

Try it before you buy it

Singer launches 3rd concept store on Gulshan Avenue

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In Bangladesh, shopping for home appliances has mostly been a leap of faith—customers could learn about a product but never experience it firsthand before making the purchase.

But Singer Bangladesh is going one step further by letting shoppers test appliances right on the retail outlets, which enables a better understanding of a product's performance alongside a better decision.

A "Singer Beko Flagship Concept Store" was inaugurated on Gulshan Avenue in Dhaka yesterday, the third one of the electronics and home appliance maker, setting a benchmark for retail experiences in Bangladesh.

This shift is redefining the shopping experience, giving buyers the confidence to invest in the right technology for their homes, according to an official of the company.

This store offers an immersive shopping experience, featuring "experience stations" where customers can interact with and test a wide range of products, from electronics to home appliances.



Every experience station, ranging from cooking and styling to personal care and entertainment, is designed to meet the demands of customers' lifestyles, said the company.

Singer Bangladesh launched its first "concept store" on Gulshan-Badda Link

Road and the second one in Sector 4 of Uttara last year.

The store was inspired by an award-winning design of Turkey-based Arçelik, which is the holding company of Singer Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is developing at a rapid

pace and the lifestyles of customers are changing with this growing economy, said Mohammad Zubayed UI Islam, sales director for Singer Bangladesh.

Keeping customer centricity at the core of operations, Singer Bangladesh has been bringing the most contemporary and global standards of the retail experience to the customers of Bangladesh, he said.

"At our experience stations, consumers can test, interact and choose the product best suited for their lifestyle needs," he said.

For instance, in an entertainment experience station, customers can play video games to get a better experience of their choice of TVs.

Similarly, a cooking experience station offers customers the scope to really cook a meal to test out, for instance, an air fryer.

Fashion conscious customers can try hair straighteners or dryers and pick the one best suited to their daily life. "We are enabling them to experience life now," he said.

"We have included a Service Station in the concept store. It will allow our customers to walk in and get expert service technicians always ready to serve them," he said.

EU vows 'action plan' for beleaguered auto sector

AFP, Brussels

The EU promised Thursday an "action plan" to help the bloc's beleaguered auto sector as it held talks with industry leaders who have sounded the alarm over emissions fines and Chinese competition.

The European Union is under pressure to help a sector that employs 13 million people and accounts for about seven percent of the bloc's GDP, as it seeks to revamp the continent's lagging competitiveness.

"The European automotive industry is at a pivotal moment, and we acknowledge the challenges it faces. That is why we are acting swiftly to address them," EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said, promising an "action plan" by early March.

Chaired by the European Commission president, the so-called "strategic dialogue"

brought together carmakers, suppliers, civil society groups and trade unions.

Representatives of 22 industry "players" including Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes and Renault, were in attendance, the commission said.

The get-together comes as the commission embarks on a pro-business shift, with firms complaining its focus on climate and business ethics has resulted in excessive regulations.

On Wednesday, it unveiled a blueprint to revamp the bloc's economic model, amid worries that low productivity, high energy prices, weak investments and other ills are leaving the EU behind the United States and China.

The car industry has been plunged into crisis by high manufacturing costs, a stuttering switch to electric vehicles (EV) and increased competition from China.

Top US businessman wants to invest

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Professor Yunus said Bangladesh needed more US investment in many sectors, including gas exploration in onshore and offshore fields.

Beach, whose company has invested in Africa and plans to invest in Pakistan, said more American investment would mean a rise in labour wages.

"We will make Bangladesh great again," he said.

Special Envoy to the Chief Adviser Lutley Siddiqi, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) Chairman Ashik Chowdhury and Senior Secretary to SDG Affairs Lamiya Morshed

were also present.

Earlier, in a meeting with political leaders, an adviser to the interim government, and senior Bida officials at the InterContinental Dhaka yesterday, Beach expressed interest in investing in mineral and gas exploration in Bangladesh.

The visit of the delegation of US billionaire investors aims to assess investment opportunities and available facilities in the country, said Syeed Abdullah Muhammad Taher, Nayeb-e-Ameer (vice-president) of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, at a media briefing after the meeting.

"At the meeting, we highlighted the current political situation,

stability, investment opportunities, and avenues for cooperation. We have encouraged them to invest in Bangladesh," he said.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was expected to attend the meeting but did not, Taher said.

Responding to a question, the Jamaat leader said that his party does not believe US-Bangladesh relations have worsened following Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election.

"Although there were concerns that Bangladesh's relationship with the USA might deteriorate, that has not happened," he said.

He emphasised that

global policies, politics and business interests do not depend on a single individual and vary from one person to another.

"These matters are driven by international policies. I believe there will be no negative impact. In fact, I think the relationship will improve," he said.

Taher also said that Beach has close ties to the Trump family. "He is a business partner of the Trump family and collaborates with Trump's son. They have business interests in

minerals and operate in 44 countries," he said.

Earlier this week, Beach also pledged billions of US dollars in investment in Pakistan during his visit to the South Asian country. However, Beach and Mahfuj Alam, an adviser to the interim government, who attended the meeting, declined to comment afterwards.

An official of the US embassy in Dhaka said Beach came as a private person and his visit was not connected with the US government.

Barishal tops poverty

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"Barishal was once a food basket for the country. It no more holds that crown," he said, adding that crop diversity and productivity have also declined in the division.

"Our climate vulnerability is increasing and it is influencing poverty pockets to a higher extent," the economist said.

OLD DATA RAISES QUESTION

Although economist Selim Raihan agrees with Mujeri over climate vulnerability and subsequent changes to the poverty map, he raised questions about the data.

"There was a conundrum about the data during the Hasina regime, including gross domestic product


and poverty rate," said Raihan, executive director at the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling, a local think-tank.

He said that in the last 15 years, there was a tendency to show good progress in poverty reduction in northern areas.

"This tendency could have led to flawed data on Rangpur," Raihan added.

The poverty rate in Rangpur was 47.2 percent in 2016 and dropped to 24.8 percent in 2022, according to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022.

"I must raise the question of how the poverty rate shows a dramatic improvement in the span of seven years in Rangpur," he said.



DW & CE (Navy)
Lalasarai Nabik Residential Area
Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206

Invitation for Tender

Notice No. 318/BN/E-3/

Dated: 21 January 2025

Military Engineer Services

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence				
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services				
3.	Procuring entity name	DW & CE (Navy)				
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka				
5.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)				
6.	Budget and source of funds	GOB				
7.	Development partners (if applicable)	None				
8.	Project/ programme name (if applicable)	Job No-83 Ac 2022-2023 Manufacture & Supply of furniture extension North side and east side of 03 storey with 03-storied foundation Comkhul Office Bldg at BNS Titumir, Khulna (03 Storey with 03-storied foundation)				
9.	Selling of tender will commence from	02 February 2025 (during office hours)				
10.	Selling of tender will close on	10 February 2025 (during office hours)				
11.	Last date and time of submission of tender	11 February 2025 at 1200 hours.				
12.	Date and time of opening of tender	11 February 2025 at 1230 hours.				
13.	Name & address of the office(s)					
	(1) Selling tender document	DW & CE (Navy) Dhaka				
	(2) Receiving tender document	-Do-				
	(3) Opening tender document	-Do-				
14.	Eligibility of tenderer	a For lot No. 'a', & 'b' MES enlisted contractors of Class- 'C' & 'D' only, lot No. 'c' MES enlisted contractors of Class- 'E' b Contractors enlisted with other govt/semi-govt/autonomous body or organization in similar category having security clearance from DGF1 may apply.				
15.	Brief description of works					
	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Taka)	Tender security amount in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee in favour of DW & CE (Navy) Dhaka (Taka)	Completion time in months
	a	Manufacture & Supply of furniture extension north side and east side of 03 storey with 03-storied foundation Comkhul Office Bldg at BNS Titumir, Khulna (03 storey with 03-storied foundation)	GE (Navy) Khulna	750.00	38,000.00	09 (nine) month
16.	Name of office inviting tender				DW & CE (Navy)	
17.	Designation of office inviting tender				DW & CE (Navy)	
18.	Address of office inviting tender				DW & CE (Navy), Lalasormi Nabik Residential Area, Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206	
19.	Contact details of official inviting tender				DW & CE (Navy), Lalasarai Nabik Residence Area, Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206 Phone No: 9833986 E-mail: mesdwcenavy@gmail.com	
20.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.					

আইএসপিআর/সী/১১
৩০/০১/২৫

Mohammad Shazzath Hossain
SE
SO-1
For DW & CE (Navy)

জিডি-৩২৮

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Mohammad Ali Khokon, former president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), said many Indian spinners have already opened warehouses near four Indo-Bangla land ports so they can supply an adequate amount of yarn swiftly, as the demand for yarn is rising in Bangladesh.

"The Indian government has been giving several kinds of incentives to the textile and garment industries, and their exporters are performing well," he said. "So, the Indian spinners can supply yarn at a much lower price," said Khokon.

Faruque Hassan, former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said yarn imports have increased in Bangladesh mainly for four reasons, although local spinners are well capable of supplying the raw materials.

First, the government last year reduced the cash incentive on the use of local yarn to 1.5 percent from 4 percent, said Hassan.

It was a measure in preparation for the country's graduation from the group of least developed countries (LDCs) to a developing nation by 2026.

As a result, local garment exporters prefer imported yarn to remain competitive, as the price difference varies between 20-25 cents per kg, he added.

The former BGMEA president said that before the cash incentive cut, apparel exporters used

to use local yarn even at 20-30 cents higher prices because of the 4 percent cash incentive, which was more lucrative for them.

As the second reason, he said that Bangladesh needs a lot of finer count yarn as the volume of the country's high-value-added garment items is rising gradually.

However, local spinners can hardly supply the required yarn in sufficient quantities and on time, he said. Usually, China and India are major producers and suppliers of such finer count yarn.

Thirdly, the use of man-made fibre has been rising in the country to meet the growing demand and to secure better prices from international clothing retailers and brands. Bangladesh still has insufficient capacity for man-made fibre and therefore depends on India and China to import it. Hassan also said that the price gap between local man-made yarn and Chinese non-cotton yarn varies between 50-60 cents per kg.

Fourthly, price is a big issue for all kinds of yarn, as India can supply it at much lower prices, adequately and swiftly, he said.

Meanwhile, BTMA President Showkat Aziz Russell complained about the illegal smuggling of yarn from India as the demand for yarn in Bangladesh is rising. "The government should provide policy support to the \$25 billion invested in the primary textile sector."

BB committee

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They said this move is one of many initiatives aimed at sustaining the economy and strengthening the banking sector amid challenges posed by factors such as Covid-19, the Russia-Ukraine war, global economic slowdown, political instability, and natural disasters like flooding.

As of September 2024, total outstanding loans in the banking sector stood at about Tk 16.83 lakh crore, of which some Tk 2.85 lakh crore, or 17 percent, had defaulted, according to central bank data.

However, various industry people claim the actual volume of defaulted loans exceeds Tk 4 lakh crore if rescheduled and written-off loans are taken into account.

Tax return

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deadline for companies to submit tax returns by one month. Firms can now file their returns until March 16, instead of February 15.

Earlier, the tax authority had provided an extension from January 15, allowing companies to submit income statements until February 15.

MJL eyes

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Consequently, its earnings per share (EPS) rose to Tk 3.23 for the period, up from Tk 2.31 a year ago.

With the second-quarter earnings, MJL's income rose 30 percent to Tk 217.46 crore in the first half of FY25. As a result, the consolidated EPS of MJL increased to Tk 6.66 in the first half of FY25, up from Tk 5.01 in the same period a year ago.

Shares of MJL rose 1.81 percent to close at Tk 95.7 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।
ফোনঃ ০২-৪৭৮৮৩১২৫৪
e-mail: eebar@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.০৬৫১.৪০৩.০৭.০২৩.২৪-৪৪২

তারিখঃ- ২৮/০১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ।

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) টিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/লাইসেন্স নবায়ন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৩য় পর্যায়)।

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে, বরিশাল সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (রাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতায় সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের মাধ্যমে অত্যন্তরীণ ত্র্যমকার্য (NCT-Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের জন্য টিকাদার তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে। নিম্নলিখিত কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল এর অনুকূলে জমা প্রদান করে অর্থ বা মানি রিসিটের মাধ্যমে ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা পরিশোধ করতঃ আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সঠিকভাবে পূরণ পূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ আগামী ২৭/০২/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকেল ৫:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে এ অবসেসে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৬৩ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং এ তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ দরপত্র আহবান/কাজ প্রদানের নিশ্চয়তা বিধান করে না।

উল্লেখ্য যে, ইতিপূর্বে অত্র দপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদারগণ ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের জন্য লাইসেন্স নবায়ন বিধি বাবদ টাকা ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) + ১৫% ভ্যাট এবং বিধি মোতাবেক জরিমানাসহ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) আগামী ৩১/০৩/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে জমা প্রদান পূর্বক লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করতে পারবেন।

Nazib
২৪.০১.২৫

(মোঃ নাজমুল ইসলাম)
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২২৩২
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।