



Quazi Osman Ali, CEO of Social Islami Bank, cuts a ribbon to open the bank's agent banking outlet at Dhondi Bazar in Narayanganj's Sonargaon yesterday.

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Organic milk producers in US face turmoil

AFP, New York

With supply exceeding demand, large farms taking center stage and plant-based alternatives luring consumers away, times are hard for small organic milk producers in the United States.

"At the current prices, we are in the red," said Spencer Aitel, who keeps 55 milking cows on his Two Loons Farm in Maine.

At the request of his co-operative, he had to reduce the size of his herd by 20 percent.

But a little over 20 years after entering the organic business in 1996, Aitel has paid off most of his debts and is confident the crisis in the industry will pass.

"I don't think 2018 is going to work -- 2019 might," he predicts.

"Younger people that we work with are in panic because they are really not making enough money -- many are trying to find a way out."

US co-operatives enticed by

consumers' enthusiasm for organic products encouraged farmers to expand or switch their traditional dairy operations over to organic production to meet the demand.

But after several years of double-digit growth, sales have ground to a halt -- stagnating at around 5.5 percent of the milk market share in 2017.

Broadly, Americans consume less milk than in the past.

Some now opt for soy or almond varieties, while others have balked at the price difference between standard and organic options -- in one New York supermarket on Tuesday, a half-gallon (1.9 liters) cost \$2.79 and \$5.29, respectively.

As a result, demand dried up just as a wave of new farmers flooded the market, and as production resumed on existing farms after a pause of a year or more.

Faced with a surplus, big buyers like Organic Valley or Danone have imposed production quotas and told some dairy farmers their con-

tracts won't be renewed.

"Recovery will take time," French group Danone, which sells Horizon organic milk in the United States, said in February.

As well as reducing purchases, Danone is trying to deal with the crisis by redirecting surplus to other products such as yogurt, cheese and special milk products including a "grass-fed" line.

Small producers say they are concerned about the growth of huge companies with operations covering the whole production chain, such as Aurora Organic Dairy.

With 19,800 milking cows spread around several sites in Texas and Colorado along with its processing plant, the group supplies the biggest supermarket chains in the country.

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the six certified organic dairy farms in Texas had more cows in 2016 than the 486 farms in the state of New York.

Jim Goodman, who owns 45 cows

in Wisconsin, says he is incensed that such huge corporations benefit from the "organic" label.

The price of his milk has plummeted around 30 percent in two years. "At this point, it is manageable. But if bigger organic dairies in the western US keep production flowing, our organic processors may not have a market. They already started to drop some producers," he said.

Some of Goodman's fears seem to be accurate.

In a report released last week, the USDA confirmed that "at least some of the Wisconsin produced and processed organic milk will be replaced by milk trucked to Wisconsin from among the largest US organic mega dairy farms."

"Even with estimated trucking costs from Texas to Wisconsin of up to \$5.00 per hundredweight, some Wisconsin processors have switched from sourcing local milk, to milk trucked from Texas," the report said.

China's industrial output posts strong start to 2018

AFP, Beijing

China's industrial output strengthened in the first two months of the year, official data showed Wednesday, led by production at state enterprises.

Output at factories and workshops expanded 7.2 percent year-on-year in January and February combined, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, beating the 6.2 percent recorded in December and the 6.2 percent forecast in a Bloomberg News survey of analysts.

The higher output comes even as authorities press on with their fight against smog by clamping down on polluting heavy industries.

The drastic measures are working, with a recent analysis by the University of Chicago

showing that cities have cut levels of PM 2.5 -- the tiny airborne particles considered most harmful to health -- by an average of 32 percent over the past four years.

"The national economy has maintained stable and sound development in the first two months of 2018," said NBS spokesman Mao Shengyong.

"It is a good start for high-quality development" Mao said, using President Xi Jinping's new buzzword for the "new era" economy China is aiming for.

The retail sector -- which China is counting on to propel its high-quality development -- recorded solid growth, a sign that China's rebalancing from its export and investment led economic model to one driven by consumer spending is well underway.



ANWAR GROUP

Manwar Hossain, vice chairman of Alhaj Anwar Hossain Foundation and group managing director of the Anwar Group of Industries, and Esha Chowdhury, executive director of TraumaLink, attend a deal signing ceremony at the group's head office in Dhaka on Tuesday. The foundation will provide donations to TraumaLink, a volunteer-based emergency response system working to reduce deaths and injuries on highways.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Technical Education
F-4/B, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Memo No.: 57.03.0000.007.007.031.18-234

Date: 13.03.2018

e-Tender Notice: 02/2017-18

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online notice publication date	Online last selling/downloading the e-tender documents from bank	Online tender closing date
168727	DTE/e-GP/GR-02	Supply of computer accessories	12-03-2018	Up to 27-03-2018 3.00pm	28-03-2018 11.00am
173391	DTE/e-GP/GR-03	Supply of Books & Journals	12-03-2018	Up to 27-03-2018 3.00pm	28-03-2018 11.00am
174961	DTE/e-GP/GR-01	Supply of Stationery	13-03-2018	Up to 28-03-2018 3.00pm	29-03-2018 11.00am

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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WB to boost India lending by \$1b/year

REUTERS, New Delhi

The World Bank plans to raise lending to India by about \$1 billion every year for the next five years from the current \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion, its country director to India said on Wednesday.

The lending will be mainly for infrastructure projects, Junaid Ahmad said.

Last November, India jumped into 100th place on the World Bank's ranking of countries by Ease of Doing Business for the first time in its report for 2018, up about 30 places, driven by reforms in access to credit, power supplies and protection of minority investors.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়

বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

প্রশাসন-১ অধিকার্যক্রম

নং-২৭.০০.০০০০.০৮১.০১২.০০৯.৩৪-৩০

তারিখ: ১২/০৩/২০১৮

বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগের পুরাতন ০১টি মাইক্রোবাস

বিত্রয়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

Date: 13/03/18

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