

Prime Bank disburses agri loans to farmers in Faridpur

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC organised a programme to disburse open agri loans to farmers in Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur as part of its ongoing efforts to accelerate the growth and development of the agriculture sector in Bangladesh.

Around 150 farmers participated in the loan disbursement ceremony held at Madhukhali upazila yesterday, according to a press release.

TM Forhad Reza Jewel, additional director of the Agricultural Credit Department at Bangladesh Bank, attended the programme and disbursed loans among the farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, M

Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank PLC, said: "The agriculture sector plays a significant role in ensuring food security, generating employment, and alleviating poverty. Prime Bank is always committed to promoting farmers' financial inclusion."

"At present, the bank is supporting farmers through its specialised agricultural loan schemes – "Abad" for crop production, "Khamar" for farm management, and "Nabanna" for the purchase of agricultural machinery."

"In continuation of this effort, Prime Bank has undertaken the initiative to disburse loans among farmers in this region," he added.



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

TM Forhad Reza Jewel, additional director of the Agricultural Credit Department at Bangladesh Bank, and M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank, pose for group photographs with farmers at the loan disbursement ceremony in Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur yesterday.

Trump moves to fire a Fed governor over mortgage fraud claims

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump expanded pressure on the Federal Reserve on Monday by moving to fire Governor Lisa Cook "effective immediately", a step the independent central bank official said he had "no authority" to take.

Trump's decision against the first Black woman to serve on the central bank's board cited allegations of false statements on her mortgage agreements.

Referring to the Federal Reserve Act as justification, Trump wrote in a letter addressed to Cook: "I have determined that there is sufficient cause to remove you from your position."

Cook rejected the president's authority to do so, saying no cause exists.

"I will not resign," she said in a statement shared by her attorney Abbe Lowell with US media. "I will continue to carry out my duties to help the American economy."

A US president is generally limited in their ability to remove officials from the central bank, with a Supreme Court order recently suggesting that Fed officials can only be removed for "cause," which could be interpreted to mean malfeasance or dereliction of duty.

"I will not resign," Lisa Cook said in a statement shared by her attorney Abbe Lowell with US media. "I will continue to carry out my duties to help the American economy."

But the US leader pointed to a criminal referral dated August 15 from the Federal Housing Finance Agency's director -- a staunch ally of Trump -- to the US attorney general in his announcement that Cook would be removed from her role.

The referral, Trump said, provided "sufficient reason" to believe that Cook might have made "false statements" on one or more mortgage agreements.

One of the alleged false statements was that Cook had claimed two primary residences, one in Michigan and another in Georgia.

Earlier this month, Cook said in a statement that she had "no intention of being bullied to step down," but would take questions about her financial history seriously.

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HSBC, in collaboration with CARE Bangladesh, is expanding its climate-resilient agriculture initiative in the southwest coastal area of Bangladesh through a project titled "Sunflower Radiance Journey towards Adaptation in a Market-oriented and Nature-based Initiative" (SURJAMONI).

The initiative aims to strengthen the sunflower value chain and promote adaptive vegetable farming, benefiting communities in Satkhira district, according to a press release.

The project addresses key agricultural challenges faced by smallholder farmers, particularly those impacted by salinity and limited access to financial services, quality inputs, and adaptive farming techniques. It focuses on the highly climate-vulnerable yet agriculturally rich regions of Kalaroa and Tala upazilas in Satkhira.

Md Abdul Moti of Tarulia village in Satkhira shared: "For 13 years, my field near the mango orchard remained unproductive and seasonally fallow due to



PHOTO: HSBC

Md Abdul Moti stands in his sunflower field. With support from SURJAMONI project, he cultivated sunflowers on one bigha of land and achieved good yield and profit. The photo was taken in Tarulia village of Satkhira.

salinity and lack of irrigation. With SURJAMONI's support, I cultivated sunflowers on one bigha (33 decimals) and got an unexpectedly good yield and profit, which will help me expand my agricultural activities."

Ram Das, country director of CARE Bangladesh, said: "The

SURJAMONI project is poised to drive long-term economic and environmental resilience among the target groups and inspire many more in southwest coastal Bangladesh."

By equipping farmers with climate-smart agricultural practices, enhancing market

access, and fostering sustainable value chains, this initiative will continue to create lasting impacts."

Md Mahbub ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, noted:

"Through this partnership with CARE Bangladesh, the SURJAMONI project will

strengthen local economies and empower farmers with climate-resilient agricultural solutions."

By fostering sustainable practices today, we are helping to build a more secure and prosperous future for generations to come."

Currently, more than 26,000 hectares of fallow land in the area remain underutilised due to soil salinity.

SURJAMONI seeks to turn this challenge into an opportunity by promoting the cultivation of saline-tolerant sunflower varieties, ensuring proper storage of sunflower seeds, and strengthening local and national value chains for edible oil production.

Since its launch in 2024, SURJAMONI has reached more than 600 households, supporting them in adopting climate-smart agricultural practices.

In its first year, about 100 farmers cultivated sunflowers on around 27 acres of seasonal fallow land, producing nearly 25 tonnes of sunflower, yielding over three times more profit than traditional mustard cultivation.



PHOTO: JAMUNA BANK

Robin Razon Sakhawat, chairman of Jamuna Bank PLC, poses for group photographs with participants of the "Managers' Meeting" for the Dhaka North and Mymensingh zones at a hotel in the capital recently.

Jamuna Bank holds managers' meeting for Dhaka north, Mymensingh zones

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Jamuna Bank PLC organised its "Managers' Meeting" for the Dhaka North and Mymensingh zones at a hotel in the capital recently.

The meeting focused on the bank's ongoing business operations, customer service enhancement, sustainable banking, and forward-looking strategies.

Several important decisions were adopted to ensure the future growth and development of the bank.

Robin Razon Sakhawat, chairman of Jamuna Bank PLC, inaugurated the event as the chief guest, according to a press release.

Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed, managing director and chief executive officer of Jamuna Bank PLC, presided over the meeting.

Nur Mohammed, director of the bank, was also present, along with senior officials from the head office, and managers of all branches and sub-branches from the Dhaka North and Mymensingh zones, participated in the meeting.

Vietnam's textile

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and resilient value chains, Giang said.

Chairman of the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex) Lê Tiến Trường emphasised the importance of wisely adjusting production plans in the coming months to safeguard jobs and ensure stable incomes for workers.

He also said that enterprises must adopt flexible financial management strategies to stay competitive, absorb rising input costs and adapt pricing mechanisms to retain orders in an increasingly challenging global market.

To meet increasingly strict requirements in demanding markets, many garment enterprises are accelerating their transition towards green production and sustainable development.

Companies are investing in modern machinery, upgrading workers' skills, and shifting from traditional cut-make-trim (CMT) models to higher-value methods such as FOB (free on board), ODM (original design manufacturing), and OBM (original brand manufacturing).

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India needs "considerable ingenuity and flexibility" to escape "what appears to be a no-win situation", said Nandan Unnikrishnan of New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation.

Washington, Unnikrishnan argued, is telling India: "We think that you are the weakest link in the Russia-Ukraine geopolitics chain".

WHAT CAN INDIA DO?

New Delhi has sought to bolster its economy while deepening ties with both BRICS partners and regional rivals.

Jaishankar flew to ally Moscow, producing pledges to ease barriers to bilateral trade, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi is preparing his first visit to China in seven years to repair long-frosty relations.

Domestically, Indian media reports that the government is working on a

India readies

\$2.8 billion package for exporters, a six-year programme aimed at easing liquidity concerns.

Modi has also proposed tax cuts on everyday goods to spur spending and cushion the economy.

WHAT IS BLOCKING A TRADE DEAL?

Talks have stumbled over agriculture and dairy.

Trump wants greater US access, while Modi is determined to shield India's farmers, a huge voter bloc.

Indian media reports suggested that US negotiators cancelled a planned late-August trip to India. That sparked speculation that discussions had broken down.

Jaishankar, however, says talks are continuing, adding drily: "Negotiations are still going on in the sense that nobody said the negotiations are off," he said. "And people, people do talk to each other."



বিনিয়োগ অগ্রাধিকার

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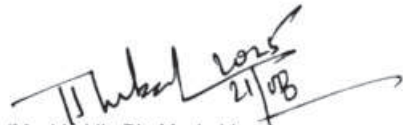
Date: 21 August 2025

Auction Notice

Sealed auctions are hereby invited from the interested National/Foreign Buyers/companies in order to sell Inventoried & Valuated Structure, Machinery, Equipment & other Assets by auction "as and where basis" of terminated industry named- **M/s. Liberty Poly Zone (BD) Ltd, Plot # 64/A, Sector# 03 and a piece of land, Karnaphuli EPZ** a Garment accessories manufacturing (Hanger, polybag, hangtag, etc.) industry or to operate the enterprise. To participate in the auction the terms & conditions are stated below:

Terms & Conditions:

- Interested Persons/Organizations/Existing enterprises of EPZ(s) (Local/Joint Venture/Foreign) or any other interested persons/organizations from outside EPZ can take part in this auction who are interested to purchase the Structure, Machinery, Equipment & other Assets "as and where basis" of the company by observing the existing rules and regulations in this regard;
- Successful bidder will have to pay VAT, TAX and other payable fees as per custom rules for the duty free imported Assets of existing Assets of industry to be taken out to the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA);
- Auction documents attached with a single pay order/bank draft/FDD or any other means approved by Bangladesh Government from any schedule bank of an amount of 15% as earnest money (non-refundable for successful bidder & refundable for unsuccessful bidder) must be submitted in favour of BEPZA. Auction documents without earnest money will be treated as rejected;
- Inventoried Structure, Machineries, Equipment & other Assets under the inventory list may be seen on **06-07 October 2025** from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Information regarding the visit and the list of Assets may be collected by contacting with the Executive Director, Karnaphuli-EPZ directly;
- If the auction is accepted by the Authority, the successful bidder will have to pay the remaining 85% amount of the quoted price along with applicable TAX & VAT within 15 days to BEPZA through Pay Order/Bank Draft/FDD or any other means approved by Bangladesh Government. Accordingly, the delivery of Structure, Machineries, Equipment & other Assets will have to be taken as per Customs & BEPZA rules;
- Auction Schedule may be bought by paying Tk. 5,000.00 (non-refundable) within **07 October 2025** during office hours from the Accounts Department of Karnaphuli-EPZ, Dhaka-EPZ, Adamjee EPZ, Cumilla-EPZ, Chattogram EPZ, Mongla EPZ, Ishwardi EPZ, Uttara EPZ & Accounts Department, BEPZA Executive Office, Dhaka;
- Auction schedule may be dropped into the auction box kept at the office of Executive Director, Karnaphuli EPZ on **13 October 2025** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and Submitted Auction documents will be opened in the same date at 12:30 pm at the office of Executive Director, Karnaphuli EPZ in presence of the bidders (if any). Updated copy of VAT, TIN and Trade License shall have to be attached with the Auction schedule; but this condition may be relaxed by the Authority in case of fully new 100% foreign owned company interested to invest in the EPZ;
- Persons/Organizations/Investors who are interested to operate the closed industry will get priority in auction;
- Successful bidder will have to take permission (if applicable) to operate the industrial unit in the EPZ by following the project sanctioning procedure of BEPZA as per rules;
- The Authority reserves the right to accept any auction or reject any or all of the submitted auctions without showing any reason. The Authority also reserves the right to cancel the Auction and accordingly take next action if the desired rates are not obtained.



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