohammad Zahead Hossain, executive director of the automobile company, signed the agreement at a programme held recently at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under this partnership, Prime Bank customers will enjoy service benefits and special offers from Asian Motorspex Limited, enhancing the overall customer experience and delivering greater value through strategic collaboration.

The collaboration reflects the shared commitment of both organisations to delivering customer-centric solutions and strengthening value-added services through innovative partnerships, the release added.

Takiyan Chowdhury, executive vice-president of secured consumer financing and embedded payments at the bank; Abu Naser Mohammad, general manager and head of sales; and Md Zafrul Khan, deputy manager of marketing at the automobile company, along with senior officials from both the bank and the automobile company, were also present at the signing ceremony.



Mohammad Zahead Hossain, executive director of Asian Motorspex Limited, and Joarder Tanvir Faisal, head of consumer assets and cards of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing an agreement at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

As factories close

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Chandana Chowrasta, Basan, Bhogra, Konabari, Kashimpur, Tongi, Gazipur Sadar, Sreepur, and Kaliakair recently revealed long queues of male and female job seekers from early morning. However, due to limited recruitment opportunities, most return home disappointed.

A total of 158 garment factories in the district shut down between May 3, 2025, and April 11, 2026, Gazipur Industrial Police Superintendent Amzad Hossain told The Daily Star. The district currently has 2,674 factories in operation.

Of the closures, 51 were attributed to financial crises, 83 to insufficient work orders, seven to labour unrest, and two to shareholder disputes. The rest halted production due to raw material shortages and other causes.

When asked about the number of factories currently under temporary closure in Gazipur, MM Mamun Or Rashid, deputy chief inspector of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, could not provide the data immediately.

Units belonging to Lithi Group, Keya Group, DIRD Group, Beximco Group, and several other companies have suspended operations indefinitely or halted production, leaving hundreds of thousands of workers unemployed. And repeated rejections are stripping many of hopes.

Lithi Group Director Mohammad Nazmul said, "We have decided to shut down four of our units due to market instability and banking complexities."

DATABASE MISUSE AND GENDER BIAS

Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman, central organising secretary of the National Garments Workers' Alliance Bangladesh, said the closure of large and medium-sized factories has created a humanitarian and economic crisis alongside the industrial one.

He alleged that settlement agreements often reduce the compensation workers are legally owed. Besides, he added that many struggle to find new jobs due to misuse of biometric and fingerprint databases by previous employers.

He said workers who participated in protests or demanded unpaid wages are being unofficially blacklisted.

Shafiul Alam, central joint general secretary of the Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation and president of its Gazipur Metropolitan unit, said most workers affected by permanent closures and layoffs have yet to find new employment.

He alleged some factories add negative information about workers to the BGMEA database, making it difficult for skilled workers to find jobs elsewhere, while recruitment has also slowed at factories still operating.

"Women workers have been affected the most," he said.

Asma Akter, 40, who worked as an operator at DIRD Group in Rajendrapur for more than three years, said 18,000 workers lost their jobs during labour unrest a year ago. She claims that 70 percent of them were women.

"My database record was marked as 'dismissed', so no factory wanted to hire me," she said. She has been unable to find work since.

Women made up roughly 80 percent of Bangladesh's garment workforce between 1980 and 1994, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) data. The figure fell to around 53 percent in 2023, according to BIDS.

Industry in a bind

FROM PAGE B1

that followed the political changeover in August 2024, has left clear marks on the industrial sector.

Industrial growth slowed to 2.86 percent in fiscal year 2025-26 from 3.71 percent a year earlier, according to provisional estimates by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, president of the Bangladesh Employers Federation, said their dying units managed to operate at about 78 percent of capacity before the latest round of gas crisis. Now many are running at roughly half of their normal capacity.

"Still, we are in a much better situation in comparison with other factories. Factories in Kanchpur to Narsingdi industrial belt are facing the worst," he said.

Amid these constraints, business leaders describe the energy crisis as the "biggest obstacle" to achieving Bangladesh's target of $100 billion in exports by 2030.

As of mid-July, more than 1,850 applications for industrial gas connections were awaiting approval after the government instructed Petrobangla to suspend all new gas connections.

The decision has dealt another blow to large industrial groups and garment manufacturers that have spent years seeking gas connections for completed factories.

MGI, for example, has invested Tk 7,320 crore in glass and steel rod factories at the Comilla Economic Zone. Construction finished between one-and-a-half and two-and-a-half years ago.

The factories were financed largely through domestic and foreign loans, but they cannot begin production without gas. As a result, the group is paying about Tk 45 crore a month in interest.

MGI Chairman Mostafa said, "In the Comilla Economic Zone, seven factories in total were supposed to create jobs for 15,000 people. But now everything is stalled due to the lack of gas."

"If we had been told from the beginning that gas would not be available, we would not have made such massive investments," he commented. "The government now seeks foreign investment, but if investors face this situation, given Bangladesh's poor rating, the risk will only worsen."

City Group faces a similar problem. It has invested about Tk 14,000 crore in six factories, including sugar, salt and cement plants, at Hoshendi Economic Zone at Gajaria of Munshiganj.

City Group even spent about Tk 110 crore to build its own gas pipeline, yet it has still not received a gas connection. The factories have been ready since 2022 but cannot begin operations because of the lack of gas.

The company is paying nearly Tk 5 crore a day in bank interest.

According to a City Group official, who requested anonymity, the six factories would directly employ around 10,000 people if they were operational.

DWINDLING SUPPLY FUELS RISING NPLS

An entrepreneur in Narsingdi, who requested anonymity, said he invested Tk 600 crore in a spinning mill after being promised a gas connection by 2024. Following the fall of the Awami League government that year, the connection never came.

He said he has had to seek additional bank loans while continuing to pay interest on expensive machinery that remains idle inside the factory.

The entrepreneur has also been hit by the depreciation of the taka, which has lost about 40 percent of its value against the US dollar over the past three years. He opened letters of credit (LCs) when the exchange rate stood at Tk 85 to the dollar. By the time payments were due, it had climbed to more than Tk 123, leaving him with heavy losses and a shortage of working capital.

Many big businesses with political links also ran into trouble after the Awami League government fell in August 2024.

Large groups including S Alam Group, Beximco Group and Nassa Group defaulted on their loans after their businesses shut down and production stopped as owners fled, became fugitives or were arrested.

Other major industrial groups faced difficulties because of delayed gas connections, exchange rate volatility and supply chain disruptions linked to the global economy.

As these companies failed to repay their loans, bad debt in the banking sector rose sharply. At the end of 2024, NPLs stood at Tk 345,765 crore, up from Tk 211,392 crore six months earlier.

By the end of March this year, total NPLs climbed to Tk 588,704 crore, equal to 32.26 percent of the Tk 1,824,668 crore in outstanding loans, according to the Bangladesh Bank.

To ease the pressure, the central bank under the interim government introduced more flexible loan restructuring and rescheduling facilities for businesses affected by factors beyond their control.

After taking office, the BNP-led government made economic growth and employment its priorities. As part of that effort, it sought to reopen closed factories and industries, while the central bank introduced a series of support measures, including a Tk 60,000 crore stimulus package.

Anis A Khan, former chairman of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB), told The Daily Star that many industrial groups had fallen into distress because of circumstances beyond their control rather than poor business decisions.

"Take City Group, for example. If it had received a gas connection for its economic zone on time, it would have been able to repay its bank loans on schedule."

Anis, also the former managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, said the company would not have ended up in its current situation. "To keep the economy on track, these businesses need to be supported."

[The Daily Star Staff Reporter Asifur Rahman contributed to this report]

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.
Email: southsurma@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

Memo No.: UHC/Dakshin Surma/MSR/2026-27/525 Date: -02/08/2026

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Dr. MD. SALAHUDDIN MIA, UH&FPO, Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet. for the procurement of the following Goods.

Sl.	Tender ID	Description of Procurement	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	1312496	Procurement of Non-EDCL Medicine for the FY 2026-2027 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	18-Aug-2026 12:00	18-Aug-2026 13:00
2.	1312497	Procurement of Medical Equipment for the FY 2026-2027 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	18-Aug-2026 12:00	18-Aug-2026 13:00
3.	1312498	Procurement of Gauge Bandage & Cotton for the FY 2026-2027 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	18-Aug-2026 12:00	18-Aug-2026 13:00
4.	1312499	Procurement of Linen for the FY 2026-2027 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	18-Aug-2026 12:00	18-Aug-2026 13:00
5.	1312500	Procurement of Chemical Re-Agent for the FY 2026-2027 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	18-Aug-2026 12:00	18-Aug-2026 13:00
6.	1312501	Procurement of Furniture for the FY 2026-2027 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	18-Aug-2026 12:00	18-Aug-2026 13:00
7.	1313468	Procurement of Diet for the FY 2026-2027 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet	18-Aug-2026 12:00	18-Aug-2026 13:00
8.	1313470	Procurement of Linen Washing for the FY 2026-2027 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	18-Aug-2026 12:00	18-Aug-2026 13:00
9.	1313472	Procurement of Stationary for the FY 2026-2027 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	18-Aug-2026 12:00	18-Aug-2026 13:00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted through the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from the e-GP Help Desk. The Tender Security and other requirements shall be as specified in the Tender Document. The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, 2026 and the Public Procurement Rules (PPR), 2025.

02.08.26
(Dr. MD. SALAHUDDIN MIA)
UH&FPO
Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.

GD-1888