ICC Bangladesh calls for greater access to foreign currency financing

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Access to affordable foreign currency financing has become increasingly important for sustaining international trade, industrial production, and investment amid Bangladesh's challenging economic environment, said Mahbubur Rahman, president of ICC Bangladesh.

He made the observation while delivering his closing remarks at a workshop titled "Obtaining Import Financing in Foreign Currency – Challenges and Solutions", jointly organised by ICC Bangladesh, and Germany's ODDO BHF SE at the Renaissance Hotel on October 31.

Rahman said Bangladesh was facing inflationary pressures, foreign exchange constraints, subdued private sector investment, and global trade uncertainties. Bangladesh Bank's tight monetary policy, aimed at containing inflation, had also contributed to slower private sector credit growth.

Highlighting innovative financing instruments, he said Usance Payable at Sight (UPAS) Letters of Credit allow importers extended payment terms while ensuring timely payments to overseas suppliers. Export Credit Agency (ECA)-backed financing provides longer-term funding for importing capital machinery, advanced technology, and industrial equipment at competitive costs.

He said these instruments could support industrial modernisation, infrastructure development, renewable energy expansion, and export diversification.

Referring to Bangladesh's transition from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, Rahman stressed the need to strengthen economic resilience, export competitiveness, financial sector reforms, and international financing capabilities. He also emphasised sound risk management, regulatory compliance, and closer cooperation among banks, regulators, and international financial institutions.

He noted that Germany remained a major trading and development partner of Bangladesh, offering opportunities for cooperation in trade finance, technology transfer, and industrial investment.



Mahbubur Rahman, president of ICC Bangladesh, is seen among other participants at a workshop jointly organised by ICC Bangladesh, and Germany's ODDO BHF SE at the Renaissance Hotel in Dhaka on October 31. PHOTO: ICC BANGLADESH

Rahman reiterated ICC Bangladesh's commitment to professional capacity-building through workshops and internationally recognised certification programmes offered by the ICC Academy and Walbrook Institute London, formerly The London Institute of Banking & Finance (LIBF).

Muhammad A (Rumee) Ali, chairman of the ICC Bangladesh Banking Commission, said bankers must exercise greater caution in selecting clients and ensuring proper due diligence and risk assessment.

Thomas Kuerten, director and senior regional manager of international and corporate banking at ODDO BHF SE, and Ataur Rahman, secretary general of ICC Bangladesh, also spoke.

The workshop was conducted by Karim Dolibois and Uschi Kirchner of ODDO BHF SE, focusing on UPAS Letters of Credit, ECA-backed financing, documentation, and risk management. It was attended by 77 participants, including three representatives from KfW and one from the International Finance Corporation.



Meheriar M Hasan, chairperson of BRAC Bank PLC, attends the launching programme of the bank's unified banking service "Omnichannel Banking Experience" at a programme held at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

BRAC Bank rolls out unified banking service

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank PLC yesterday launched a unified banking service that allows customers to access services according to their individual needs.

Branded as Omnichannel Banking Experience, the customer-centric service brings the bank's branches and sub-branches, call centre and digital platforms together in an integrated ecosystem. The bank claims it is the first initiative of its kind in Bangladesh.

Under the new model, customers can start banking activities through one channel and continue or complete them through another seamlessly.

Meheriar M Hasan, chairperson of the bank, inaugurated the service at a programme held at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka. He said the initiative is expected to encourage more people to use banking services.

"Omnichannel banking represents an important transformation in customer-centric financial services, bringing digital convenience and personalised human interaction into one connected experience," Meheriar said.

"By adapting global banking practices to the needs and behaviours of customers in Bangladesh, BRAC Bank aims to set a new benchmark for service quality, accessibility and customer choice."

Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, managing director and CEO of the bank, said the initiative would give customers greater control over their banking journeys.

"By bringing together modern technology, data analytics and personalised human support, we are moving beyond individual channels to create a connected experience built around our customers' needs," he said.

The bank's consolidated net profit rose 57 percent year-on-year to Tk 1,423 crore in the first half of 2026.

Customer deposits increased 25 percent and loan disbursements grew 18 percent, with both indicators outperforming industry averages.

As of June 30, the bank's deposits exceeded Tk 97,000 crore, while its loans and advances stood at Tk 76,000 crore.

BRAC Bank reported a profit of Tk 1,536 crore in January-September 2025, up 39 percent year-on-year. Its profit stood at Tk 1,432 crore in 2024.

The bank has a nationwide network of 321 branches and sub-branches, more than 1,100 agent banking outlets, call centres and digital platforms, including mobile apps and its website.

Syed Abdul Momen, additional managing director and head of SME banking; Md Mahiul Islam, deputy managing director and head of retail banking; and Sheikh Mohammad Ashfaque, deputy managing director and head of branch distribution network, were also present.

Pubali Bank turns Gulshan branch into Islamic banking outlet

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC has converted its Gulshan Circle-1 Branch into an Islamic banking branch to expand its shariah-compliant services.

The branch was formally inaugurated as the Gulshan Circle-1 Islamic Banking Branch recently by Safiul Alam Khan Chowdhury, former managing director of the bank, according to a press release.

Speaking at the ceremony, Safiul said Islamic banking was not just about financial services but also about ethics, transparency and mutual trust.

He expressed hope that the new branch would meet growing customer demand and make shariah-compliant services more accessible. He also stressed the need to maintain customer confidence through quality services, transparency and regulatory compliance.

Ahmed Enayet Manzur, deputy managing director of the bank, attended as the guest of honour, while Mohammad Humayun Kabir, general manager and head of the Islamic Banking Wing, was present as the special guest.

Md Moniruzzaman, deputy general manager and head of the branch, presided over the programme.

Other attendees included AKM Abdur Raqib, general manager and regional head for Dhaka North; Md Kamaruzzaman, general manager of the Islamic Banking Wing and head of shariah; and Kazi Shaswoti Islam, general manager of Mahakhali Corporate Branch.

Senior bank officials, businesspeople and customers also attended the event.



Safiul Alam Khan Chowdhury, former managing director of Pubali Bank PLC, inaugurates the bank's Gulshan Circle-1 Islamic banking branch in Dhaka recently in the presence of senior bank officials, businesspeople and customers. PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Trust Bank launches deposit account for NRBs

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank PLC has launched a deposit account for non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs), allowing them to save, manage and invest their overseas earnings in the country.

The bank inaugurated the Non-Resident Convertible Taka (NRCT) Account at its head office in Dhaka on October 29, it said in a press statement.

Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and chief executive officer of Trust Bank, formally launched the product. The account is available in three variants -- Trust NRCTA Savings, Trust NRCTA Current and Trust NRCTA FDR -- and can be opened digitally without any initial deposit, according to the press statement.

Both the principal and accrued interest or profit are freely repatriable, while account holders can access the services through the bank's authorised dealer (AD) branches and offshore banking unit (OBU).

The product also offers "attractive interest rates" with reinvestment facilities, conversion into foreign currency accounts, access to monthly deposit schemes (DPS) and portfolio investments, loans against account balances, and competitive exchange rates, said the bank.

The bank also said the new facility would provide NRBs with a flexible way to grow their savings in Bangladesh while retaining access to their funds from anywhere in the world.

Akhlasur Rahman Bhuiyan, deputy managing director and chief risk officer; Hasna Hena Chowdhury, deputy managing director and chief operating officer; Md Kamal Hossain Sarker, deputy managing director and head of Islamic Banking Division; and Md Mahboob Hossain, senior executive vice-president and head of Business Division, also attended the inauguration.



Trust Bank Managing Director and CEO Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury and other senior officials pose for photographs at the launch of NRCT account at its head office in Dhaka on October 29. PHOTO: TRUST BANK

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board

No: 27.11.1500.04.021.26.443 Date: 01/11/2026

Invitation for Applications for Enlistment of Service Providers

Bangladesh Power Development Borad (BPDB) invites application for Selection of Prospective Service Providers for installing Rooftop Solar Systems on Households, Commercial Properties, Solar Irrigation Pumps, Solar Cold Storage, EV Charging Stations, Floating Solar Systems, and any other potential structures of Private Ownership in Chittagong Division. Application Form and related instructions are available in BPDB website: https://bpdb.gov.bd.

Last Application Selling Date and Time: 08/11/2026; Time: 12:00 BST

Application Closing Date and Time: 08/11/2026; Time: 15:00 BST

Application Receiving Office: Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Circle, South, BPDB, Chittagong.

N.B.: Currently enlisted Service Providers are not required to apply.

বিদ্যুৎ/জন- ২৯৯ (২)/ ০১/১১/২৬

(Mohammad Anowarul Islam)
Superintending Engineer,
Operation and Maintenance
Circle, Chattogram (South)
BPDB, Chattogram.

GD-2645

Aramco takes 49% stake in Saudi AI company

AFP, *Riyadh*

Oil major Saudi Aramco said it was taking a 49 percent stake in state-backed AI company Humain on Sunday, injecting cash and assets as the tech firm tries to scale up to meet rising demand.

The Public Investment Fund, the Saudi sovereign wealth fund driving economic diversification efforts, will retain the other 51 percent, they said in a joint statement.

Aramco, cornerstone of the oil-reliant Saudi economy, has been planning a significant minority stake for at least a year in Humain, which launched in May 2025.

"The transaction will further accelerate Humain's growth and advance its full range of AI capabilities globally, with PIF and Aramco contributing AI assets, capabilities, and talent," the statement said.

The Aramco stake, via a wholly owned subsidiary, "supports Humain's rapid scaling to meet growing regional and global demand for AI compute", the statement added.

Humain is planning to deploy three gigawatts of AI data centre capacity by 2030. It is also working on infrastructure and cloud platforms, and has developed an Arabic-language LLM, the statement said.

Aramco, one of the world's biggest companies by market capitalisation, will inject about 9.9 billion Saudi riyals ($2.6 billion) into Humain this year along with AI, compute and digital assets.

Amin H. Nasser, Aramco's president and CEO, said AI had helped the oil giant reach $11.3 billion in tech-related value since 2023.

Government of The People`s Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Narail
www.eed.narail.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice No. 709-17/2026-2027 Date: 01/11/2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works Under EED, Narail District as mentioned below.

SL No	Tender ID No.	Package No	Identification of Package	Procurement Method	Tender Document last selling/ Downloading Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	1363999	NARAIL/REP/GOVT/2025-26/WR-08	Construction of R.C.C Road at Kalia Govt. Pilot Model High School Under Kalia Upazila Narail District. (RMS ID: 1056427)	LTM	11/11/2026 (16:00)	12/11/2026 (13:00)
02	1364155	NARAIL/REP/GOVT/2024-25/WR-09	Construction of Boundary Wall at Lohagara Govt. Adarsha College Under Lohagara Upazila Narail District. (RMS ID NO- 1050518)	LTM	11/11/2026 (16:00)	12/11/2026 (13:00)
03	1364022	NARAIL/REP/GOVT/2025-26/WR-10	Installation of Safety Barrier at Mollickpur Union Govt. High School Under Lohagara Upazila Narail District. (RMS ID NO-1056392)	LTM	11/11/2026 (16:00)	12/11/2026 (13:00)

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP system portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender A1 & A2 renewed up to FY.2025-26 enlistment Category Contractor of Education Engineering Department under Narail District who are registered in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) will be eligible. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 12:00 on 12/11/2026. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason what so ever.

(Arunava Roy)
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department,
Narail.

GD-2643