FAO to provide $447,000 for pesticide safety, women's businesses

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh will receive $447,000 in grants from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for safer pesticide management and green businesses led by rural women.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the FAO signed two agreements in Dhaka yesterday to implement the projects.

ERD Secretary Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky and FAO Representative in Bangladesh Jiaoqun Shi signed the agreements, according to a press release.

Of the total grant, $200,000 will fund a four-year project to strengthen pesticide management, while $247,000 will support a 24-month initiative to help rural women establish environmentally friendly businesses.

The first project, titled "Strengthening Capacities for Lifecycle Management of Pesticides", is part of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme, funded by China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

The project will support updated pesticide regulations, digital registration systems, stronger enforcement and improved laboratory capacity for residue testing. It will also raise farmers' awareness of safe pesticide use.

The project document reports that more than 30 percent of vegetables in Bangladesh contain excessive pesticide residues.

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The second initiative, "Green Roots Women's Farm Labs", is being piloted in Bangladesh and Uganda. Building on the FAO's Farmer Field School approach, it will help rural women develop green micro-businesses through training, appropriate technology, and access to finance and markets.

Nagad app gets new look

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Nagad, the mobile financial service of the Bangladesh Postal Department, has rolled out a redesigned mobile application aimed at making digital financial transactions faster, easier, and more secure.

Built with a user-friendly interface and cutting-edge technology, the new app will elevate people's daily financial experience to new heights, according to a press release on October 13.

Designed as one of the safest apps in the country's financial sector, it will be continuously upgraded and made more user-friendly in phases, with many new features to be added in the future.

The new Nagad app is now available on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. Customers must update the app before making any new transactions to ensure uninterrupted digital services.

The transaction experience on Nagad has become smoother and more convenient. The new app features significantly lower response, load, and lag times compared to other financial service apps. Frequently used features have been organised based on customer convenience. With its simple and hassle-free design, marginalised populations can also use the app easily.

BRAC Bank, IFPRI to build digital financing ecosystem for farmers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BRAC Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) have recently partnered to expand digital payments and access to formal credit across Bangladesh's agricultural value chains.

The Gates Foundation is supporting the initiative, which was developed under FINNOVISION, BRAC Bank's impact-driven SME Innovation Lab, according to a press release.

The two-year pilot, which will run until October 2028, will bring farmers and agricultural input retailers into the digital payments ecosystem. Their digital transaction histories will then help assess creditworthiness and facilitate access to formal financing for individuals and businesses that have traditionally relied on informal sources of credit. The initiative aims to reach 50,000 farmers and 1,500 agricultural input retailers.

BRAC Bank and IFPRI will jointly design and deliver payment and credit solutions through the bank's digital platforms – Astha, Shafollo, and Jibika – as well as its Agent Banking network. IFPRI will lead rigorous impact research, including randomised evaluations, to identify the factors driving adoption and assess the approach's effectiveness and scalability.

The evidence generated will inform policymakers and help shape the potential for wider national adoption.

BRAC Bank Additional Managing Director and Head of SME Banking Syed Abdul Momen and IFPRI Director General Johan Swinnen signed the partnership agreement.

BRAC Bank Additional Managing Director and Head of Wholesale Banking Md Shaheen Iqbal, was present. Present from IFPRI were Senior Research Fellow Kate Ambler, IFPRI Country Representative for Bangladesh Moogdho Mahzab, and Research Fellow and Project Lead Mehrab Bakhtiar.



Officials of BRAC Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute are seen at the signing event in Dhaka recently. PHOTO: BRAC BANK

ACI Marine, MHI-ESA host Mitsubishi marine engine seminar



PHOTO: ACI LTD

Participants pose for photographs at the Mitsubishi Marine Engine Seminar at the Renaissance Dhaka Gulshan Hotel on Friday.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

ACI Marine and Riverine Technologies Ltd, a concern of ACI Ltd, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Engine System Asia (MHI-ESA) jointly organised a Mitsubishi Marine Engine Seminar at the Renaissance Dhaka Gulshan Hotel on Friday, October 16.

More than 60 senior representatives from the country's marine sector took part in the programme, bringing together government bodies and private sector entities, including regulatory and transport authorities such as BIWTA and BIWTC, port authorities, shipbuilders, dredger and fishing vessel owners, design and engineering consultants, classification societies, and academic institutions, according to a press release.

At the event, ACI Motors Managing Director Subrata Ranjan Das shared his vision for ACI's long-term commitment to advancing Bangladesh's marine sector.

ACI Marine Adviser Rajib Tripura highlighted the growing opportunities for Mitsubishi marine engines across the government and private sectors in Bangladesh, discussing their key operational advantages and stressing the importance of collaborative industry partnerships.

Delivering a guest address, Marine House Ltd Managing Director Md Shamsul Alam commended ACI Marine's achievements and praised the quality and reputation of the Mitsubishi engine brand in the country, expressing strong interest in future collaboration.

Bank Asia wins WSBI SDG Award 2026 again

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC has received the World Savings and Retail Banking Institute (WSBI) SDG Award 2026 for the second time in a row. The award is a testament to its outstanding contribution to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The bank was recognised in the category of "Excellence in Inclusive Banking & Social Impact" for its commitment to promoting financial inclusion and creating meaningful social impact, according to a press release.

Mohammad Ziaul Hasan Molla, additional managing director of Bank Asia, received the award from Peter Simon, chief executive officer of WSBI, at an award ceremony held in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 15.

Ulrich Reuter, president of Deutscher Sparkassen- und Giroverband (DSGV, German Savings Banks Association) and vice-president for WSBI, and Nahid Imani, senior executive vice president and head of Corporate & Large Loan of Bank Asia, were also present.

Held in the context of the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, the WSBI-ESBG SDG Awards Ceremony was organised by WSBI and the European Savings and Retail Banking Group (ESBG) for the second time.

The initiative recognises member institutions that have made remarkable contributions to economic prosperity, social and financial inclusion, and environmental responsibility in alignment with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Bank Asia participated in the WSBI-ESBG SDG Data Survey and SDG Awards initiatives, which highlight financial institutions' contributions to sustainability, financial inclusion, and social transformation. This recognition reaffirms the bank's continued commitment to making a lasting difference in people's lives and communities through sustainable, inclusive, and socially responsible banking practices.

The latest accolade follows Bank Asia's achievement at the WSBI SDG Awards 2025 in Washington, DC, further underscoring the bank's sustained efforts to expand financial inclusion, empower underserved communities, and promote sustainable development.



Mohammad Ziaul Hasan Molla, additional managing director of Bank Asia, poses for photographs with the WSBI SDG Award 2026, alongside Peter Simon, chief executive officer of WSBI, at an award ceremony held in Bangkok on October 15. PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Turkish Airlines, GolfHouse team up for joint promotions

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Turkish Airlines and GolfHouse have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation through promotional activities and client engagement initiatives.

The agreement was signed at GolfHouse headquarters in Dhaka on October 16, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, GolfHouse will promote Turkish Airlines through various initiatives and engage its clients and business network to raise awareness of the airline's services.

The collaboration provides a framework for closer cooperation between the two organisations, connecting Turkish Airlines with GolfHouse's audience across golf, business and lifestyle.

İslam Güre, general manager of Turkish Airlines in Dhaka, and Ejaz Kadry, marketing officer (international) of the airline, attended the signing ceremony. A M M Nazrul Hosen, founder and chief executive officer of TheGolfHouse and GolfHouse Holdings Ltd, and K M Bodiuzzaman, director of operations at GolfHouse, represented the organisation.

Turkish Airlines operates seven weekly passenger flights between Dhaka and Istanbul. Its cargo division also operates two weekly cargo flights from Bangladesh.

GolfHouse is a Bangladesh-based golf media and business platform that brings together golfers, corporate leaders, diplomats and industry partners through publishing, tournaments and events.



İslam Güre, general manager of Turkish Airlines in Dhaka, and AMM Nazrul Hosen, founder and chief executive officer of TheGolfHouse and GolfHouse Holdings Ltd, pose for photographs at GolfHouse headquarters in Dhaka on October 16. PHOTO: TURKISH AIRLINES

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, খুলনা
রাজস্ব শাখা
www.khulna.gov.bd

স্মারক নম্বর -০৫.৪৪.৪৭০০.০৩১.৩২.০০০২.২৬.৪৯

তারিখ: ৩১ আশ্বিন ১৪৩৩ / ১৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৬

বালুমহাল ইজারায় অংশগ্রহণের নিমিত্ত তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বালুমহাল ও মাটি ব্যবস্থাপনা আইন, ২০১০ এর ধারা- ১০ এবং বালুমহাল ও মাটি ব্যবস্থাপনা বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ এর বিধি ৪ উপবিধি ৫ মোতাবেক বাংলা ১৪৩৪ সনের জন্য বালুমহাল ইজারায় অংশগ্রহণের নিমিত্ত তালিকাভুক্তি বা নবায়নের জন্য আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিম্নোক্ত নির্ধারিত শর্তাবলী পূরণ সাপেক্ষে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:

শর্তাবলি:-

১. বিলম্বে ফিসহ আবেদন জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ ১৫ কার্তিক ১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ অফিস চলাকালীন।
২. আবেদন ফরম জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ের রাজস্ব শাখা(কক্ষ নং-৩০৮) এবং সকল উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয় হতে বিনামূল্যে পাওয়া যাবে।
৩. নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, খুলনায় আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে।
৪. আবেদনপত্রে কোন ঘষামাজা বা কাটাকাটি করা যাবে না।
৫. **তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য আবেদনপত্রের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে:**

(ক) প্রথম শ্রেণি:-

১. ট্রেড লাইসেন্স
২. TIN ও সর্বশেষ আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রমাণপত্র
৩. ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট
৪. ভ্যাট সার্টিফিকেট
৫. জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র
৬. ড্রেজার/মেশিনের মালিক বা উক্ত মেশিন ভাড়ায় সংগ্রহ করার ক্ষেত্রে যার নিকট হতে ভাড়ায় আনা হবে তার প্রত্যয়ন পত্র
৭. লাইসেন্স ফি ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা [(অফেরতযোগ্য) নির্দিষ্ট A চালানে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। আবেদনের সাথে **মূল চালান কপি** সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে।]
৮. ৩ (তিন) কপি সত্যায়িত ছবি
৯. লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ফি- ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা
১০. তালিকাভুক্তির ও তালিকাভুক্তির সনদ নবায়নের বিলম্ব আবেদন ফি ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা

(খ) দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি:-

১. ট্রেড লাইসেন্স
২. জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র
৩. লাইসেন্স ফি ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা [(অফেরতযোগ্য) নির্দিষ্ট A চালানে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। আবেদনের সাথে **মূল চালান কপি** সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে।]
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৫. লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ফি- ১,০০০/-(এক হাজার) টাকা

বি.দ্র. তালিকাভুক্তি বা ইজারা চুক্তির কোন শর্ত ভঙ্গ করা হলে উক্ত তালিকাভুক্তি বাতিল বা স্থগিত বা কালো তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে।

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