

Md Mostaqur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, and Md Abul Kashem Mia, vice-chancellor of United International University, jointly inaugurate "Bangla QR", launched by ONE Bank PLC, on the university campus in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: ONE BANK

ONE Bank launches Bangla QR at UIU to promote digital payments

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ONE Bank PLC, in partnership with United International University (UIU), has launched "Bangla QR" to promote convenient and interoperable digital payments among students and the university community.

Md Mostaqur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank, and Md Abul Kashem Mia, vice-chancellor of UIU, jointly inaugurated the national interoperable quick response (QR) payment standard on the UIU campus in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

Commenting on the initiative, Muhit Rahman, managing director of ONE Bank PLC, said, "Digital transformation becomes meaningful when financial services become easier and more accessible in everyday life.

"Bringing Bangla QR to UIU gives students an opportunity to experience interoperable digital payments firsthand while building greater awareness of the possibilities of a digitally enabled financial ecosystem.

"We are pleased to partner with UIU in supporting Bangladesh Bank's vision and engaging the young generation in shaping the future of digital payments," he added.

The initiative supports Bangladesh Bank's vision of building an inclusive, digitally empowered and increasingly cashless economy. Under the initiative, UIU students can now use Bangla QR for selected payments on the university campus. Various businesses also set up stalls, allowing students and guests to experience Bangla QR payments firsthand.

During an interactive session, the governor engaged with students on digital payments, financial innovation and the future of banking.

The programme also highlighted Bangladesh Bank's initiatives related to Bangla QR and its role in advancing the country's digital payment ecosystem.

The event also marked the launch of cashless payments at UIU, demonstrating how digital payments can become part of everyday transactions.

Through this partnership, ONE Bank and UIU aim to raise awareness of and encourage the adoption of digital payments among young people, contributing to a more inclusive and digitally connected payment ecosystem.

More than 400 students, faculty members and university officials, along with senior officials from Bangladesh Bank and ONE Bank, attended the event.

IFIC Bank celebrates 50th anniversary

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IFIC Bank PLC celebrated its 50th founding anniversary with a programme, titled "Golden Jubilee Celebration", at the IFIC Tower in Dhaka yesterday.

Md Mehmood Husain, chairman and independent director of the bank, inaugurated the celebrations as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Addressing the gathering, Mehmood said the bank's five-decade journey marked a significant milestone in Bangladesh's banking sector, but sustaining the achievement amid growing competition would be an even greater challenge.

Meeting evolving customer needs requires renewed emphasis on good governance, effective management and modern banking services, he said, adding that the bank's ongoing reform and modernisation initiatives were progressing in the right direction.

He expressed optimism that employees' collective commitment and concerted efforts would help IFIC strengthen its position as a more resilient financial institution.

Syed Mansur Mustafa, managing director of the bank, said customer trust and affection remained the greatest achievement of IFIC's five-decade journey.

"Fifty years is more than a passage of time; it is a remarkable story shaped by the aspirations of countless individuals, enduring relationships, and collective dedication," he said.



PHOTO: IFIC BANK

Md Mehmood Husain, chairman and independent director of IFIC Bank PLC, inaugurates the celebrations at the IFIC Tower in Dhaka yesterday to mark the bank's 50th anniversary.

Mustafa said the bank aimed to make a meaningful difference in people's lives and nurture trust across generations, ensuring that IFIC remained a symbol of reliability for the next 50 years and beyond.

Founded on October 8, 1976, IFIC Bank has remained associated with Bangladesh's economic progress, striving to make banking services more accessible.

The government holds a 32.75 percent stake in the bank, which serves more than 2.5 million customers through over 1,400 branches and sub-branches nationwide.

With a deposit portfolio exceeding Tk 550 billion, the bank provides financial services across urban centres and remote communities, seeking to expand financial inclusion and support the country's economic development.

BRAC Bank, Arogga partner to offer discounts on healthcare products



Officials of BRAC Bank and online pharmacy Arogga Limited exchange signed MoU documents at BRAC Bank's head office in Dhaka recently, offering cardholders exclusive discounts on healthcare products and diagnostic services. PHOTO: BRAC BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank debit and credit cardholders will get discounts on healthcare products and laboratory tests through Arogga Limited, a Dhaka-based healthtech startup and online pharmacy.

The benefits come under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently signed by officials of the two organisations at BRAC Bank's head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, cardholders will receive a 7.5% discount on purchases through the Arogga platform, on top of any existing offers.

They will also get an additional 10% discount on laboratory tests. Combined with Arogga's existing offers, the total discount on laboratory tests can reach up to 30%.

Md Mahiul Islam, deputy managing director and head of retail banking at BRAC Bank, said the partnership would make healthcare products and diagnostic services easier to access through a trusted digital platform.

"We hope this collaboration will make everyday healthcare needs easier to manage while delivering greater value to our cardholders," he said.

Mithila Alamgir Juhi, head of credit cards, and Rasif Al Karim, head of debit cards, represented BRAC Bank at the signing ceremony, along with other bank officials.

Prime Bank ties up with Plan Medi Trip for healthcare benefits

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed an agreement with Plan Medi Trip Ltd, a Bangladesh-based medical tourism facilitation startup, to provide healthcare-related benefits to the bank's priority banking customers.

Nahreen Quayyum, senior vice-president and acting head of priority banking at the bank, and Flora Nazneen Neela, managing director of the medical tourism facilitation startup, signed the agreement at a ceremony recently held at Prime View in Gulshan, Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Prime Bank's priority banking customers will enjoy discounts and EMI facilities on services offered by Plan Medi Trip Ltd, enhancing the range of privileges and value-added services available to them.

The partnership reflects Prime Bank's continued commitment to providing privileges, convenience and added value to its priority banking customers through strategic partnerships with service providers, the release added.



Flora Nazneen Neela, managing director of Plan Medi Trip Ltd, and Nahreen Quayyum, senior vice-president and acting head of priority banking at Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at Prime View in Gulshan, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK



Officials of Bangladesh Bank and United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB) pose with a banner at a Bangla QR promotional campaign at ShoppingBag Super Market on Chatteswari Road in Chattogram. PHOTO: UCB

UCB promotes Bangla QR payments in Chattogram

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United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB) recently organised a promotional campaign at ShoppingBag Super Market on Chatteswari Road in Chattogram to encourage the use of Bangla QR for digital payments.

Swarup Kumar Chowdhury, executive director (current charge) of Bangladesh Bank, and Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, chief executive officer of UCB, demonstrated the payment system by making transactions using Bangla QR, according to a press release.

Bangla QR is an interoperable payment solution that allows customers to pay merchants by scanning QR codes through supported banking and payment applications.

The initiative aimed to familiarise customers and merchants with the payment system and encourage wider adoption of digital transactions.

"Digital payments can create greater value when they are simple, accessible and convenient for everyday use," Rashid said.

Through this initiative, he added, UCB wanted more customers and merchants to experience the convenience of Bangla QR and remained committed to supporting a more digital and inclusive financial ecosystem in Bangladesh.

Also present at the event were Md Sajjad Hossain Chowdhury, additional director; Md Rashedul Islam, joint director; and Mahfuzur Rahman, assistant director of Bangladesh Bank, along with Md Abdullah Al Mamoon, deputy managing director and chief operating officer of UCB, and Zeeshan Kingshuk Huq, the bank's chief communications officer.

Islami Bank Hospital inaugurates Bangla QR payments

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Islami Bank Hospital recently held a views-exchange meeting on "Cashless Payment in Healthcare Services" at the Islami Bank Foundation auditorium, in line with Bangladesh Bank's vision of building a cashless Bangladesh.

Mohammad Zahir Hussain, chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest, according to a press release.

In his speech, Zahir said a cashless Bangladesh and digital transactions are not only the need of the time but also a key foundation for building a modern and efficient economy.

"Through Bangla QR, a timely initiative of Bangladesh Bank, the hassle and inconvenience of carrying cash at various institutions, including healthcare facilities, are decreasing. As a result of introducing the QR-based payment system, counter transactions have become faster, easier and more convenient."

He further said ensuring digital transactions maintains a reliable record of every account, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in the financial sector. Through the combined efforts of banks and various institutions, it is possible to build a secure and accessible digital payment ecosystem for everyone.

Md Altaf Hossain, managing director (acting) of Islami Bank, presided over the programme.

ANM Moinul Kabir, director of Bangladesh Bank; Md Parwez Anjam Munir and Mohammad Moin Uddin, additional directors; and KM Munirul Alam Al-Mamoon, executive director of Islami Bank Foundation, addressed the programme.

Following the event, Bangla QR transaction services were launched by Islami Bank chairman at Islami Bank Hospital.

M Kamal Uddin Jasim, additional managing director of Islami Bank; Mahmudur Rahman, Md Rafiqul Islam, Md Maksudur Rahman, Abu Sayeed Md Idris and Md Gakir Hossain, deputy managing directors; along with executives and officials of Islami Bank and the foundation, were also present on the occasion.



Mohammad Zahir Hussain, chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, inaugurates Bangla QR transaction services at Islami Bank Hospital in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH