

Prime Bank cardholders to enjoy discounts at Motorhead BD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has recently signed a partnership agreement with Motorhead BD Ltd, a Dhaka-based automotive service and supply company, to provide benefits to the bank's customers.

Joarder Tanvir Faisal, head of cards and retail assets at Prime Bank PLC, and Ekramul Huq, director and head of business at Motorhead BD Ltd, signed the agreement at the bank's corporate office on Gulshan Avenue in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under this agreement, Prime Bank customers will enjoy a 12 percent

discount on various automotive services offered by Motorhead BD Ltd.

The partnership reflects Prime Bank's continued commitment to delivering added value and exclusive lifestyle benefits to its customers through strategic collaborations with leading service providers, the release added.

Takiyan Chowdhury, senior vice president of the Secured Consumer Financing and Embedded Payments at Prime Bank, and Tariqul Islam Rajib, director of the automobile service and supply company, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present at the signing ceremony.



Ekramul Huq, director and head of business at Motorhead BD Ltd, and Joarder Tanvir Faisal, head of cards and retail assets at Prime Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the agreement at the bank's corporate office on Gulshan Avenue in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

China banks eye profit boost as \$8tn in deposits to be repriced

REUTERS, Beijing

China's leading state-owned banks are expected to recover this year from record-low profit margins as the repricing of nearly \$8 trillion worth of maturing high-priced time deposits eases pressure on their funding costs.

The top five state banks, some of the biggest in the world, are expected by analysts to post a drop in profits or lower income growth for 2025 when they release annual results this week as they reeled from a deepening property sector debt crisis and a slowing economy.

While the war in Iran could stoke cost-push inflation and pile pressure on corporates, jobs and wages in the world's second-largest economy that is already battling deflation, analysts see mitigating factors for lenders this year.

Chief among them is the repricing of high-cost time deposits as the tightly controlled deposit rates have been steadily lowered by the regulator over the past four years with a view to protecting the profit margins of the lenders. That is expected to boost their profits.

"Deposit repricing will be the main driver behind banks' earnings performance bouncing back in 2026 and should help stabilise their net interest margins," said Zhang Yiwei, an analyst at China Galaxy Securities.

Despite Iran war risks fuelling inflation and pressuring firms, jobs and wages in deflation-hit China, analysts expect some factors to cushion banks this year

Zhang estimated around 54 trillion yuan (\$7.8 trillion) in time deposits at listed banks will mature in 2026, and rolling over of maturing three-year deposits at current rates will lower costs by roughly 135 basis points compared to 2023 levels.

That is estimated to add about 12 basis points overall to banks' net interest margins (NIMs), a key gauge of profitability, said Zhang.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China is estimated to post a 2 percent decline in 2025 profit, while China Construction Bank is expected to report a 0.4 percent decline, according to LSEG data.

Agricultural Bank of China is forecast to report a 2.3 percent net profit growth, though slower than last year. Bank of China (BOC) and Bank of Communications (BoCom) are expected to post growth below 1 percent, the data showed.

For 2026, three of the five lenders are expected to report a 2.3 percent to 3.3 percent year-on-year growth in net profit, with BoC at 0.9 percent and BoCom at 1.5 percent according to the data.

The repricing of maturing time deposits, which Huatai Securities estimates at a record 50 trillion yuan in 2026, comes at a critical time for banks. China has cut benchmark lending rates repeatedly over the past few years amid weak credit demand, squeezing NIMs to record lows and forcing lenders to seek alternative revenue sources.

"We expect margin pressure to alleviate for Chinese banks and stabilise in 2027, driven primarily by deposit repricing," said Ming Tan, Director, S&P Global Ratings.

Eastern Bank supports Red Crescent Society to boost mother and child health centres



Kabir M Ashraf Alam, secretary general of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, receives financial aid of Tk 40 lakh from Maj (retd) Md Abdus Salam, head of administration of Eastern Bank PLC, at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) to support and enhance the functionality of selected mother and child health (MCH) centres across the country.

Maj (retd) Md Abdus Salam, head of administration of Eastern Bank PLC, and Kabir M Ashraf Alam, secretary general of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, signed the MoU at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under this initiative, EBL will provide financial aid of Tk 40 lakh to support the improvement of health services at four BDRCS MCH centres located in Kishoreganj, Narsingdi, Brahmanbaria,

and Dinajpur, many of which serve rural, remote, and disaster-prone communities with limited access to quality healthcare.

The initiative, titled "Improving Mother and Child Health Service Provision", will run for 12 months and is expected to benefit around 15,000 people, including mothers, children, and elderly community members.

The project will support infrastructure renovation, improved sanitation and water facilities, installation of essential diagnostic equipment, and regular medical support from qualified physicians, including general practitioners and gynaecology specialists.

Currently, BDRCS operates 56 Mother and Child Health (MCH) centres serving approximately 1.4 million people across Bangladesh.

Trust Bank launches Smart Teller Machine

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank PLC has launched its Smart Point along with the country's first Smart Teller Machine (STM), marking another milestone in the bank's ongoing efforts to enhance digital banking services and customer convenience.

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman, chairman of Trust Bank PLC, inaugurated the services as the chief guest in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Established at SKS Tower in Mohakhali, the Smart Point features both the Smart Teller Machine (STM) and Cash Recycling Machine (CRM), enabling customers to access a wide range of banking services quickly and conveniently.

Through these machines, customers can instantly open accounts, receive

debit cards, withdraw and deposit cash, request loans, generate account statements, and perform various other banking transactions.

The Smart Point functions as a digital branch, allowing customers to complete essential banking activities without visiting a physical branch.

The introduction of the Smart Teller Machine (STM) for the first time in Bangladesh enables customers to open accounts and receive debit cards instantly, significantly enhancing convenience and efficiency in banking services.

The launch of the Smart Point and STM reinforces Trust Bank's strategic focus on innovation, digital transformation, and customer-centric banking services. The bank plans to gradually expand Smart Points across multiple locations in the country.



Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman, chairman of Trust Bank PLC, poses for a group photograph after launching the new services of Smart Point and the Smart Teller Machine in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: TRUST BANK

US seeks to ease oil fears

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Oil prices tumbled Monday as Trump ordered a halt on strikes targeting Iranian infrastructure following "very good" talks. But Tehran denied that negotiations were underway.

Wright told CNBC on Monday that even though the world is undergoing a "short-term period of disruption" now, "the long-term benefits will be enormous."

"Economic terrorism" - Separately, the chief of

UAE state energy company ADNOC slammed Tehran's actions to effectively block the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for global energy supplies.

"Weaponising the Strait of Hormuz is not an act of aggression against one nation," Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber said in virtual remarks to the conference.

"It's economic terrorism against every nation. And no country should be allowed to hold Hormuz hostage," he added.

TotalEnergies chief

Patrick Pouyanne expects "very high" liquefied natural gas prices by the summer, when gas storage in Europe is being refilled, if the strait is not reopened.

US energy giant Chevron's chief executive Mike Wirth warned that oil prices have yet to fully factor in fallout from the blockade.

"In particular, Asia is facing some real concerns about supply," he said, citing government measures to conserve stocks.

Even after the war ends, it will take time to rebuild inventories, he added.

Wind power projects - Outside the conference venue, dozens of demonstrators pushed back on fossil fuel reliance.

Chloe Torres of the Texas Campaign for the Environment said her community in Corpus Christi has been hit by "hyper-industrialisation" from the fossil fuel and petrochemical industry.

"We are rapidly running out of water," she said,

adding that industrial demand has strained resources.

At the event, the Trump administration reached a deal with French energy giant TotalEnergies in which it would pay almost \$1 billion to end its US offshore wind farm projects, the Interior Department said.

The \$928 million reimbursement, which was what TotalEnergies paid for project leases, would instead be invested in US oil and gas projects.

Philippines declares

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while fast-tracking aid to individuals in "crisis situations".

The Philippines, which has some of the region's highest energy costs, is heavily dependent on imported fuel to keep its power plants running.

The archipelago nation of 116 million relies on coal for about 60 percent of its electricity generation.

Energy secretary Sharon Garin told reporters earlier Tuesday that with the cost of LNG (liquefied natural gas) soaring, the country would "temporarily" be forced to lean even more heavily on the carbon-belching fossil fuel.

While hoping to "maximise" the use of local coal, the Philippines was also keeping the option of upping its purchases of coal from top supplier Indonesia, the energy secretary said.

"We talked to the generation companies, the coal-powered plants, to check how much

they can increase their generation," Garin said, calling it a "temporary measure" that could start as early as April 1.

"If we are successful in implementing this, at least we can decrease the electricity rate hikes because of the conflict in the Middle East," she said.

Indonesia, meanwhile, had assured the Philippines it would place no limits on coal orders.

"There's no restriction on our importation of coal from Indonesia as of today," Garin said, adding increased purchases may not be necessary.

President Marcos in January announced a "significant" discovery of natural gas made near the country's rapidly depleting Malampaya offshore natural gas field.

It was hoped the discovery could extend the life of the field, which supplies about 40 percent of power to main island Luzon and was expected to run dry within a few years.

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e-Tender Notice

SI No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Tender last selling date and time	Tender closing date and time
01	1247215	GP/24/LTM/EE/Sat/RHD/2025-2026	Partial Repairing of damaged portion Using Aggregate Base Type-II and earth work from Ch: 13+700m to 14+850m-695m of Royra-Noabeki-Shyamnagar Road (Z-7610) under Road Division Satkhira [FY:2025-26]	30-Mar-2026 17:00	31-Mar-2026 12:00

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Anwar
16.3.2026

Mohammad Anwar Pervez
ID No. 602278
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Satkhira

GD-641

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Superintendent of Police, Bhola
www.bhola.police.gov.bd

Memo No. Police Office Bhola/971 Dated: 16/03/2026

e-Tender Notice
Tendering Method: NCT-OTM

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

SL No	Tender ID	Procurement Nature, Title	Last date & time of tender document purchasing	Last date & time of tender submission opening
1	1248117	Goods, Procurement of Vitamin A-rich Edible Oil for ration of Bhola district police (4th quarter), FY-2025-2026 (01 April/2026 to 30 June/2026)	05-Apr-2026 13:00	05-Apr-2026 15:00:00
2	1248165	Goods, Procurement of lentils (premium quality small-grain lentils in transparent poly packs of 3.5 kg, 4 kg, and 5.5 kg) for the ration of Bhola District Police (4th quarter), FY 2025-2026 (01 April 2026 to 30 June 2026).	05-Apr-2026 13:00	05-Apr-2026 15:00:00
3	1248170	Goods, Procurement of Polau rice (1 Kg poly pack)/for ration of Bhola district police (4th quarter), FY-2025-2026 (01 April/2026 to 30 June/2026)	05-Apr-2026 13:00	05-Apr-2026 15:00:00
4	1248167	Goods, Procurement of wheat making by Automation (Transport and labour cost with 4 and 5 kg pack) for the ration of Bhola District Police (4th quarter), FY 2025-2026 (01 April 2026 to 30 June 2026).	05-Apr-2026 13:00	05-Apr-2026 15:00:00
5	1248174	Goods, Procurement of Transport with labour cost (Iner and outer dist.) for ration of Bhola district police (4th quarter) FY-2025-26 (01 April 2026 to 30 June 2026)	05-Apr-2026 13:00	05-Apr-2026 15:00:00

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.

Special Note: The contractor must send the sample of Edible oil(soyabean), Masoor Dal, Flour and Polau Rice to Police Super Bhola Office, by 12.00 PM 05-04-2026

Anwar
16.3.2026

(Md. Shahidullah Kowsar, PPM-S&R)
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