

Southeast Bank launches prepaid card for car maintenance

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC, in collaboration with Mastercard and Zantrik Limited, a vehicle maintenance startup, launched a prepaid card for the growing number of car owners in the country.

The new card will offer a wide range of benefits to cardholders, allowing them to control their fuel expenses by setting spending limits and optimising vehicle maintenance through special deals on the Zantrik platform.

Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of the bank, Shubho Al-Farooque, founder and CEO of the vehicle maintenance startup, and Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard, inaugurated the card at the former's head office in the capital recently, said a press release.

Commenting on the launch, Sadeque Hossain said, "This product will enhance the experience of car owners by providing them exciting benefits and ensuring that their favourite vehicle is in excellent condition."

Al-Farooque said, "Since our inception,



Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank PLC, Shubho Al-Farooque, founder and CEO of Zantrik Limited, and Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Bangladesh at Mastercard, attend the launch of a prepaid card at the bank's head office in the capital recently.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

we have been committed to making car maintenance convenient for our customers, so that they can make better spending decisions and keep their vehicles in good condition."

"This association underscores Mastercard's commitment to providing

solutions tailored to the needs of its cardholders across segments," Kamal said.

Cardholders will be able to enjoy a 20 percent discount on roadside assistance, a 15 percent discount on first-party car insurance, regular car wash services and interior polishing and cleaning, along with

savings of up to Tk 3,000 on repair work.

For those considering LPG conversion, there will be an option of availing up to a Tk 5,000 discount along with the no cost EMI. Additionally, cardholders will be able to access special deals at over 8,000 Mastercard merchant partner outlets.

Pragati Life, Grameen Digital Healthcare Solutions sign deal



Md Jalalul Azim, managing director and CEO of Pragati Life Insurance Limited, and Ahmed Armaan Siddiqui, chief executive officer of Grameen Digital Healthcare Solutions, shake hands and exchange signed documents of an agreement at Telecom Bhaban in the capital recently.

PHOTO: PRAGATI LIFE INSURANCE

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pragati Life Insurance Limited recently signed an agreement with Grameen Digital Healthcare Solutions (GDHS) to launch an integrated life and health insurance package for users of the on-demand digital healthcare platform "Shukhee App".

Md Jalalul Azim, managing director and CEO of the life insurer, and Ahmed Armaan Siddiqui, chief executive officer of GDHS, penned the deal at Telecom Bhaban in the capital, said a press release.

Through this agreement, the insurer will extend life and health insurance coverage under a micro-insurance scheme as part of its alternative distribution channel initiatives, designed to benefit "Shukhee App" subscribers.

The partnership aims to make insurance more accessible and affordable to a broader range of people, particularly through digital channels.

Kazi Waqar Ahmed, financial adviser to the chairman of Grameen Telecom Trust, and Sajadul Haque, senior executive vice-president and head of ADC at the life insurer, along with other senior officials from both the organisations, were also present.

Toyota to post first profit drop in two years

REUTERS, Tokyo

Toyota Motor is expected to post its first profit drop in two years when it reports second-quarter earnings on Wednesday, signalling cooling demand after a run of robust earnings helped by a consumer shift away from electric vehicles.

The world's largest automaker is nonetheless expected to deliver almost \$8 billion in quarterly operating profit, benefiting as drivers in several major markets opt instead for petrol-battery hybrids, which typically command higher profit margins than standard petrol cars.

Still, recent sales and production figures have indicated a modest slowdown for Toyota. It faced a delivery suspension of two models in the United States and, like global rivals, is dealing with fierce competition in China, the world's biggest auto market and one where demand for EVs has not cooled.

The Japanese automaker is expected to report a 14 percent year-on-year operating profit decline in July-September, to 1.2 trillion yen (\$7.9 billion), according to the average of nine analyst estimates in an LSEG poll.

That would mark its first profit decrease since the same quarter in 2022. It has already said quarterly global sales shrank 4 percent from a year earlier and that output declined 7 percent.

Toyota's strategy to expand its hybrid line-up in the US might make it less exposed to any reduction in EV subsidies or similar potential policy changes in Washington depending on the outcome of this week's US presidential election.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (NOV 5, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 68-Tk 80	2.78 ↑	12.12 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 52-Tk 55	1.90 ↑	7.00 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-2.30 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	0
Soybean (litre)	Tk 162-Tk 163	6.21 ↑	10.17 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 65-Tk 70	22.73 ↑	28.57 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 130-Tk 150	27.27 ↑	9.80 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 48-Tk 52	-16.95 ↓	0

SOURCE: TCB

Pubali Bank's Dhaka stadium branch opens 'Islamic Corner'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC launched an "Islamic Corner" at its Dhaka stadium corporate branch as part of its nationwide service to cater to the growing demand for Shariah-compliant banking services.

The bank's customers can easily access all Islamic banking services through these dedicated corners, which are well-designed and customer-friendly, the bank said in a press release.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the corner as the chief guest.

Ali said, "Pubali Bank is committed to providing banking services that align with our customers' Islamic values and principles."

"With the increasing demand for Islamic banking services in our country, Pubali Bank has already established 'Islamic Corners' across various branches to meet this need."

"These corners allow our customers to conduct transactions safely and efficiently under Shariah principles using modern technology and secure banking practices," he said.

He further said this initiative to expand Islamic banking will provide their clients with a unique banking experience, ensuring both their religious values and financial security are



Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate an "Islamic Corner" to cater to the growing demand for Shariah-compliant banking services at its Dhaka stadium corporate branch in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

upheld.

"We hope that by making this service available in every region, Pubali Bank will set a standard in Islamic banking."

Alamgir Zahan, deputy general manager of Dhaka Stadium Corporate Branch, presided over the event.

Mohammad Shah Nawaz Chowdhury, general manager of audit and inspection division of the bank, Dewan Jamil Masud, general manager and head of Islamic banking wing, and Md Kamruzzaman, general manager of establishment and general services division, among others, were also present.

For dealmakers

FROM PAGE B4

One of the sources, who advises chief executives and board members, said based on his conversations, CEOs who have traditionally leaned Republican have become more cautious.

The source, who requested anonymity to speak about confidential conversations, said these people had been conditioned for decades to believe that low taxes and less regulation benefit their businesses but were now recognizing that predictability holds a significant value as well, even though it is difficult to quantify.

To be sure, investment bankers and deal lawyers said some of

Trump's promises would lift constraints they faced under the Biden administration, which has adopted a tough stance on antitrust policy and challenged several notable transactions.

"De-regulation is generally viewed as one of the election themes that would benefit from a Republican win. The Democrats' current proposals to increase corporate income tax and capital gain tax would not help M&A activity," said Weiheng Chen, a Hong Kong-based senior partner at law firm Wilson Sonsini.

"These two factors could have bigger impact on the global M&A activity

level than geopolitical risks which may persist regardless of which side wins this election," Chen added.

Last week, Trump received an endorsement from Apollo Global Management CEO Marc Rowan, who said a Republican victory in the elections would free up M&A activity and lead to investment liberalization.

But some bankers and lawyers argued that a Harris victory would not necessarily slow down M&A activity either, as the US Federal Reserve is expected to ease monetary policy in the near term, boosting financing markets that drive corporate dealmaking.

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আইডি	সূত্র নং	কাজের নাম
1030698	27.21.0000.650.07.001.24.1894; Dated: 29.10.2024	Switch Yard Structure painting at Madanganj 132/33 kV grid Sub-station under GMD, Dhaka (East), Power Grid.
1030718	27.21.0000.650.07.001.24.1895; Dated: 29.10.2024	Supply Outdoor LED Flood Light at Madanganj & Sonargaon Grid Sub-station under GMD, Dhaka East, Power Grid.
1031035	27.21.0000.650.07.001.24.2004; Dated: 30.10.2024	CC & Cement Concrete tiles work in front of Control room, Roof Tiles Work of Control Room and making a Garage at Meghnaghat 230 kV Grid SS under GMD Dhaka (East), Power Grid.
1031027	27.21.0000.650.07.001.24.2003; Dated: 30.10.2024	Supplying 33 kV CT at Sonargaon Grid Sub-Station under GMD Dhaka East, Power Grid.

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

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নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি ঢাকা (পূর্ব)

Gold steady

REUTERS

Gold prices held their ground on Tuesday as investors held back from taking big positions ahead of the US presidential election and the Federal Reserve policy meeting later this week.

Spot gold was steady at \$2,738.10 per ounce, as of 0738 GMT. Bullion hit a

record high of \$2,790.15 last week.

US gold futures were steady at \$2,747.10.

Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and Republican candidate Donald Trump are nearly tied in opinion polls, leaving the outcome of the US presidential race uncertain and potentially unconfirmed for days after voting ends.

India eyes

FROM PAGE B4

The procurement of paddy commenced on October 1 this year in Punjab and on September 27 in Haryana, but the harvesting and procurement were delayed due to heavy rainfall in September and the resultant higher moisture content in paddy.

However, despite the late start, both states are well on track to achieving the

estimates by the stipulated dates: November 30 for Punjab and November 15 for Haryana.

In September and October, India allowed the shipment of non-basmati white rice and removed the minimum floor price for the export of the same grain in a bid to boost exports as inventories in the country neared the brimming point.

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এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের ১৫/০৫/২০০৮ খ্রি. তারিখের সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরে আগত Scrap Vessel ও বাকি কার্গোবাহী জাহাজের Load draft survey and light draft survey সংক্রান্ত কার্যক্রম সম্পন্ন করার লক্ষ্যে Surveyor company/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে:

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- খ. VAT Registration Certificate as Survey Firm;
- গ. DG, Shipping এর License (কমপক্ষে ২ জন বৈধ সার্ভিসার থাকতে হবে);
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- ঙ. Surveyor company/প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে প্রযোজ্য হাসানাবাদ সকল দলিলাদি।

২. আগ্রহী Surveyor company/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আগামী ০৫/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি. তারিখ বিকাল ০৫ (পাঁচ) টার মধ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস, কাস্টম হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরের কাছে তুলে দেওয়া হবে।

৩. মিন্যো তথ্য, মিন্যো সার্ভে প্রতিবেদন, দায়িত্ববাহিনী, অদক্ষতা বা অন্য কোন অভিযোগ পাওয়া গেলে কাস্টমস কর্তৃপক্ষ সশ্রুতি Surveyor company/প্রতিষ্ঠান বা সার্ভিসার এর বিরুদ্ধে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণসহ তালিকাভুক্তকরণ বাতিল করার একক ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

৪. কোন কারণে এ তালিকাভুক্তি কার্যক্রম বাতিল ঘোষিত হলে বা তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য মনোনীত/নির্বাচিত না হলে উক্ত কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য সশ্রুতি Surveyor company/প্রতিষ্ঠান কোনরূপ ক্ষতিপূরণ দাবী করতে পারবেন না।

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(তানজিলা ইয়াসমিন)
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