Prime Bank clients to get car servicing benefits from Asian Distributions

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC recently signed an agreement with Asian Distributions Ltd, the authorised distributor of Omoda Jaecoo vehicles in Bangladesh, to offer benefits to its customers.

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

Under the partnership, Prime Bank customers will enjoy car servicing benefits and special offers from Asian Distributions Ltd, 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; Mahabub Alam, senior manager and head of corporate sales; and Md Zafrul Khan, deputy manager of marketing at the automobile company, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the signing ceremony.



Shadiqul Mostuk, executive director of Asian Distributions Ltd, and Joarder Tanvir Faisal, head of consumer assets and cards of Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank integrates NPSB into remittance platform



Mohd Rafat Ullah Khan, managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC, poses for a photograph after launching the service at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Tuesday. PHOTO: AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC has integrated the National Payment Switch Bangladesh (NPSB) with its remittance management software.

Through this integration, remittances processed by the bank can now be credited instantly, at any time, to accounts maintained with any bank in Bangladesh via the NPSB network, according to a press release.

Mohd Rafat Ullah Khan, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the service as the chief guest at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Rafat Ullah said the integration of NPSB into the bank's remittance management software marks another significant step towards delivering faster, more convenient and reliable remittance services to expatriate customers and their beneficiaries.

He reaffirmed the bank's commitment to leveraging modern technology to provide secure, efficient and customer-centric banking solutions.

He also encouraged expatriate Bangladeshis to continue sending remittances through formal banking channels to contribute to the country's economic development.

The introduction of NPSB connectivity is expected to significantly enhance customer convenience by enabling real-time interbank fund transfers nationwide, while further strengthening confidence in secure and formal remittance channels.

The initiative reflects Al-Arafah Islami Bank's continued commitment to innovation, digital transformation and excellence in customer service, the release added.

NRBC Bank launches 'Triple One Campaign'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NRBC Bank PLC has launched its month-long "Triple One Campaign 2026", an initiative designed to enhance customer engagement, accelerate deposit mobilisation, and expand the bank's credit card portfolio.

Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the campaign at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release. Addressing the gathering, Touhidul said the campaign's transformative potential represents a strategic lever for accelerating NRBC Bank's business growth by cultivating a culture of collective ownership, strengthening customer-centric commitments, and advancing sustainable business development.

"The unified efforts of our entire workforce will significantly strengthen the bank's path towards operational excellence and long-term institutional resilience," he said. Through this initiative, the bank aims to increase deposit mobilisation and expand its credit card business while encouraging the active participation of employees across the organisation.

The campaign is also expected to contribute to strengthening NRBC Bank's position as a dynamic and sustainable financial institution committed to delivering greater value to its customers and stakeholders.



Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO of NRBC Bank PLC, poses for a photograph after launching the "Triple One Campaign 2026" at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: NRBC BANK

Alliance Finance launches SMS platform to enhance customer connectivity



PHOTO: ALLIANCE FINANCE

Kanti Kumar Saha, chief executive officer of Alliance Finance PLC, and Muhammad Abdul Mabud, chief executive officer of Era Infotech Ltd, pose for a photograph after launching the SMS software at the non-bank financial institution's head office in Dhaka recently.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Alliance Finance PLC, a joint venture finance company between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, in collaboration with Era Infotech Ltd, recently launched its new SMS software, marking a key step toward digital excellence and improved customer communication.

The platform is designed to ensure faster, more efficient and reliable messaging services, enabling better connectivity with clients through real-time updates and alerts, according to a press release.

Kanti Kumar Saha, chief executive officer of the non-bank financial institution, inaugurated the platform as the chief guest at the institution's head office in Dhaka.

On the occasion, Kanti Kumar said, "Alliance Finance wants to ensure its service delivery entirely through a digital platform with real-time connectivity for its valued clients."

At the launch ceremony, company leadership reiterated their commitment to adopting innovative technologies to enhance service quality and customer experience.

Muhammad Abdul Mabud, chief executive officer of the software company; Md Shahadat Hossain, senior project manager of Era Infotech Ltd; Shahidul Islam Mazumder, head of information technology; and Shahanur Rashid, head of business at the financial institution, along with other executives of both organisations, were also present.

US trade gap narrows in June

AFP, *Washington*

The US trade deficit narrowed slightly in June, government data showed on Tuesday, with both imports and exports contracting over the month before.

The overall trade gap came in at $73.3 billion, down 5.6 percent from May on the back of a bigger decrease in imports than exports.

The data missed expectations slightly, with Briefing.com forecasting the deficit to come in at $69.6 billion.

US President Donald Trump has sought to remake the global trade order since taking office last year, imposing a raft of sometimes eyewatering tariffs on Washington's friends and foes alike.

Some of the tariffs have been withdrawn after being contested in court. His latest salvo faced a similar challenge earlier this week in the New York-based Court of International Trade.

The Republican billionaire has made narrowing the US trade gap by increasing exports while onshoring industries and manufacturing a key promise of this term.

In June, imports came in at $388 billion, down $7.3 billion from the month before, while exports dropped $2.9 billion compared to May.

The reduction in exports saw the biggest drop coming from crude oil and fuel oil, as energy prices fell on the back of positive negotiations in the US war on Iran in June.

Trump's war on Iran has roiled global energy markets as Tehran's retaliatory action has virtually closed the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil and gas normally travels.

Iran has also hit Washington's Gulf allies with missile and drone attacks, affecting key energy production facilities.

Over the course of 2026 so far, the US goods and services deficit has decreased by 33.8 percent compared to the same period in 2025, mostly off the back of a 11.7 percent increase in exports.

BRAC Bank to offer auto loans for Hyundai vehicles



Md Zahidul Kabir, head of treasury and credit management at Fair Technology Ltd, and Md Mahiul Islam, deputy managing director and head of retail banking at BRAC Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: BRAC BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank PLC has entered into a partnership agreement with Fair Technology Ltd, the distributor of Hyundai vehicles in Bangladesh, to offer auto loan benefits to customers purchasing selected Hyundai models.

The partnership offers attractive pricing, value-added gifts and convenient financing for customers purchasing the Hyundai Creta Luxury and Hyundai Stargazer through a BRAC Bank auto loan.

Md Mahiul Islam, deputy managing director and head of retail banking at the bank, and Md Zahidul Kabir, head of treasury and credit management at the automobile company, signed the agreement in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the partnership, the Hyundai Creta Luxury is available at a price of Tk 39 lakh, along with a Hisense 1.5-tonne smart compact AC and a Tk 10,000 secret recipe coupon.

The Hyundai Stargazer is offered at a price of Tk 34.50 lakh with free registration and a Tk 10,000 secret recipe coupon.

Customers availing themselves of the auto loan will also enjoy a 100 percent waiver of the processing fee, a complimentary BRAC Bank credit card with the first year's annual fee waived (excluding the Visa Infinite credit card), prevailing interest rates and fast-track loan approval.

The initiative reinforces BRAC Bank's commitment to expanding access to retail financing through strategic partnerships that deliver greater value, convenience and a seamless vehicle financing experience for customers, the release added.

Among others, Mahabubul Farook Khan, head of national sales at the bank; Arifuzzaman, regional head of the branch distribution network; Sirajus Saleken, head of the auto loan product; JM Taslim Kabir, head of marketing at the automobile company; and Md Lutful Karim, assistant general manager of business development, were also present at the signing ceremony.

Ariful Bari made DMD of Bank Asia

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Md Ariful Bari

Md Ariful Bari, a seasoned banker, has been appointed as the deputy managing director (DMD) of Bank Asia PLC.

He will concurrently serve the bank as chief credit officer, according to a press release.

Prior to assuming his new role at Bank Asia PLC, he was serving in senior leadership roles in the wholesale banking division of City Bank PLC.

He has more than 25 years of progressive experience in the banking industry.

Throughout his banking career, Ariful has earned an outstanding reputation for driving sustainable business growth, strengthening institutional relationships, and fostering a culture of prudent risk management.

Earlier in his career, he built a strong professional foundation at HSBC Bangladesh, where he gained broad-based experience across multiple banking disciplines. Ariful completed his higher studies in economics.

bKash rolls out stronger security for 'Add Money' service

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Country's largest mobile financial service (MFS) provider, bKash Limited, has introduced enhanced security features for its "Add Money" service from Visa, Mastercard and American Express cards, making transactions more secure and seamless.

From now on, customers using the "Add Money" service from a card for the first time will need to save their card in the bKash app.

The new security feature will not apply to cards that have already been saved in the app, according to a press release.

To save a card, customers must complete biometric verification by matching a live selfie with the national identity (NID) photograph submitted during bKash wallet registration.

As part of the card-saving process, customers are required to complete a Tk 500 "Add Money" transaction. After 24 hours of completing the initial transaction, they can use the saved card for regular "Add Money" transactions.

A customer can save up to five cards in a single bKash account.

The card-to-bKash "Add Money" service enables customers to add funds to their bKash accounts anytime, anywhere, making cashless transactions easier and more convenient.

Using Visa, Mastercard and American Express cards, customers can instantly add money to their bKash accounts and access various bKash services, including online and offline shopping, utility bill payments, savings and insurance premium payments.