

Prime Bank hosts session on inclusive banking in Savar

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC yesterday organised a session, titled "From Access to Empowerment: Advancing Banking for Persons with Disabilities", in collaboration with Team Inclusion Bangladesh in Savar, Dhaka, as part of its efforts to build a barrier-free and inclusive banking ecosystem.

During the event, chequebooks and debit cards were distributed among visually impaired customers, enabling them to conduct financial transactions independently.

The bank also facilitated instant account opening for individuals with different physical challenges, helping integrate them into the formal financial system.

MM Mahub Hasan, senior vice-president and head of financial inclusion and school banking at Prime Bank PLC, and Md Jahirul Islam, founder and executive director of Team Inclusion Bangladesh, attended the event and appreciated the initiative.

In his address, Hasan said inclusive banking is a responsibility rather than a choice.

"Our initiative to introduce wheelchair friendly cash service counters in newly opened and renovated branches has also been widely appreciated."

"In addition, the Sign Language Video Call Service for



MM Mahub Hasan, senior vice-president and head of financial inclusion and school banking at Prime Bank PLC, poses for a group photograph with participants of the session, hosted by the bank and Team Inclusion Bangladesh in Savar, Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

hearing- and speech-impaired customers launched by Prime Bank received a national fintech award last year," he added.

Islam said the bank's inclusive approach — combining financial literacy, technology and accessible infrastructure — sets an important benchmark for the

banking industry.

Among others, Kazi Reshad Mahboob, senior vice-president and head of consumer protection and service quality, and Md Shakhawoat Houssain, head of the Hemayetpur branch, were also present.

Gold edges up

REUTERS

Gold edged higher on Wednesday on safe-haven demand and as a retreat in oil prices calmed inflation worries, reviving expectations for potential Federal Reserve rate cuts this year as investors awaited US CPI data that may offer more cues.

Spot gold was up 0.1 percent at \$5,198.29 per ounce, as of 0641 GMT. US gold futures for April delivery fell 0.7 percent to \$5,206.40.

Oil prices dropped below \$90 per barrel amid reports that the International Energy Agency proposed the largest release of oil reserves in its history to curb surging prices.

"With these (inflation) concerns having eased... hedging and safe-haven attributes (of gold) have once again come to the fore. So, I think from current levels we remain optimistic," said Nikos Kavalis, Singapore managing director of Metals Focus.

The US and Israel pounded Iran with what the Pentagon and the Iranians on the ground called the most intense airstrikes of the war, despite global markets betting that Trump will seek to end the conflict soon.

The war has effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas, stranding tankers for more than a week and forcing producers to halt output as storage fills, driving energy prices soaring.



Syed Mohammad Mosaddeq Billah, chairman of the shariah supervisory committee of the NRBC AI-Amin Islamic Banking Window, inaugurates the bank's new service, titled "Digital Donation Box", at its head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NRBC BANK

NRBC Bank launches digital donation box

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NRBC Bank PLC's AI-Amin Islamic Banking Window has launched a new service, titled "Digital Donation Box", to encourage charity and promote cashless transactions.

Through Bangla QR, any amount of money can be donated from various bank apps and mobile banking apps to the digital donation boxes of mosques, madrasas, orphanages and other charitable organisations.

Syed Mohammad Mosaddeq Billah, chairman of the shariah supervisory committee of the NRBC AI-Amin Islamic Banking Window, inaugurated the service at the bank's head office in Dhaka

recently, according to a press release.

During the event, it was announced that under the Shariah-based AI-Amin Islamic Banking services, NRBC Bank facilitates the opening of accounts for various charitable institutions such as mosques, madrasas, orphanages and other non-profit organisations at its branches.

QR codes are being provided using the account numbers opened in the names of these institutions.

Speaking at the event, Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO of the bank, said the Digital Donation Box will enable people to contribute to charitable causes in an easy, secure and transparent manner.

Eastern Bank provides Tk 46 lakh aid to Friendship

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Friendship, a non-governmental organisation in Bangladesh, to expand access to essential healthcare and safe drinking water for vulnerable communities across the country.

Under Friendship's Char Surgery Access Programme, the partnership will bring specialist surgical care to isolated river island communities in northern Bangladesh. More than 1,000 surgeries are planned under the initiative, aiming to restore sight, mobility, dignity and quality of life for patients who often have little or no access to specialised medical treatment.

Ahmed Shaheen, additional managing director of Eastern Bank PLC, and Runa Khan, founder and executive director of Friendship, signed the MoU at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Later, Shaheen handed over a cheque of Tk 46 lakh to Khan, marking the start of the collaboration. Speaking at the event, Shaheen said Friendship plays an instrumental role in humanitarian service through its fleet of floating hospitals.

He added that EBL is pleased to support initiatives that address healthcare gaps while helping communities adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Khan said the partnership combines two



Runa Khan, founder and executive director of Friendship, receives an aid cheque worth Tk 46 lakh from Ahmed Shaheen, additional managing director of Eastern Bank PLC, at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

urgent priorities for vulnerable communities: access to essential surgical care and safe drinking water.

By addressing both, she said, the initiative will improve health and quality of life while strengthening resilience among communities facing exclusion and climate vulnerability.

Muhammed Shameem Reza, senior director of, legal and chief financial officer of the NGO; Kazi Amdadul Hoque, senior director and head

of strategy, planning and climate action; Rafi Abul Hasnath Siddique, deputy director for health; and Enamul Haque, assistant director partnership development; attended the event.

Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external Affairs of the bank; Md Abdullah Al Mamun, company secretary; Major (retired) Md Abdus Salam, head of administration; and Md Maskur Reza, head of business information systems, among others, were also present.

Citizens Bank signs deal with BREB

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Citizens Bank PLC has recently signed an agreement with the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB).

Under the agreement, Citizens Bank PLC will facilitate the collection of electricity bills for Palli Bidyut Samities operating under the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board through its branches and sub-branches across the country.

Md Mostafizur Rahman, deputy managing director of Citizens Bank PLC, and Md Masud Parvez, director (finance) of the Directorate of Financial Monitoring (northern region) of the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, signed the agreement at the BREB head office in Nikunja-2, Dhaka, according to a press release.

Alamgir Hossain, managing director of the bank, and Najmus Sayadat, member (finance) of BREB, attended the signing ceremony.

Md Abdul Latif, deputy managing director of the bank, and Md Idris, controller (finance and accounts) of BREB, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Md Masud Parvez, director (finance) of the Directorate of Financial Monitoring (northern region) of the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, and Md Mostafizur Rahman, deputy managing director of Citizens Bank PLC, exchange signed documents of the agreement at the BREB head office in Nikunja-2, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: CITIZENS BANK

Hormuz crisis

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"We halted shipments on the very first day the tensions started. None of our containers remains stuck because we did not release them from the factory."

However, he said many exporters who had already shipped goods are now facing difficulties at Chattogram port.

"Some containers are stuck at the port. In some cases, shipping lines are charging demurrage. In other cases, goods are being stored at depots and accumulating additional charges," he added.

Farhad said those who shipped goods without calculating the risks are now facing the biggest problems.

Referring to export data from the Export Promotion Bureau, he estimated Bangladesh's processed food exports to the Middle East at \$40 million to \$45 million annually. The entire agriculture sector fetched around \$65.24 million in the last fiscal year.

Farhad also noted the

large value difference between products.

"For example, a container of spices may be worth about \$100,000, while a container of chips may be worth only around \$5,000," he said.

Quamrul Hassan, chief business officer of ACI Consumer Brands, said the disruption in the Strait of Hormuz has effectively halted exports to several Gulf markets.

"If the Strait of Hormuz is closed, it naturally affects markets like Dubai, Qatar and Kuwait. Most shipments to those countries pass through that route," Hassan told The Daily Star.

ACI exports products such as biscuits, puffed rice and flattened rice to the region, which sell well during Ramadan. "Right now, no one is able to send shipments," he said.

Exports to the region are usually based on advance orders placed by importers. "When exports stop, sales stop. And when sales stop, losses increase," Hassan added.

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Memo No: 35.01.5400.442.07.006.26-377 Date: 11-03-2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is being in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur for the procurement of:

Sl No	Tender ID	Name of work	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1.	1240521 e-GP/48/EE/MRD/MP-Major/2025-2026	Periodic Maintenance Programme (PMP-Major-Road) Providing Widening, Strengthening flexible Pavement, DBS Base Course, DBS Wearing Course, Protective work & Other ancillary works from Ch. 88+325 (Shimultola) to 94+700 (Amgram) of Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Mawa-Bhanga-Barishal-Patukhali (N-8) National Highway Road under Road Division, Madaripur during the FY 2025-2026.	08-Apr-2026 17:00	09-Apr-2026 14:00	09-Apr-2026 14:00
2.	1240522 e-GP/49/EE/MRD/MP-Major/2025-2026	Periodic Maintenance Programme (PMP-Major-Road) Providing Strengthening flexible Pavement, DBS Base Course, DBS Wearing Course, Protective work, U-Drain & Other ancillary works from Ch. 78+150 (Boroitola) to Ch. 88+325 (Shimultola) of Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Mawa-Bhanga-Barishal-Patukhali (N-8) National Highway Road under Road Division, Madaripur during the FY 2025-2026.	05-Apr-2026 17:00	06-Apr-2026 17:00	06-Apr-2026 17:00

1. This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP portal.

2. To submit e-Tender registration in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

3. For further information, Please contact e-GP helpdesk. (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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Memo No. e-Tender/PWD/Raj/25-26/2826 Date: 11-03-2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

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

Tender ID No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time
1243100	Remaining construction work of 2nd Floor & 3rd Floor Kalukhali Police Station (Including Civil, Sanitary and Electrification) having 06 Storied Foundation in Rajbari District.	08-04-2026 5:00pm

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration required in the National e-GP System.

The fee for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.

Further information and guide are available in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

S.M. Towhidul Islam
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Executive Engineer
Rajbari PWD Division, Rajbari

GD-562