

Jamuna Bank offers Tk 800cr bond with 12.65% return

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Jamuna Bank PLC has announced that it will raise Tk 800 crore through the issuance of its fifth subordinated bond, offering investors a secure, long-term investment option with an attractive rate of return.

The seven-year bond will be redeemed in five equal annual instalments starting at the end of the third year, the bank said in a press release.

Structured in line with international standards and regulatory requirements, the bond carries a floating coupon rate.

As of November 2025, the annual return stands at 12.65 percent, making it more lucrative than many traditional

fixed-income instruments such as government treasury bonds and fixed deposits.

The bank organised a launch event inaugurated by Md Belal Hossain, chairman of Jamuna Bank PLC.

"This subordinated bond not only enhances the bank's Tier-II capital but also offers investors an opportunity to diversify their portfolio with a low-risk, stable income instrument."

It reflects our focus on innovation, customer convenience and long-term financial stability," Hossain said.

Mirza Elias Uddin Ahmed, managing director and CEO of the bank, along with directors, divisional heads and branch managers, also attended the event.



Md Belal Hossain, chairman of Jamuna Bank PLC, attends the launch of the bank's fifth subordinated bond issuance programme in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: JAMUNA BANK

Prime Bank releases sustainability, climate reports



Chowdhury Liakat Ali, director of the Sustainable Finance Department at the Bangladesh Bank, unveils "Sustainability Report" and "Climate Action Report", released by Prime Bank PLC, at The Westin Dhaka yesterday. Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, was present.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC yesterday released its Sustainability Report and Climate Action Report, reaffirming its commitment to responsible and climate-conscious banking.

Chowdhury Liakat Ali, director of the Sustainable Finance Department at the Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the launching programme as the chief guest at The Westin Dhaka, according to a press release.

Ali addressed the gathering, offering encouraging words, guiding the bank on its sustainability journey, and outlining the regulator's expectations for commercial banks.

At the event, Hassan O Rashid, chief executive officer of Prime Bank PLC, emphasised the bank's long-term sustainability goals and strategic alignment with global climate priorities.

"This report reflects our continued journey in embedding sustainability into our core business and our collective responsibility to support a greener future," he stated.

Prime Bank showcased its diverse CSR programmes focusing on climate resilience, underscoring its role in fostering sustainable development across communities.

Through the publication of these reports, Prime Bank demonstrates its dedication to transparency, accountability and leadership in climate action, aligning with both national and global sustainability agendas, the release added.

Faisal Rahman, additional managing director of Prime Bank, and Ziaur Rahman, deputy managing director and chief risk officer, along with senior officials from the Bangladesh Bank Sustainable Finance Department, representatives from international partners and CSR collaborators, were also present.

Syed Mizanur Rahman appointed MD of Meghna Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Syed Mizanur Rahman, a seasoned professional with almost three decades of experience in the financial services sector, has been appointed the managing director of Meghna Bank PLC, effective from December 4, 2025.

Prior to this appointment, Rahman was serving as managing director and CEO of AB Bank, according to a press release.

He started his professional career with Novartis, previously known as Ciba-Geigy (Bangladesh) Limited, in 1993, and subsequently served at Youngone and Beximco before joining the banking industry.

He has previously worked at Dhaka Bank, IPDC, Bank Al-Falah and United Commercial Bank in key positions. Over the years, Rahman has acquired extensive knowledge in different segments of the banking industry, with a distinct focus on branch banking, retail, process transformation, business development and corporate communication.

Rahman completed his MBA from the Institute of Business Administration at the University of Dhaka.



Syed Mizanur Rahman

Dollar slips

REUTERS, New York

The U.S. dollar slipped on Friday but held within recent ranges against major currencies as traders awaited next week's Federal Reserve meeting, where policymakers are widely expected to cut interest rates.

The dollar index, which measures the currency against six peers, was down 0.1 percent at 98.994, not far from Thursday's five-week low of 98.765. For the week, the index was down 0.5 percent.

The euro was about flat at \$1.16433, not far from Thursday's three-week high of \$1.1681.

Traders are pricing a nearly 90 percent chance of a Fed rate cut next week, and potentially two more reductions next year, LSEG data showed.

"This week, some soft labor market data releases from alternative sources helped crystallize what still appears to be an overdone 90 percent probability of a cut next week," Antonio Ruggiero, FX & macro strategist at Convera, said.

Morgan Stanley said on Friday it now expects the Fed to deliver a quarter-percentage point rate cut in December, joining peers JPMorgan and BofA Global Research, following dovish remarks from central bank policymakers.

All three brokerages previously expected the Fed to hold rates steady in December.

"The dollar also continues to look overvalued relative to major peers, with the softer tone therefore fully justified," Ruggiero said.

Data on Friday that showed U.S. consumer sentiment improved in early December did little to boost the dollar.



Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of Eastern Bank PLC, inaugurates a new service, titled "EBL Priority Next Gen", at Le Meridien Dhaka in the capital recently.

Pubali Bank releases sustainability & impact report

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has launched a new service, titled "EBL Priority Next Gen", a bespoke banking segment created for the next generation of achievers—young visionaries poised to carry forward the values, ambition and legacy of EBL's Priority families.

Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of Eastern Bank PLC, inaugurated the service at Le Meridien Dhaka in the capital recently, according to a press release.

Iftekhar said, "Everything we have built—every milestone—has been shaped by trust, excellence and an unwavering commitment to our customers. Today, as we welcome the next generation, we reaffirm our promise to evolve and innovate financial experiences that

match their lifestyle, ambitions and vision for the future."

EBL Priority Next Gen offers a thoughtfully curated suite of lifestyle privileges, personalised wealth solutions, wellness benefits, global conveniences and seamless travel experiences crafted to match the pace, passion and purpose of tomorrow's leaders.

From dedicated relationship support to gourmet indulgences, from premium lounges to everyday lifestyle enhancements, EBL Priority Next Gen is designed to elevate the way its members live, move and succeed.

The launching event, themed "Prive", brought together young achievers, innovators and emerging leaders, celebrating a generation that dreams differently, moves faster and embraces opportunity with confidence.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, unveiled the report as the chief guest at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

The publication highlights the bank's progress across key environmental, social, and governance (ESG) indicators, outlining strategic initiatives and its contributions to community development and environmental stewardship.

This initiative further solidifies Pubali Bank's position as a leader in sustainable finance in Bangladesh, particularly following its recognition in 2024 as one of the country's most sustainable banks by Bangladesh Bank.

By adopting IFRS sustainability standards, the bank aims to provide stakeholders with high-quality, comparable, and reliable disclosures that support meaningful assessments of long-term value creation and impact.

Pubali Bank PLC, a leading private commercial bank in Bangladesh, continues to strengthen the nation's economic foundation through its focus on sustainable finance, technology-driven solutions, and strong governance practices.



Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, unveils the bank's first-ever "Annual Sustainability & Impact Report 2024" at its head office in Dhaka recently.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC has released its first-ever "Annual Sustainability & Impact Report 2024", marking a milestone in its commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible

banking.

Carrying the tagline "Green Financing Leads to Sustainability", the report is fully aligned with the globally recognised IFRS S1 and S2 sustainability disclosure standards, according to a press release.

Trust Bank signs deal with CG Runner BD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank PLC recently signed an agreement with CG Runner BD Limited, the official distributor of BYD in Bangladesh.

Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and chief executive officer of Trust Bank PLC, and Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of Runner Group, signed the agreement at the latter's corporate head office in Tejgaon, Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under this agreement, BYD customers can avail themselves of Trust Bank auto loans at a special rate with a waived processing fee, along with other value-added offers.

Senior officials from both organisations were also present at the ceremony.



Hafizur Rahman Khan, chairman of Runner Group, and Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and chief executive officer of Trust Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at CG Runner BD's corporate office in Tejgaon, Dhaka recently. PHOTO: TRUST BANK



Md Mahbub Alam, additional managing director of Southeast Bank PLC; Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard; Pranav Mehta, managing director of PepsiCo Bangladesh; and Sayeeful Islam, managing director of SSL Wireless, jointly inaugurate a co-branded SME credit card in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: MASTERCARD

Mastercard launches co-branded SME credit card with Southeast Bank, SSL Commerz

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mastercard, in collaboration with Southeast Bank PLC and SSL Commerz, has launched a co-branded SME credit card designed exclusively for PepsiCo's distributor Transcom Beverages Limited in Bangladesh.

This marks PepsiCo's first collaboration of its kind, bringing a seamless digital payment solution to its distributors.

The new card aims to empower distributors with easy access to credit, a seamless and secure digital payment experience, and efficient financial management tools, along with up to 45 days of free credit facilities.

The card will be uniquely tailored for distributors, offering a secure credit usage policy that strengthens credit management while enhancing their purchasing power and driving greater financial inclusion.

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Commenting on the collaboration, Alam said, "Southeast Bank has always been dedicated to empowering businesses through innovative financial solutions. This co-branded card will help PepsiCo distributors manage finances more efficiently while promoting digital payment adoption."

Kamal said, "By connecting businesses to our global network and digital tools, we are not just facilitating transactions; we are driving transformation in an increasingly connected economy."

At the event, Mehta said, "This co-branded SME credit card will not only provide financial convenience but also strengthen the business ecosystem by offering our partners access to modern digital financial solutions."

Islam said, "By integrating our robust digital payment infrastructure with this co-branded SME credit card, we aim to boost distributors' financial agility and help them grow with confidence."

India central bank cuts rates

AFP, Mumbai

India's central bank cut interest rates on Friday and signalled more could be on the way as low inflation provided room to help cushion the world's fifth-largest economy against US President Donald Trump's tariff blitz.

The decision also comes after the rupee hit a record low against the dollar this week -- having dropped around five percent in 2025 -- owing to ongoing worries about the lack of a trade deal with Washington and impact of the levies on the country's goods.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut the benchmark repo rate, the level at which it lends to commercial banks, 25 basis points to 5.25 percent after a unanimous vote by its monetary policy committee.

Some analysts had expected officials to stand pat, given that the bank had already cut rates more than 100 basis points this year and economic growth hit a six-quarter high in July-September.

But a majority had argued that easing price pressures and mounting risks to India's economic outlook stemming from Trump's tariffs justified a reduction.

With US tariffs sitting at 50 percent, exporters are warning of cancelled orders and widespread job losses, while analysts say the tolls could knock up to 80 basis points off economic growth this year.

And while Indian officials remain optimistic of finalising the first phase of a trade deal by the end of the year, neither side has announced a breakthrough.

National SME Product Fair begins today

SME Foundation is organising the 12th edition of the show



An SME entrepreneur is talking with visitors at the SME Fair 2024.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The 12th National SME Product Fair is set to begin today, highlighting Bangladesh's growing small and medium enterprise (SME) sector with a focus on expanding market access, fostering innovation, and promoting local entrepreneurship.

Organised by the SME Foundation, the eight-day event will take place at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

At its core, the fair aims to provide market exposure for locally produced SME goods, facilitate business networking, and connect entrepreneurs directly with consumers, financiers, and policymakers.

Officials say the initiative is designed not only to showcase domestic products but also to equip SMEs with the tools, knowledge, and financing opportunities needed to scale up in a competitive environment--both locally and internationally.

"Many SME entrepreneurs face challenges in marketing their products despite high-quality production. This fair serves as a platform to bridge that gap," said Md

Musfiqur Rahman, chairperson of the SME Foundation, according to a press release issued by the Foundation.

More than 350 SMEs are expected to exhibit at this year's fair, with 60 percent being women-led enterprises.

Exhibitors will span a wide range of sectors, including apparel, handicrafts, leather, agro-processing, ICT services, light engineering, and herbal products, the press release said.

It added that the fair also aims to enhance financial inclusion through daily banker-entrepreneur matchmaking events, where nearly 30 participating banks and financial institutions will guide entrepreneurs on accessing SME loans. In some cases, on-site loan applications may be accepted.

To strengthen knowledge sharing, six thematic seminars will be held between December 8 and 10, covering topics such as export diversification, innovation, halal certification, IP rights, blended finance, and skills ecosystem development. These sessions aim to inform entrepreneurs about regulatory, technical, and financing pathways critical for sustainable growth.

A key highlight of the fair will be the

presentation of the National SME Entrepreneur Awards 2025, recognising six outstanding entrepreneurs in the micro, small, medium, and startup categories.

Since its inception in 2012, the SME Foundation has organised 11 national and 93 regional fairs, supporting over 5,000 entrepreneurs. According to the foundation, past fairs have generated Tk 57 crore in direct sales and Tk 93 crore in product orders.

The event's chief patron is The City Bank, with other sponsors including BRAC Bank, Eastern Bank, Bank Asia, IDLC Finance, LankaBangla Finance, United Finance, and IPDC Finance. Only locally produced goods will be allowed for display and sale, with no foreign or imported items permitted.

By combining exhibition, financial support, training, and policy dialogue, the fair continues to position itself as a key national initiative to elevate Bangladesh's SME ecosystem--a sector seen as crucial for job creation, inclusive growth, and industrial diversification.

The fair will remain open to visitors until December 14, from 10 am to 9 pm daily--with no entry fee.

Mid-range apartments keep struggling property

FROM PAGE B1

Premium flats are generally over 2,000 square feet and cost more than Tk 2.5 crore.

Developers say wealthy buyers are either in hiding or keeping a low profile following the mass uprising that removed the Awami League government in August last year.

They also noted that the interim government's move to remove the option to legalise undeclared income by investing in property has further deteriorated investment.

Even the mid-range digests a hit

The mid-range segment may now be propping up the sector, but it has not escaped the property slowdown.

Sales have fallen by 40 percent to 50 percent compared with the FY23, said Ahmed of Shanta Holdings.

He described this category as the main source of cash flow for developers and the lifeline of the entire industry. "When this segment suffers, the entire sector faces trouble."

Meanwhile, bti's Siddiqua said demand for

weakened due to persisting high inflation and bank interest rates.

Apartment sales boomed in fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23) after the Covid pandemic, when pent-up demand pushed the market to a peak. The momentum faded the following year as the wider economy began to show signs of distress.

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Meanwhile, bti's Siddiqua said demand for

homes has not vanished, but has shifted and become concentrated among mid-range buyers. Low-end customers remain somewhat absent from the market.

She said buyers in the mid segment expect competitive prices, but developers find it difficult to meet that expectation due to the high cost of land and construction materials.

Siddiqua added that discounts are rarely offered publicly. "In real estate, any negotiation on price typically happens one-on-one with the customer."

Despite the fall in sales, especially in the low and high brackets, banks say demand for home loans has stayed stable.

The head of mortgage at a leading private bank said mid-range buyers remain active and group housing initiatives are becoming more common, with professionals joining together to buy land and

build homes. Current home loan interest rates range from 11 percent to 12 percent. The maximum tenure is 25 years, with a ceiling of Tk 2 crore, the official said.

NEW PROJECTS DECLINE

Liakat Ali Bhuiyan, senior vice president of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB), said the industry agrees that sales have fallen sharply.

The market is likely to remain stagnant until uncertainty over national-level decisions is resolved," he said.

The new Detailed Area Plan (DAP 2022-2035) has also affected the sector, as the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) has reduced building height and floor area ratios in many locations.

Bhuiyan said this has slowed new projects and stalled some ongoing developments.

Ahmed of Shanta Holdings said declining sales have put many small and mid-sized developers under financial pressure.

He added that high lending rates and liquidity shortages in banks are making it difficult for companies to raise capital.

According to Anup Kumar Sarker, senior executive director of Concord Group, diversified companies are coping better, while those focused on narrow segments face greater challenges.

Sarker said no one can predict when the sector will recover. Once demand returns, however, prices may rise.

REHAB's Bhuiyan said fewer new projects mean supply is shrinking. "Every year there is a natural demand in the market, but when the supply drops below that threshold, pressure builds up, eventually impacting prices."

HSBC

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The Daily Star | Prime Bank

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

FOREIGN OPERATORS FOR LALDIA AND PANGAON TERMINALS

- Agreements have been signed to assign foreign operators for Laldia and Pangaon container terminals
- The operators will get full tax break for 10 years
- Denmark-based APM Terminals will build and operate the Laldia terminal in Chattogram for 30 years
- Switzerland-based Medlog will manage Pangaon terminal in Keraniganj for 22 years
- The interim government insists that the agreements will protect national interests
- But political parties and activists question why an interim authority with a short mandate rushed to take such long-term and sensitive decisions



DEFAULT LOANS HIT 36%, HIGHEST IN 25 YEARS

TOTAL VS. DEFAULTED LOANS (SEPTEMBER)

Tk 18.03 lakh crore

TOTAL DISBURSED LOANS

Tk 6.44 lakh crore

DEFAULTED LOANS
(around 36% of the total)

SOURCE: BB

MAJOR BORROWERS DEFAULTED

- S Alam
- Beximco
- Orion
- Abdul Monem

Following the fall of the Awami League government in August last year.

ONE-YEAR INCREASE

Tk 3.61 lakh crore

DEFAULTED LOANS INCREASED in just one year.

END OF SEPTEMBER:

36%

YEAR EARLIER: 16.93%

AnonTex

Sikder Group



SAMMILITO ISLAMI BANK

all set to start operations

- The bank is scheduled to launch in the first week of December 2025.
- Administrative operations have already begun at its head office in Sena Kalyan Bhaban, located in Dhaka's Motijheel.
- Depositors will be able to withdraw up to Tk 2 lakh immediately. Thereafter, they can withdraw a portion of their deposit every three months.
- On November 26, Bangladesh Bank approved an additional Tk 350 crore in liquidity support for the five banks.
- Staff of the five banks may face salary and benefit cuts.



REMITTANCE & EXPORTS

In November, exports fell for the fourth month while remittance rose 31% Y-O-Y

INTEGRATED FERTILISER DEALER

Appointment and Distribution Policy 2025

- Govt introduced the policy with effect from November 16
- New policy will ensure discipline in fertiliser distribution
- Deliver fertiliser to farmers on time
- Make fertiliser available at govt-fixed prices
- Around 2,000 problematic dealers identified for review
- New policy aims to save Tk 3,000cr-Tk 4,000cr annually through reforms



NINE NBFIS TO BE LIQUIDATED

- Bangladesh Bank has approved the liquidation of nine non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs).
- The nine institutions are: FAS Finance, Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company, Premier Leasing, Farest Finance, GSP Finance, Prime Finance, Aviva Finance, People's Leasing, and International Leasing.
- These nine account for 52% of the sector's total defaulted loans.
- Bangladesh Bank can now shut down the institutions, appoint liquidators, sell their assets, and distribute the proceeds to claimants.

Bad loans as percentage of TOTAL LOANS

FAS Finance	99.93	Aviva Finance	82.64
Farest Finance	98.13	Prime Finance	77.71
BIFC	97.30	Premier Leasing	75.20
International Leasing	95.97	GSP Finance	58.49
People's Leasing	95		

Bangladesh on Track for LDC Graduation

The government, in a recent report, states that Bangladesh remains on track for sustainable graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category.

The report was submitted to the UN Committee for Development Policy (UNCPD) in early November.

The report comes at a time when businesses have called for a deferment of graduation by up to six years.

Bangladesh is projected to lose around \$8 billion in exports after graduation due to the loss of duty-free and quota-free market access.

Prime Bank

24/7 Helpline 16218 | Sign Language Video Call Service 0131 211 16218
10 AM - 4 PM

Home is Where Your Story Begins

Prime Home Loan up to BDT 2.00 Crore

