

BRAC Bank to sell Pragati Life Insurance's products

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pragati Life Insurance recently signed a bancassurance agreement with BRAC Bank, enabling the latter's customers to conveniently purchase the insurer's diverse range of insurance products.

Md Jalalul Azim, managing director and CEO of the insurer, and Selim RF Hussain, managing director and CEO of the bank, inked the deal at the latter's head office in Dhaka, the insurer said in a press release.

Under the agreement, the bank will sell Pragati's insurance products, including health insurance, education insurance, and life insurance through its extensive network of branches.

Md Jalalul Azim, managing director and CEO of Pragati Life, said: "Through this bancassurance agreement, BRAC Bank's customers will now have the opportunity to easily access our insurance products, ensuring their financial well-being and preparing them for life's uncertainties," said Azim.



M Khorshed Anwar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking at Eastern Bank, and Md Sadiqur Rahman, deputy managing director of Meghna Bank, pose for photographs while signing a payment gateway agreement at the former's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: TRIUNE GROUP

Meghna Bank to use Eastern Bank's payment gateway

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank recently signed a payment gateway agreement with Meghna Bank.

M Khorshed Anwar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking at Eastern Bank, and Md Sadiqur Rahman, deputy managing director of Meghna Bank, inked the deal

at the former's head office in Dhaka, the bank said in a press release.

Under this agreement, customers of MeghnaPay, a digital banking wallet of Meghna Bank, will be able to add money to their wallet and transfer money to Visa credit and debit card through the SKYPAY, a payment gateway of Eastern Bank.



PHOTO: PRAGATI LIFE INSURANCE

Md Jalalul Azim, managing director and CEO of Pragati Life Insurance, and Selim RF Hussain, managing director and CEO of BRAC Bank, exchange signed documents of an agreement on bancassurance at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

National Finance, Ace Autos sign MoU on auto loan

STAR BUSINESS DESK

National Finance recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ace Autos, an authorised distributor of Haval SUVs in Bangladesh, to provide attractive auto loan packages for its customers.

Irteza Ahmed Khan, managing director of the non-bank financial institution, and Azharul Islam, chief

executive officer of Ace Autos, inked the MoU at the latter's showroom in the capital's Tejgaon, read a press release.

Among others, Emon Ahmed Khan, head of business of Ace Autos, and Ekram Hossain, head of auto loans, and Nasir Uddin, assistant manager of brand communication, along with other officials from both the organisations, were also present.



Irteza Ahmed Khan, managing director of National Finance, and Azharul Islam, chief executive officer of Ace Autos, attend a signing ceremony at the latter's showroom in Tejgaon, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NATIONAL FINANCE

Standard Bank elects Hoque as executive committee chairman

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Md Zahedul Hoque has recently been elected as chairman of the Executive Committee of Standard Bank.

Hoque is the proprietor of M/S Zayed Brothers and a director of M/S Noor Oil & Food Products and M/S Arafat Limited.

He is the former director of the Chattogram Chamber of Commerce & Industry, a former member of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association, and vice-chairman of Khatungonj Trade & Commerce and Khatungonj Trade & Industries Association in Chattogram.

Hoque is a life member of Chattogram Mother & Child Hospital and Chattogram Heart Foundation, a permanent member of Chattogram Boat Club, Chattogram Club, Chattogram Collegiate Club and Chattogram Seniors' Club.

He obtained his bachelor's degree in business administration from Northeast Louisiana University in the USA.

Gold hits fresh record

AFP, Hong Kong

Gold broke above \$2,300 for the first time Thursday as it continued to surge on the back of expectations that US interest rates will come down this year and high geopolitical tensions.

The precious metal has chalked up multiple records over recent weeks as the US Federal Reserve indicates it is about to begin easing monetary policy.

Sonali Bank PLC
Information Technology Division
(IT Procurement & Maintenance)
Head Office, Dhaka

Memo No. HO/ITD (IT P&M)/purchase/ Date: 01/04/2024

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of tender	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	968901	Procurement of Licensing, Implementation & Support Services for the Products of MICROSOFT CORE CAL under Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for Sonali Bank PLC.	30-Apr-2024 15:00	30-Apr-2024 15:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no office/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to respective time schedule.

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

Munmun Mondal
Deputy General Manager GD-567

Sonali Bank PLC
Information Technology Division
(IT Procurement & Maintenance)
Head Office, Dhaka

Memo No. HO/ITD (IT P&M)/purchase/ Date: 02/04/2024

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of tender	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	967849	Procurement of WAN Connectivity for Office/Branches/ATM Booth/Sub Branch Under Dhaka Division of Sonali Bank PLC.	06-May-2024 14:00	06-May-2024 14:30
2.	967656	Procurement of WAN Connectivity for Office/Branches/ATM Booth/Sub Branch Under Chattogram Division of Sonali Bank PLC.	06-May-2024 15:00	06-May-2024 15:30
3.	967666	Procurement of WAN Connectivity for Office/Branches/ATM Booth/Sub Branch Under Rajshahi Division of Sonali Bank PLC.	06-May-2024 15:00	06-May-2024 15:30
4.	967659	Procurement of WAN Connectivity for Office/Branches/ATM Booth/Sub Branch Under Khulna Division of Sonali Bank PLC.	06-May-2024 14:00	06-May-2024 14:30

****** Noted that Among the Tenders (Tender ID No. 967849, 967656, 967666, 967659) Bidder should not participate more than Two Tenders.**

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Munmun Mondal
Deputy General Manager GD-565

AI law to be flexible, yet strict

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The pivotal considerations for the law are regulation, innovation, expansion, and coordination, he said.

He also placed emphasis on the necessity for a cohesive approach to legislative efforts.

At the beginning of the meeting, Md Abdul Bari, policy advisor of the Enhancing Digital Government and Economy project of the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), delivered a presentation focusing on global initiatives related to AI and key considerations pertinent to legislations.

During the meeting, participants expressed their views on a range of topics, including the utilisation of AI, policy frameworks, employment implications, data protection, and the education system.

They called for the establishment of a committee comprising representatives from both the government and private sectors to facilitate the drafting of the AI law.

They also emphasised that the evolution and adoption of AI should not result in job losses, rather, efforts should be directed towards creating diverse employment opportunities.

AI should be trained with data related to the local culture and it has to develop its own moral aspects, said Brig Gen Mohammad Khalil-ur-Rahman, director general for systems and services division of the BTRC.

Apart from this, the liabilities and persons responsible in case of any crime involving AI should be determined, he said.

There are dire risks related to AI use in Bangladesh as there is a digital divide, he said.

Whether people can afford to use this technology has to be kept in mind. Apart from this, high speed internet will be required to use AI, he added.

There are many laws and policies being formulated in the IT sector, said Md Saimum Reza Talukder, a senior lecturer at the School of Law at BRAC University.

Failure to cope with the laws of foreign countries may cause problems in businesses or government work in the future, he said.

Md Mohiuddin Ahmed, chairman of the BTRC, Md Shamsul Arefin, secretary to the ICT Division, and Md Golam Sarwar, secretary to the law and justice division, also spoke.

India's services growth accelerates

REUTERS, Bengaluru

India's dominant services industry grew faster in March amid strong demand, according to a private business survey that also showed employment increased at the fastest rate in seven months and export business expanded at a record pace.

The final HSBC India Services Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by S&P Global, rose to 61.2 last month from February's 60.6, confounding a preliminary reading for a fall to 60.3. That put the reading above the 50 mark separating growth from contraction for a 32nd consecutive month.

"India's services PMI rose in March, following a small dip in February, on the back of strong demand that spurred sales and business activity," said Ines Lam, economist at HSBC.

While buoyant domestic demand and favourable economic conditions drove up new business, exports jumped at the quickest pace since the sub-index was included in the survey in September 2014.

That encouraged firms to increase hiring at the fastest rate since August. That is good news for a country with millions of entrants to the workforce every year.

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
ইরেসপো- ২য় পর্যায়
পল্লী ভবন, ৫ কাওরানবাজার, ঢাকা

স্মারক নং ৪৭.৬২.০০০০.৯৬৬.০৭.০৩৫.২৩-৭৬৭ তারিখঃ ০৪ এপ্রিল, ২০২৪

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্র. নং	বিষয়	বিবরণ
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ বিভাগ	পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় বিভাগ
২	এজেন্সী	বাংলাদেশ পল্লী উন্নয়ন বোর্ড (বিহারডিবি)
৩	ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ইরেসপো-২য় পর্যায়
৪	কার্যের নাম	মোবাইল ফিন্যান্সিয়াল সার্ভিস (মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং সেবা) ক্রয়
৫	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	স্মারক নং-৪৭.৬২.০০০০.৯৬৬.০৭.০৩৫.২৩-৭৬৭ তারিখঃ ০৪ এপ্রিল, ২০২৪
৬	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি- নন কন্টাক্টিং সেবা
৭	উন্নয়ন সহযোগী	প্রয়োজ্য নয়
৮	অর্থের উৎস	জিওবি
৯	প্রকল্পের নাম ও কোড	দরিদ্র মহিলাদের জন্য সমন্বিত পল্লী কর্মসংস্থান সহায়তা (ইরেসপো)-২য় পর্যায়; প্রকল্প কোড- ২২৪৩৪৩০০
১০	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং ও নাম	SD-01/2023-24; মোবাইল ফিন্যান্সিয়াল সার্ভিস (মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং সেবা) ক্রয়
১১	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	০৮/০৪/২০২৪; সময়ঃ সকাল ০৯:০০
১২	দরপত্র বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	১৫/০৪/২০২৪; সময়ঃ বিকাল ০৫:০০
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৬/০৪/২০২৪; সময়ঃ দুপুর ২:০০
১৪	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	১৬/০৪/২০২৪; সময়ঃ দুপুর ৩:০০
১৫	দরপত্র বিক্রি, গ্রহণ ও উন্মুক্তকরণ স্থান	প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়, ইরেসপো-২য় পর্যায়, বিহারডিবি, ৬ষ্ঠ তলা, পল্লী ভবন, ৫, কাওরানবাজার, ঢাকা
১৬	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তালিকাভুক্ত মোবাইল ফিন্যান্সিয়াল সেবা প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে হবে এবং টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবে।
১৭	সংশ্লিষ্ট সেবার বিশদ বর্ণনা	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট এ উল্লিখিত বর্ণনানুযায়ী
১৮	দরপত্র মূল্য (টাকা)	৩০০০.০০ (তিন হাজার) টাকা
১৯	লটের নাম	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা তহবিল (টাকায়)
২০	লট নং	সম্পদের সময় (কার্যকাল)
২০	০১	১,৫০,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা)
২০	০২	জুন'২০২৬
২১	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম, পদবী ও ঠিকানা	মোহাম্মদ রাশেদুল আলম, প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ইরেসপো-২য় পর্যায়, বিহারডিবি, ৬ষ্ঠ তলা, পল্লী ভবন, ৫, কাওরানবাজার, ঢাকা, ফোনঃ ৪১০১০৩৪১
২২	ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনরূপ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকৈ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

মোহাম্মদ রাশেদুল আলম
ইরেসপো-২য় পর্যায়

GD-566