RMG sector must step up compliance to stay competitive

Commerce minister says

BSS

Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir has called for strengthening public-private partnerships to ensure compliance and enhance productivity keeping environmental sustainability to maintain the competitiveness of Bangladesh's textile and garment industries in international markets.

He said factories must prepare now to meet the evolving demands of international buyers and comply with new commercial and environmental standards.

"So far, the achievements we have made are only our foundation, not the final destination. We must build on this foundation and move forward with industry owners, workers and stakeholders to develop a compliant and competitive textile sector," he said.

The minister made the remarks as the chief guest at an event marking the 'Skills for Self-Monitoring and Compliance with Clean and Fair Production in the Textile Industry' (SCAIP) project at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

The Ministry of Commerce and SCAIP jointly organised the event with support from the 'Sustainability in Textile and Leather Industry' (STILE II) project.

Muktadir said the textile and garment sector accounts for more than 80 percent of the country's total export earnings and plays a significant role in the industrial economy, providing employment to millions of people, particularly women.

International buyers and regulatory bodies now expect safe working conditions, fair labour practices, responsible resource use and transparency in supply chains, he said.

Factories must particularly strengthen their capacity to comply



Khandakar Abdul Muktadir

with the European Union's (EU) new policies and regulations. Compliance should be treated as an integral part of the country's trade strategy, he added.

Highlighting government initiatives to create a business-friendly environment, the minister said the government was working to set policy priorities, simplify procedures, reduce logistics costs and expedite licensing, compliance and port-related approvals.

He also stressed the need to make effective use of the extended preparation period until 2029 before Bangladesh graduates from the least developed country (LDC) category. This would help the country retain existing benefits in international markets and prepare industries to meet new standards.

Under the SCAIP project, emphasis has been placed on strengthening factory-level self-monitoring systems to ensure the efficient use of water, energy and chemicals. These measures are expected to reduce environmental pollution as well as production and operating costs.

The event also reviewed initiatives involving the Bangladesh Boiler Code, digital inspection systems, online monitoring of effluent treatment plants (ETPs), digital environmental clearances, traceability strategies and the development of a data ecosystem for Digital Product Passports.

Prime Bank signs payroll banking deal with BD Creation

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has signed a payroll banking agreement with BD Creation, a Bangladeshi handicrafts manufacturer and exporter, to provide comprehensive payroll banking services.

Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution network of Prime Bank PLC, and Belal Hossain, chairman and CEO of BD Creation, signed the agreement at the bank's corporate head office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, employees of BD Creation will enjoy payroll banking facilities, including salary accounts with competitive rates, dual-currency debit cards with lifestyle benefits, customised loan and credit card facilities, and a wide range of consumer banking products and services on preferential terms, among others.

They will also have access to PrimePay, the bank's omni-channel digital platform that enables seamless and automated salary disbursements, along with convenient, round-the-clock corporate payment solutions.

Mustafa Ahamed Pias, managing director of BD Creation; Sajid Rahman, senior executive vice-president and chief business officer of corporate and institutional banking and commercial banking at the bank; Mohammad Salauddin Hazari, senior executive vice-president and head of the commercial banking division; and Md Rashaduzzaman, executive vice-president and unit head of the commercial banking division, attended the event.



Belal Hossain, chairman and CEO of BD Creation, and Mamur Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of distribution network of Prime Bank PLC, shake hands and exchange signed documents of the agreement at the bank's corporate head office in Gulshan, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: **PRIME BANK**

Hasina Fardous, senior vice-president and head of payroll banking at the bank, and Md Shahidur Rahman, assistant vice-president and senior BDM of payroll banking, along with senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the signing ceremony.

Al-Arafah Islami Bank holds leadership development training



Shafiuzzaman, additional managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC, poses with senior executives and managers during a day-long leadership development training programme at the bank's training institute in Dhaka last week.

PHOTO: **AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK**

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC has organised a day-long training programme to strengthen the leadership and interpersonal skills of its senior executives and managers.

Titled "Connect, Influence & Grow: Leadership Development & Interpersonal Excellence", the programme was held at the Al-Arafah Islami Bank Training Institute (AIBTI) in Dhaka on Wednesday, according to a press release.

Shafiuzzaman, additional managing director of the bank, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest, while Md Abdur Rahim Duary, principal of AIBTI, chaired the session.

The training was conducted by Khandaker Zia Hasan, founder and chief executive officer of Zias Language Centre Incorporated, based in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. A total of 39 senior executives and managers attended the programme.

Addressing the participants, Shafiuzzaman highlighted the importance of effective leadership, professional skills and strong interpersonal relationships in achieving institutional goals.

He said that in a changing banking environment, professional knowledge alone is not enough. Employees also need strong communication skills, emotional intelligence, teamwork, sound decision-making abilities and the capacity to motivate colleagues.

NCC Bank tops student account opening in Feni



Students, teachers and bank officials take part in a rally in Feni town recently to mark the Student Banking Conference 2026, organised by NCC Bank under Bangladesh Bank's financial inclusion programme.

PHOTO: **NCC BANK**

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC ranked first among banks in Feni district for opening the highest number of student banking accounts in 2026, followed by Dutch-Bangla Bank and BASIC Bank.

The recognition was announced at the Student Banking Conference 2026, held recently under NCC Bank's leadership in collaboration with 38 scheduled banks operating in the district, according to a press release.

Organised under Bangladesh Bank's (BB) nationwide financial inclusion programme, the conference focused on promoting Bangla QR payments, safe cashless transactions and financial literacy.

Ahead of the conference, more than 200 students and teachers joined a rally in Feni town.

Debashish Roy, additional director of BB's Financial Inclusion Department, inaugurated the conference as chief guest at the District Shilpakala Academy Auditorium.

He said banking would become increasingly digital and technology-driven, noting that BB had already started approving digital banks.

He stressed the need for banks and educational institutions to work together to strengthen student banking programmes and urged students to become familiar with digital payments and Bangla QR transactions.

Other speakers said students, as future leaders of the country and its financial sector, should learn about digital banking, cashless transactions, mobile banking and modern financial management from an early age. They also urged them to develop skills suited to technology-driven banking.

Citizens Bank holds annual risk conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Citizens Bank PLC organised its Annual Risk Conference 2026 at the bank's head office in Motijheel, Dhaka recently.

Mohammad Ashiqur Rahman, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, attended the conference as the chief guest and inaugurated the event, reads a press statement.

In his address, he highlighted various risk factors in the banking sector and emphasised the importance of effective risk management, regulatory compliance and prudent banking practices.

Alamgir Hossain, managing director of Citizens Bank, presided over the conference and spoke about various aspects of risk management in banking operations.

He emphasised the need to manage concentration risk, maintain asset quality and ensure sound corporate governance.

He also stressed the importance of identifying, assessing and mitigating potential risks amid the prevailing macroeconomic conditions to improve operational efficiency, safeguard financial stability and ensure sustainable growth.

Monoar Uddin Ahmed, director of Bank Supervision Department-5; Mohammad Abdur Rab, director of Supervisory Policy and Coordination Department; and Siddhartha Shankar Roy, additional director of Bangladesh Bank, attended the conference as resource persons and conducted sessions on various banking sector risks.



Officials of Bangladesh Bank and Citizens Bank PLC pose for a photograph at the commercial lender's Annual Risk Conference 2026 at its head office in Motijheel, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: **CITIZENS BANK PLC**

Fair Technology customers to get car loan from Southeast Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Fair Technology Limited (Hyundai), an automobile company in Bangladesh and a business unit of Fair Group, to provide car loan benefits to the automobile company's customers.

Under the MoU, the customers of Fair Technology Limited (Hyundai) will be able to get car loans with special benefits from the bank, according to a press statement. Md Sekander-E-Azam, deputy managing director of Southeast Bank PLC, and Md Zahidul Kabir, head of treasury of Fair Group, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations.

Md Abdul Kader, vice-president and retail banking division of Southeast Bank, was also present at the ceremony, along with other officials from both organisations.



PHOTO: **SOUTHEAST BANK PLC**

Md Sekander-E-Azam, deputy managing director of Southeast Bank PLC, and Md Zahidul Kabir, head of treasury of Fair Group, along with other officials of the organisations, pose for a photograph after signing an MOU.

Al-Arafah Islami Bank holds town hall meeting in Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC on Saturday held a day-long town hall meeting for its Dhaka North Zone at the Regency Hotel & Resort in Dhaka.

Badiur Rahman, chairman of the bank, and Salim Rahman, executive committee chairman, attended the meeting as special guests, according to a press release.

Badiur Rahman said the bank had moved forward over the years with the trust and confidence of its customers.

"At this juncture, we want to move ahead with renewed enthusiasm in a stronger and more organised manner. We must further strengthen the bank's position through quality business expansion, deposit growth, improved customer service, and sustainable growth," he said.

He added that all the bank's activities must be conducted with the highest importance given to the principles and values of Shariah.

Salim Rahman, executive committee chairman, said the key strength behind the progress of any institution was its people and their collective efforts.

"Every branch and officer of Al-Arafah Islami Bank must focus on creating new business opportunities, mobilising quality deposits, maintaining strong relationships with customers, and ensuring improved service," he said.



PHOTO: **AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK**

Badiur Rahman, chairman of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, and Salim Rahman, executive committee chairman, pose for photographs with other officials at the day-long town hall meeting for the bank's Dhaka North Zone at the Regency Hotel & Resort in Dhaka yesterday.