

Berger to honour talented interior designers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The most talented professional and amateur interior designers will be recognised by Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd, which announced the launch of the “Berger Awards for Interior Design 2023” at Gulshan Club in Dhaka yesterday.

Aspirants will contend for six prizes across the two categories, with the winners receiving Tk 1 lakh, a certificate and a trophy, said a press release.

A distinguished panel featuring eminent architects Ehsan Khan, Tania Karim, Asif M Ahsanul Haque, Abid Hasan Noor, Syeda Tuhin Ara Karim, and artist Dhali Al Mamun will serve as judges.

Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh, attended the programme as the chief guest.

“The interior design sector has experienced remarkable growth in recent years, and its momentum is expected to continue,” she said. “Colour plays a pivotal role in the work of interior designers. As a market leader in the paints industry, Berger Paints has taken this initiative to inspire interior designers and acknowledge the best in them,” Chowdhury said.



Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh, attends the press conference on “Berger Awards for Interior Design 2023” at Gulshan Club in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: BERGER PAINTS BANGLADESH

Nagad opens campaign for college students

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Nagad Ltd recently launched a payment campaign styled “Class XI Admission Payment Campaign” enabling college students to pay their admission fees charge-free using its app.

The campaign will continue till September 31, said a press release.

Customers of the mobile financial service (MFS) provider will get an instant cashback of Tk 2.5 after paying the application fee amounting to Tk 150 during the entire campaign.

A customer must have an active and full-profile Nagad account to avail this offer.

For the payment using Nagad’s app, a student needs to go to “Bill Pay”, tap XI class admission 2023, and enter roll number, contact number, board name, and passing year.

Therefore, they will press the “next” button and enter the amount. In the next step, they will type the PIN number and tap again.

Once the payment is successfully completed, users will receive a confirmation notification.

“We have now introduced an option for students to pay their college admission fees free of charge using Nagad’s platform to facilitate their admission process,” said Md Shihab Uddin Chowdhury, chief commercial officer of the MFS provider.

Jittery rouble steadies

REUTERS

The Russian rouble strengthened to 93 against the dollar on Thursday, in a volatile week filled with speculation over how the authorities might stabilise the currency after a 350-basis point rate hike appeared to have only a limited effect.

The Bank of Russia increased its key rate to 12 percent on Tuesday, an emergency attempt to halt the rouble’s recent slide past the symbolic 100 threshold, but analysts said more measures may be needed to return the rouble to the 80-90 range authorities have deemed acceptable.

By 1005 GMT, the rouble was 1.8 percent stronger against the dollar at 92.92, earlier clipping a two-week high. It had reached a near 17-month low of 101.75 against the dollar on Monday.



Sha Migan Shafiur Rahman, deputy inspector general of police in Sylhet range, addresses a workshop, styled “Investigating and Preventing Abuse of Mobile Financial Services”, at an in-service training centre in Sylhet recently.

PHOTO: BKASH

Workshop held on MFS abuse

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Sylhet Range Police in collaboration with bKash recently organised a daylong workshop to raise awareness on how to prevent the abuse of mobile financial services (MFS) in criminal activities.

The workshop, styled “Investigating and Preventing Abuse of Mobile Financial Services”, was organised at the in-service training centre in Sylhet, with over 50 investigation officers taking part. Sha Migan Shafiur Rahman, deputy inspector general of police in Sylhet range, addressed the programme as chief guest, said a press release.

The workshop discussed in detail how to identify crimes and criminal groups connected to MFS abuse and utilise that information to ensure justice.

Among others, former additional inspector general of police Md Nazibul Rahman, adviser of bKash, Major (retd) AKM Monirul Karim, executive vice president and head of external affairs, Md Zedan Al Musa, police super (admin and finance) at Sylhet DIG office, and Falguni Purakayastha, Sylhet in-service training centre commandant (police super), were present.

Islami Bank launches remittance campaign

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC launched a campaign styled “Islami Bank-Instant Cash Remittance Fiesta”.

Mohammed Monirul Moula, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the fiesta at the Islami Bank Tower in Dhaka yesterday.

“Islami Bank has been playing an important role in collecting remittances since its inception. One-third of the country’s total remittances are collected through this bank,” said Moula.

Under the campaign, the bank’s clients will get a total of 43 washing machines through a digital draw on 43 banking days for sending cash remittance through Instant Cash FZE.



Mohammed Monirul Moula, managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate a campaign, styled “Islami Bank-Instant Cash Remittance Fiesta”, at Islami Bank Tower in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (AUG 17, 2023)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 62-Tk 72	-0.74 ↓	-7.59 ↓
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 50	0	-7.55 ↓
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 52	0	-2.86 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 90-Tk 100	0	-11.63 ↓
Soybean (litre)	Tk 155-Tk 160	-3.67 ↓	-9.48 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 36-Tk 40	-5 ↓	35.71 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 65-Tk 80	11.54 ↑	45 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 53-Tk 55	12.5 ↑	2.86 ↑

SOURCE: TCB



Akkas Uddin Mollah, chairman of the executive committee of Shahjalal Islami Bank, presides over the 858th meeting of the executive committee of the bank at its corporate head office in Dhaka on Wednesday. Among others, Fakir Akhtaruzzaman, vice-chairman of the committee, Md Sanaullah Shahid, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Khandaker Sakib Ahmed and Md Towhidur Rahman, directors of the bank and members of the committee, Abdul Aziz, managing director (current charge), and Md Abul Bashar, company secretary, were present.

PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK

Meena Bazar now at Shimanto Square

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Superstore brand Meena Bazar yesterday launched its 27th outlet at Shimanto Square on Dhanmondi Road 2 in Dhaka, aiming to provide quality products and services to its customers at affordable prices.

Kazi Inam Ahmed and Kazi Anis Ahmed, directors of Gemcon Group, inaugurated the outlet, said a press release.

The new outlet will offer a wide range of products, including fresh fruits, bakery items, dairy products, frozen foods and household essentials under one roof.

The company has been operating in Bangladesh since 2002 and had 26 outlets across Dhaka and Chittagong prior to opening the new one.

Among others, Zakir Hossain, general secretary of Bangladesh Supermarket Owners Association, Ahmed Shoyeb Iqbal, chief operating officer for expansion, brand and online of Meena Bazar, and Shameem Ahmed Jaigirder, chief operating officer for operations and supply chain, were present.



Kazi Inam Ahmed and Kazi Anis Ahmed, directors of Gemcon Group, inaugurate Meena Bazar’s 27th outlet at Shimanto Square on Dhanmondi Road 2 in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: MEENA BAZAR

All you need to know

FROM PAGE B1

potters, fishers and weavers can participate in this scheme.

Somota

Low-income people living below the poverty line, who currently earn a maximum of Tk 60,000 a year, can participate in this scheme. Who will fall under the poverty line will be determined by the income limit published by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Probash

Any Bangladeshi citizen working or living abroad can participate in this scheme by depositing the prescribed amount in foreign currency.

How to register or take part in the pension scheme?

To participate in the pension scheme, Bangladeshi citizens will have to register online from the country and abroad. A person has to register with the National Pension Authority’s website: upension.gov.bd.

After that, a unique ID number will be given in favour of the applicant.

Expatriate Bangladeshi nationals who do not have national identity cards can apply for registration in the pension scheme with passport information.

A unique ID number, the rate of donation and the date of submission of the monthly donation will be informed through the mobile number mentioned in the application and through email in case of expatriate applicants.

How much does one have to pay as a monthly instalment?

Any expatriate Bangladeshi can take part in the Probash scheme by paying Tk 5,000, Tk 7,500 and Tk 10,000 as monthly instalments for 10 years. In return, the person will get a monthly pension of Tk 7,651, Tk 11,477 and Tk 15,302 respectively after the completion of 10 years.

In the Probash scheme, there will be three instalments – Tk 2,000 or Tk 3,000 or Tk 5,000 per month. Against a monthly payment of Tk 2,000 for 10 years, the beneficiary will get a pension of Tk 3,060 a month.

Under the Surokha scheme, the monthly instalments will be Tk 1,000, Tk 2,000, Tk 3,000 and Tk 5,000. The depositors will get Tk 1,530 per month

as pension against the payment of Tk 1,000 a month for 10 years.

In the Somota scheme, the monthly instalment size is Tk 1,000 where participants will pay Tk 500 and the government Tk 500. After 10 years, the beneficiary will receive Tk 1,530 a month as pension.

The amount of pension of these schemes will vary depending on the term and the amount of instalment.

How to deposit instalments?

The monthly instalments can be deposited to the designated bank accounts of the National Pension Authority through mobile financial services, online banking, credit or debit card. Expatriate Bangladeshis can deposit donations through credit and debit cards. For all schemes, the instalments can be paid on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis according to the donor’s background.

A text will be sent to the registered mobile number when the monthly instalment will be deposited to the designated bank account. In case of failure to pay the instalment, depositors will be informed along with the amount of fine.

On top of that, if an organisation participates in the pension scheme as an institution, the organisation and its employees will have to deposit the instalments together with the organisation.

How to get a loan from the deposited money?

Under the scheme, the participants will be able to take 50 percent of the money deposited in the pension scheme as loan to spend on their own or family members’ treatment, house construction, house repair and child’s marriage.

The money taken as loan will have to be paid in 24 instalments, including the fees charged by the pension authority. How long will the pensioners get benefits or what will happen after the pensioner’s death?

The pensioners will enjoy pension benefits until death. If the depositor dies before the age of 75 years while in pension, the nominee of the depositor will get a monthly pension for the remaining time until the original depositor’s age will hit 75 years.

Big pharmas taking

FROM PAGE B1

Rajib Singha, managing director of Sree Kundeswari Aushadhalya Ltd, a Chattogram-based herbal medicine producer, said the market for natural remedies is growing as people are becoming more health conscious.

“For this reason, people are seeking natural and holistic approaches to maintain their health and prevent disease, contributing to the popularity of herbal medicines,” he added.

Singha also said herbal medicines were often perceived as safer alternatives to conventional pharmaceuticals as they are derived from natural sources.

Md Ayub Hossain, the preceding additional director general of the DGDA, said so far around 800 companies have taken permission to manufacture herbal medicines.

According to him, the DGDA is cooperative in developing the herbal medicine sector as it is a globally recognised and a fruitful industry.

However, he said big pharmaceutical companies are gradually grabbing up the market for herbal medicine, leaving little space for traditional producers to survive.

Denmark, Bangladesh

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Addressing the event, BFSA Chairman Md Abdul Kayowm Sarker said, “This collaboration will enable us to adopt best practices, learn from international experiences, and implement evidence-based strategies to address the evolving challenges in the food safety landscape.”

“Our joint efforts will undoubtedly result in safer food for our consumers and further bolster our reputation in the global food market.”

Denmark and Bangladesh have had a close relationship throughout the last 50 years, said Anders Karlsen, chargé d’affaires at the embassy of Denmark in Dhaka.

“We are happy to take this relationship an important step further with this MoU, with an in-depth collaboration to create a more sustainable and safe food production,” Karlsen said.