

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.

Announcements of possible job cuts have multiplied. Volkswagen plans to axe 35,000 positions across its German locations by 2030.

Carmakers have been calling for "flexibility" on the steep emission fines

they could face in 2025 -- something the bloc's new growth blueprint said should be in the cards.

"Penalising immediately the industry financially is not a good idea, because the industry is in trouble and... has to restructure itself, which will cost a lot of money," Patrick Koller, CEO of French parts producer Forvia, said ahead of the meeting.

"When you look back, we have heavy industries which disappeared from Europe completely because of lack of competitiveness." To combat climate change, the EU introduced a set of emission-reduction targets that should lead to the sale of fossil fuel-burning cars being phased out by 2035.

About 16 percent of the planet-warming carbon dioxide (CO2) gas released into the atmosphere in Europe comes from cars' exhaust pipes, the EU says.

As of this year carmakers have to lower the average CO2 emitted by all newly sold vehicles by 15 percent from 2021 levels or

pay a penalty -- with tougher cuts further down the road, according to advocacy group Transport & Environment.

The idea is to incentivise firms to increase the share of EVs, hybrids and small vehicles they sell compared to, for instance, diesel-guzzling SUVs.

But some manufacturers complain that is proving harder than expected as consumers have yet to warm to EVs, which have higher upfront costs and lack an established used-vehicle market.

"We want to stick to the objective... but we can smoothen the way," von der Leyen said on Wednesday.

Critics say lifting the fines would unfairly penalise producers who have invested to comply and remove a key incentive to speed up electric transitions.

EV sales slid 1.3 percent in Europe last year, accounting for 13.6 percent of all sales, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), an industry group.

Microsoft profit rises but cloud business misses mark

AFP, San Francisco

Microsoft on Wednesday reported profits of \$24.1 billion in the recently ended quarter, but shares slid on worries over its vital cloud computing business.

Microsoft revenue grew to \$69.6 billion and the amount of money taken in by its "intelligence cloud" unit climbed to \$25.5 billion but the market had expected more.

Shares slipped slightly in after-market trades.

"Microsoft had a fine quarter, but 'fine' isn't what investors want from an AI juggernaut spending like it's building the Death Star," Emarketer principal analyst Jeremy Goldman said, referring to a planet-sized space station from the Star Wars films.

"The cloud is still a growth engine, but AI competition -- especially from unexpected players like DeepSeek -- is real."

Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella spotlighted the tech titan's artificial intelligence investments, saying the company is "innovating across our tech stack" to unlock the ability for customers to make money from the technology.

Nadella said Microsoft's AI business is on pace to bring in more than \$13 billion annually, in a near tripling of the rate a year earlier.

The Redmond-based company has been at the forefront of the generative AI revolution, largely thanks to its partnership with OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT.

Barishal tops

FROM PAGE B1

"Once Barishal was 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," said the economist.

OLD DATA RAISE QUESTION

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

Survey findings to update the map were made using the ousted prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said Prof Raihan, executive director at the South Asian Network on Economic


Modeling (Sanem), a local think tank,

"There was a conundrum about the data during the Hasina regime, including GDP [gross domestic product] and poverty rate," he said.

Prof Raihan said, "In the last 15 years, there was a tendency to show a good progress in poverty reduction in the northern area. This tendency could have flawed the data of Rangpur division."

In 2016, the poverty rate in Rangpur division was 47.2 percent, which dropped to 24.8 percent in 2022, according to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022.

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

Yarn imports rise

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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

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.

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,

Trump's business

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"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 noted that Beach has close ties to Donald Trump's family.

"Beach 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

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.

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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) বিভাগের আওতাধীন সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের মাধ্যমে অত্যন্তরিত ক্রয়কার্য (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 অথবা 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 বি বিবদ টাকা ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) + ১০% ভ্যাট এবং বিবি 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-৬০২২৩২
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।

GD-326