

Janata Bank achieves 95% deposit target



PHOTO: JANATA BANK

M Fazlur Rahman, chairman of Janata Bank PLC, presides over the 18th annual general meeting at the bank's head office in the capital's Motijheel recently.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

State-owned Janata Bank PLC has amassed deposits totalling Tk 109,810 crore by the end of December 2024, achieving 95.49 percent of its annual target despite a challenging economic environment.

The figure was revealed at the bank's 18th annual general meeting (AGM), held at its head office in the capital's Motijheel recently, according to a press release.

M Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the bank, attended the AGM as the chief guest. In his address, he highlighted the bank's strides in digital innovation, noting the launch of e-Janata, an app-based, modern banking service offering world-class features. "With e-Janata, customers can withdraw cash from any branch by scanning a QR code on an Android device, eliminating the need for a chequebook," Rahman said.

"The app also allows users to transfer funds to any bank, pay DPS and loan instalments, and send money to mobile wallets such as bKash and Nagad."



Md Mohiuddin Khan, executive chairman of the National Pension Authority, and Sohail RK Hussain, managing director of Bank Asia PLC, shake hands and exchange signed documents of the memorandum of understanding at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: BANK ASIA

BASIC Bank inks MoU with National Pension Authority

STAR BUSINESS DESK

State-owned BASIC Bank Limited has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Pension Authority (NPA) to support and streamline the implementation of the Universal Pension Scheme.

Md Mahiuddin Khan, executive chairman of the NPA, and Md Quamruzzaman Khan, managing director and CEO of the bank, signed the MoU at the conference room of the Finance Division under the Ministry of Finance in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under the MoU, BASIC Bank will assist individuals in enrolling in various Universal Pension Schemes and facilitate the collection of monthly subscription instalments through its nationwide network of branches.



Md Quamruzzaman Khan, managing director and CEO of BASIC Bank, and Md Mahiuddin Khan, executive chairman of the National Pension Authority, shake hands and exchange signed documents of the memorandum of understanding at the conference room of the Finance Division under the Ministry of Finance in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: BASIC BANK

Bank Asia signs MoU with National Pension Authority

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Pension Authority (NPA) to support the implementation of various schemes under the Universal Pension Scheme (UPS), a significant step towards promoting financial security for citizens across all socio-economic segments.

Sohail RK Hussain, managing director of the bank, and Md Mohiuddin Khan, executive chairman of the NPA, signed the MoU at the conference room of the finance division under the Ministry of Finance at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka

recently, according to a press release. Following the signing, Hussain reaffirmed Bank Asia's dedication to inclusive, technology-driven banking that aligns with the country's long-term development goals.

As part of the collaboration, Bank Asia will enable seamless registration, efficient contribution collection, and real-time digital integration for pension scheme subscribers through its robust digital infrastructure.

Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder, secretary of the finance division, attended the ceremony as the chief guest, alongside senior officials from both organisations.

Prime Bank hosts engagement session with corporate clients

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC recently hosted a daylong engagement session with its corporate banking clientele, fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration on the evolving business environment.

The event brought together distinguished corporate clients for in-depth discussions, the exchange of ideas, and shared perspectives on current and future market dynamics.

Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of the bank, attended the session as the chief guest, according to a press release.

During the event, he engaged



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, addresses at an engagement session with its corporate banking clients in Dhaka recently.

directly with clients, reaffirming the bank's unwavering commitment to building enduring partnerships and promoting mutual growth.

Economist Masrur Reaz, founder and chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, conducted a special session, offering strategic insights into Bangladesh's economic outlook, with particular emphasis on the country's trade and investment landscape.

The event concluded with open discussions and networking opportunities, providing a platform for enhanced understanding and collaboration between Prime Bank and its corporate banking customers.

Currency paradox

FROM PAGE B1

In just two days, the Bangladesh Bank purchased \$484 million from commercial banks as the exchange rate fell by more than Tk 2 in five days, dropping to Tk 120 against each US dollar.

Following this intervention, the interbank selling rate climbed back to Tk 121.20 on Wednesday.

This prompts a crucial question—why is the central bank seemingly preventing the taka from gaining strength?

One explanation lies in the central bank managed exchange rate system.

Despite adopting a more flexible regime in May as part of a \$5.5 billion loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund, the system is not entirely market-driven.

The Bangladesh Bank maintains an exchange rate band and intervenes when the currency moves outside its

desired range.

An exchange rate band is a system where a country's central bank sets a target value for its currency against a foreign currency (or a basket of currencies) and allows the exchange rate to fluctuate within a specific range, or "band," around that target.

This approach falls between a completely fixed exchange rate, where the currency's value is pegged and does not fluctuate, and a purely floating exchange rate, where market forces of supply and demand determine the rate without any central bank intervention.

Areif Hussain Khan, executive director and spokesperson for the central bank, defended the intervention, saying the regulator's goal was to prevent excessive volatility.

"We want to keep the forex market stable because neither a big rise nor

a steep fall is a good indicator. If the dollar weakens too much, exporters and remitters feel discouraged and suffer losses," he said.

Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, criticised the central bank's intervention in the foreign exchange market.

He argued that allowing the US dollar rate to decline further could help ease inflationary pressure.

"Over the past three years, various analyses have explained why inflation has increased in Bangladesh. While opinions vary, one consensus has emerged—the rise in the US dollar's value," he said.

He added that reducing the exchange rate from Tk 120 to around Tk 110 could have had a remarkable impact in curbing inflation.

"So, the question is, why is this opportunity to curb inflation being missed?" asked Hussain.

UK retains duty-free access World Bank

FROM PAGE B1

Bangladesh, along with 64 countries, enjoys reduced or zero tariffs on thousands of products, and the UK said new measures will make it easier for developing countries to trade, supporting jobs and economic growth both in the UK and overseas.

The new trade measures were unveiled on July 10 before British business leaders and ambassadors from around the world at a joint DBT and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) reception in London.

"These new rules will make it easier for developing countries to trade more closely with the UK. This is good for their economies and for UK consumers and businesses," said Jenny Chapman, minister of state for international development.

The DBT said the DCTS allows some of the world's poorest countries to export to the UK duty- and quota-free, with over £16 billion in UK

imports benefiting from tariff savings since its launch in June 2023.

"No country has ever lifted itself out of poverty without trading with its neighbours. Over recent decades, trade has been an essential ingredient in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty around the globe," said Douglas Alexander, Minister of State for Trade Policy.

Monique Leeuwenburgh, director of sourcing, Marks & Spencer PLC, said, "This change will enable us to maintain our longstanding and trusted relationships with our key partners in Bangladesh, to deliver the same great quality clothing & home products at great value for our customers."


Eoin Tonge, interim chief executive at Primark, said, "This will help us to maintain our existing supply chain strategy in our key sourcing markets in Asia, such as Bangladesh and Cambodia."

FROM PAGE B1 youth—are determined to have a better future," Zutt said, adding that the partnership has helped lift millions out of poverty.

He pledged continued support to build economic and climate resilience, attract private investment, and create meaningful employment opportunities.

During his visit, Zutt also held meetings with the finance and planning advisers, the Bangladesh Bank governor, the special envoy for international affairs, and private sector representatives to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities.

The World Bank has been a key development partner for Bangladesh since independence, committing more than \$46 billion in International Development Association financing through grants, interest-free loans, and concessional credits to advance the country's growth agenda.



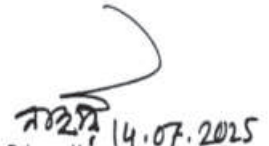
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chief Adviser's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
BEPZA Complex, House No.19/D, Road No. 06,
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
(www.bepza.gov.bd)

No.03.06.2616.308.07.222.24-120 Date: 14 July 2025

Re-Tender Notice No.01/2025-2026

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible sellers/suppliers/contractors for the following Goods as per terms & conditions stated below:

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| 1 | Ministry/Division | Chief Adviser's Office | | | |
| 2 | Agency | Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) | | | |
| 3 | Procuring Entity Name | Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) | | | |
| 4 | Procuring Entity District | BEPZA Complex, House No.19/D, Road No. 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205 | | | |
| 5 | Invitation for | Re-Tender for Supply of Goods at BEPZA Complex, House No.19/D, Road No. 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205 | | | |
| 6 | Invitation Ref. no and Date | 01/2025-2026, Date: 14 July 2025 | | | |
| KEY INFORMATION | | | | | |
| 7 | Procurement Method | Open Tender Method (OTM) | | | |
| FUNDING INFORMATION | | | | | |
| 8 | Budget and Source of Funds | Self-Finance of BEPZA | | | |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION | | | | | |
| 9 | Tender Publication Date | On or before 21 July 2025 | | | |
| 10 | Tender Last Selling Date | 28 July 2025 during office hour | | | |
| 11 | Tender Closing Date & Time | 29 July 2025 at 12:00 Noon | | | |
| 12 | Tender Opening Date & Time | 29 July 2025 at 12:30 PM | | | |
| 13 | Selling of Tender Document | Accounts Section BEPZA, BEPZA Complex, House No.19/D, Road No. 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205 | | | |
| 14 | Receiving of Tender Document | Additional Executive Director (Common Service), BEPZA Complex, House No.19/D, Road No. 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205 | | | |
| 15 | Opening of Tender Document | Additional Executive Director (Common Service), BEPZA Complex, House No.19/D, Road No. 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205 | | | |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER | | | | | |
| 16 | Eligibility of Tenderer | The Invitation for Tender is open to all eligible Tenderers who satisfy the followings: a) The minimum of year of general experience of the Tenderer as Supplier shall be 03 (three) Years. b) Other criteria mentioned in TDS separately in Tender Documents. c) The minimum specific experience in supply of goods of at least 01 (One) similar nature of contract successfully completed within the last 03 (Three) years with a value of at least Tk. 8.00 lac in Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous Bodies only. The work completion certificate is to be issued by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent Officer of concerned Department/Organization. d) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line (s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk.12.00 lac. e) Up-to-date trade license, Income Tax Clearance Certificate, Vat Registration certificate shall be submitted. | | | |
| 17 | Brief description of goods | Supply of Goods as specified in TDS; | | | |
| 18 | Price of Each Tender Documents | Tk. 1000.00 (Taka One Thousand) | | | |
| 19 | Lot No. | Name of Tender | Location | Tender Security Amount (in favour of BEPZA) | Completion Time |
| | Single Lot | Supply of Camera to BEPZA Executive Office and Governed EPZs | BEPZA Complex, House No.19/D, Road No. 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205 | Tk.40,000.00 (Forty Thousand) by Pay Order. | 90 Days from the date of signing contract |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS | | | | | |
| 20 | Name of Official Inviting Tender | | | | |
| 21 | Designation of Official Inviting Tender | | | | |
| 22 | Address of official inviting Tender | | | | |
| 23 | Contract details of Official Inviting Tender | | | | |
| 24 | Special Instruction: | | | | |
| | a) Eligible Firms/Authorized Representative/Dealers may purchase the Tender Documents from the Office mentioned in SL no-13 on submitting written request in their Letter Head Pad. | | | | |
| | b) Any false, forged, fabricated and miss leading documents furnished by Tenderer shall result in rejection of the Tender. | | | | |
| | c) In case of any confusion arises due to printing mistakes or other reason the Public Procurement Rules-2008 will be governed. | | | | |
| | d) Tender should be submitted in origin copy. | | | | |
| 25 | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender Proceedings. | | | | |



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