



PHOTO: MERCANTILE BANK

Matil Hasan, managing director of Mercantile Bank PLC, and Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, additional director of Bangladesh Bank, exchange signed documents of the agreement at the BB headquarters in the capital's Motijheel recently.

Mercantile Bank joins Tk 500cr BB startup refinancing fund

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mercantile Bank PLC has signed a partnership agreement with Bangladesh Bank under a Tk 500-crore startup refinancing fund aimed at fostering innovation and supporting new entrepreneurs across the country.

Through this collaboration, Mercantile Bank will provide financing to eligible startups to stimulate economic growth, generate employment opportunities, and empower the next generation of innovators and business leaders.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur joined the event virtually.

Nurun Nahar, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank; Husne Ara Shikha, executive director; and Md Mostafidur Reza Chowdhury, head of SME at Mercantile Bank; along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.

Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, additional director of Bangladesh Bank, and Matil Hasan, managing director of Mercantile Bank PLC, signed the agreement at the central bank's headquarters in the capital's Motijheel recently, said a press release.

The programme is a female talent development initiative designed specifically for colleagues in Bangladesh, according to a

press release. Commenting on the achievement, Md Mahbub Ur Rahman, chief executive officer of HSBC Bangladesh, said: "At HSBC Bangladesh, we are committed to creating a culture of continuous learning and development. Our F Major Programme is about empowering talented women to represent Bangladesh and shape the future of our industry."

"This award inspires us to continue working towards a more inclusive and equitable workplace," he added. Nazika Imam, head of

people to drive long-term success."

The Brandon Hall Excellence Awards, often described as the "Academy Awards of Learning and Development", recognise organisations worldwide that deliver innovative and impactful programmes in talent development.

HSBC Bangladesh's F Major Programme was recognised during the 32nd annual edition of the awards for its unique approach to nurturing leadership, measurable business impact, and its role in shaping future-ready female leaders.



Prof Daniel W Lund, pro-vice-chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh, and M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director and head of consumer and SME banking at Prime Bank PLC, pose for group photographs on the university campus recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK

HSBC Bangladesh wins 'Brandon Hall Group Gold Medal 2025'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) in Bangladesh has been awarded the gold medal in the category of Best Leadership Development for Women at the Brandon Hall Group 2025 HCM Excellence Awards for its F Major Programme.

The programme is a female talent development initiative designed specifically for colleagues in Bangladesh, according to a



human resources and employee relations, said: "This award highlights HSBC Bangladesh's continued focus on investing in our

Idra signs group insurance agreement with Pragati Life Insurance

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra) has signed a group life and health insurance agreement with Pragati Life Insurance PLC.

M Aslam Alam, chairman of Idra, and Md Jalalul Azim, managing director and CEO of Pragati Life Insurance, signed the agreement in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Pragati Life will provide group life and health insurance coverage to Idra employees.

Md Fazlul Haque, member (administration) of IDRA; Tanzina Ismail, member (law); Mohammad Abu Bakar Siddique, member (non-life); Md Apel Mahmud, member (life); and Md Rafiqul Alam Bhuiyan, additional managing director (group insurance division) of Pragati Life, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



M Aslam Alam, chairman of Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority, and Md Jalalul Azim, managing director and CEO of Pragati Life Insurance PLC, pose for photographs after signing a group life and health insurance agreement for the former's employees in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PRAGATI LIFE INSURANCE

PBIL wins GFM Review awards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank Investment PLC (PBIL) has been recognised in two categories as the "Best Investment Bank, Bangladesh 2025" and "Best Portfolio Management Firm, Bangladesh 2025" by the Global Finance Market (GFM) Review, a leading online financial news portal.

The accolade of "Best Investment Bank, Bangladesh 2025" highlights PBIL's continued leadership in delivering high-impact financial advisory services, equity and debt capital raising, and discretionary portfolio management solutions.

According to a press release, the recognition affirms the firm's leading position in Bangladesh's competitive investment banking sector.

Meanwhile, the award for "Best Portfolio Management Firm, Bangladesh 2025" underscores PBIL's success, particularly through its flagship capital market investment brand, "PrimeInvest", a bank-managed scheme designed to maximise returns for investors while mitigating risks.

It offers bespoke, client-centric portfolio strategies tailored to the evolving needs of both institutional and retail investors.

Commenting on the accolades, Syed M Omar Tayub, managing director and CEO of PBIL, said, "At PBIL, we believe success stems from combining personalised, forward-

thinking solutions with a deep understanding of emerging financial technologies and trends."

"These awards are a testament to our team's hard work and commitment to delivering the highest quality service to our clients. We remain focused on shaping a more resilient and accessible investment landscape for Bangladesh," he added.

The wins come at a time when PBIL is expanding its product offerings and digital capabilities in line with global investment trends.

Its robust track record in portfolio management and capital markets advisory continues to reinforce its reputation as a trusted financial partner in Bangladesh and beyond, the press release added.

Economists back Fed Governor Cook as Trump attempts ouster

AFP, Washington

Nearly 600 economists have signed an open letter expressing support for Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook and US central bank independence, as Cook battles President Donald Trump's attempt to fire her.

"Good economic policy requires credible monetary institutions," said the letter, whose 593 signatories as of Tuesday include Nobel laureates and former US government officials.

"Credible monetary institutions, in turn, require the independence of the Federal Reserve," the letter added. The support came after Trump said on his Truth Social platform last week that he was immediately removing Cook over claims of mortgage fraud.

Cook, the first Black woman to serve on the Fed's board, is challenging her ouster in court.

On Tuesday, her lawyers pushed back on Trump's justification in firing her and argued in a filing that she was not given a chance to meaningfully contest allegations against her.

The open letter signed by economists noted that: "Recent public statements about Governor Cook -- including threats of removal and a claim that she has been fired -- have arrived alongside unproven accusations."

Sl. No.	Invitation Reference No.	Package description	Tendering method	Tender ID No.	Tender opening date & time
1.	46.06.200 0.000.000. 14.0014.0 9/MODS6	Construction of Boundary Wall & Semi pakha office for MODS Division at Karnaphuli CDA R/A under Chattogram WASA	OTM	1143112	30-Sep-2025 3:15pm

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 downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches within date mentioned in Tender Notice. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


Md. Golam Kibria Shakil
Executive Engineer
Bhandal Jhuri Water Supply Project
Chattogram WASA, Chattogram
Email: shakil.me07cuet@gmail.com

Prime Bank hosts seminar on financial inclusion, youth empowerment at IUB

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC, in collaboration with Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), its Department of Human Resource Management, and the Independent HR Society, recently organised a seminar titled "Financial Inclusion: Engaging & Inspiring Youth in Banking" at the IUB campus.

The programme, held under the banner of PrimeAcademia -- a flagship campus initiative of the bank -- serves as a comprehensive one-stop banking platform for academic institutions and their stakeholders across Bangladesh, according to a press release.

More than 200 students from diverse disciplines took part in the seminar, which provided an interactive platform to promote financial literacy, responsible money management, and career opportunities in the banking and financial services sector.



Prof Daniel W Lund, pro-vice-chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh, and M Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director and head of consumer and SME banking at Prime Bank PLC, pose for group photographs on the university campus recently. PHOTO: PRIME BANK



people to drive long-term success."

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বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌপরিবহন কর্পোরেশন
বিআইডিউটিসি
নৌপরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়
ফেয়ারলাই হাউজ
২৪, কাজি নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, বাংলামটর, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

Website: www.biwtc.gov

তারিখ: ১৫ ডিসেম্বর, ১৪৩২ ব.ৰ
ও মেটেরিয়াল, ২০২৫ খ্রি

বিষয়: বিআইডিউটিসি'র পুরাতন, অকেডো ও অলাইভেন্যু ২০ (বিপ) টি অস্থান "ক্ষয়াপ হিসাবে" এবং "বেথানে যে অবস্থা আছে তিউটিতে" বিক্রয়ের জন্য বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌপরিবহন কর্পোরেশন (বিআইডিউটিসি), ২৪, কাজি নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, বাংলামটর, ঢাকা-১০০০ কর্তৃক সীমান্তবৰ্তুত থামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র. নং	জমিদারের নাম	জমিদারের ধরন	পরিমাণ	অবস্থা
১)	এমডি আব্দুল খাতিম	বাণিজ্যিক	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১১'-১'০", প্রস্থ: ৩০'-২'০", গভীরতা: ১'৫"-১'৬"	সদরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম
২)	ফেয়ার আব্দুল শাহ	বো-রে ফেরি	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১১০'-১'০", প্রস্থ: ৪০'-১'১", গভীরতা: ১'-৬"	ডক্টরাইজড-২২, নাটগজ
৩)	ফেয়ার কিলোরী	বিভিন্ন মেরিং	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১২০'-০", প্রস্থ: ৪০'-০", গভীরতা: ১'-০"	ডক্টরাইজড-২১, নাটগজ
৪)	ফেয়ার মোর্তী	ওয়ার্কিংপ্র	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১৫'-০", প্রস্থ: ১০'-০", গভীরতা: ১'-০"	চুলনা
৫)	ফেয়ার কর্পুলী	চোট ফেরি	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১৫'-০", প্রস্থ: ১০'-০", গভীরতা: ১'-৬"	ডক্টরাইজড-২২, নাটগজ
৬)	ডিএল টালপো	চোট ফেরি	দৈর্ঘ্য: ২২০'-০", প্রস্থ: ৩'-০", গভীরতা: ১'-৬"	বাংলামট, চট্টগ্রাম, নাটগজ
৭)	ডি. এফ. বনুনা	চোট ফেরি	দৈর্ঘ্য: ২২০'-০", প্রস্থ: ৩'-০", গভীরতা: ১'-৬"	বাংলামট, চট্টগ্রাম
৮)	কেলজিয়াম	সাহারাবানী	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১০০'-০", প্রস্থ: ১'-০", গভীরতা: ৮'-১'৯"	ডক্টরাইজড-২১, নাটগজ
৯)	কেবিন ক্লান্স অ্যাজ	হারবার ডিটাই লক	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১২০'-০", প্রস্থ: ১'-০", গভীরতা: ১'-২"	ডক্টরাইজড-২০, নাটগজ
১০)	বিপি-১১৪১	মালবানী	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১৪৭'-০", প্রস্থ: ১০'-০", গভীরতা: ১'-২"	ডক্টরাইজড-১৯, নাটগজ
১১)	জান্তারা (বেইলি	ঘাটার্বার্জ	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১৬০'-০", প্রস্থ: ২'-০", গভীরতা: ১'-০"	চুলনা
১২)	জান্তারা (প্রস্ত)	ঘাটার্বার্জ	দৈর্ঘ্য: ২৪০'-০", প্রস্থ: ৩'-০", গভীরতা: ১'-৬"	ডক্টরাইজড-২১, নাটগজ
১৩)	টিপি-১	ঘাট পুর্ণ	দৈর্ঘ্য: ১০০'-০", প্রস্থ: ৩'-০", গভীরতা: ৮'-০"	চট্টগ্রাম
১৪)	ওয়াটার বাস-৫	ওয়াটার বাস	দৈর্ঘ্য: ৬০'-০", প্রস্থ: ১০'-০", গভীরতা: ৮'-১'৫"	চট্টগ্রাম
১৫)	ওয়াটার শহীদ লেখ	শী-ট্রাক	দৈর্ঘ	