

Prime Bank partners with Transcom Food to offer rewards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC recently signed a partnership agreement with Transcom Food Limited, the sole franchisee of Pizza Hut and KFC in Bangladesh and a subsidiary of Transcom Group, aiming to enhance customer satisfaction by offering rewards.

Md Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of the bank, and Rajib Kanti Bhowmik, chief financial officer of the food company, signed the deal at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under this agreement, customers who open a new account or obtain a new card from Prime Bank will be eligible to receive exclusive free pizza coupons from Pizza Hut.

Jorader Tanvir Faisal, executive vice-president and head of cards and retail assets of the bank, and Farhan Hadi, head of marketing of the food company, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Rajib Kanti Bhowmik, chief financial officer of Transcom Food, and Md Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank, pose for photographs after signing an agreement at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK



Manas Singh, chief executive officer of STS Group, and Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, managing director of Dhaka Bank, shake hands and exchange signed documents of a memorandum of understanding at the former's head office in the capital's Gulshan recently.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

MetLife expands digital access with 'One by MetLife' app

STAR BUSINESS DESK

MetLife Bangladesh, the leader in the country's insurance industry, recently launched its newly developed mobile app, "One by MetLife," on the iOS and Web platforms as part of its expansion of digital access to health and financial services.

Formerly known as 360Health, the app is now available across all three major digital platforms—iOS, Android, and Web, as announced by the life insurer in a press release. This expansion ensures that a wider group of people, whether using a smartphone, tablet, or computer with an internet connection, can now more easily access essential health and financial protection services than ever before.

Commenting on the expansion,

Sanjeev Kapur, chief marketing officer for MetLife Asia, said, "As digital channels transform the way people access healthcare and financial services, we are proud to make One by MetLife available to more people across Bangladesh."

"By leveraging the best technology, we are empowering individuals to take control of their health and financial well-being," he added. One by MetLife has now surpassed 1.3 million downloads and can be used by anyone.

With around half of Bangladesh's population now having internet access, the availability of One by MetLife on multiple platforms means millions more can benefit from its personalised health awareness tools, disease prevention resources, and financial planning features.



Sanjeev Kapur, chief marketing officer for MetLife Asia, and Ala Ahmad, chief executive officer of MetLife Bangladesh, attend the launch of the newly developed mobile app, "One by MetLife," on the iOS and web platforms at the insurer's head office in the capital's Motijheel recently.

PHOTO: METLIFE BANGLADESH



Officials of City Group stand inside the City Group stall at the Bangladesh Pavilion Hall at Gulfood 2025, held at the Dubai World Trade Centre in Dubai recently.

PHOTO: CITY GROUP

ACI launches new skincare brand Angelina

STAR BUSINESS DESK

ACI Limited recently launched a new product under the Angelina range, "Angelina Hyaluronic Booster", designed to carve out a unique space in the growing skincare market.

This launch comes amid increasing awareness among women about skincare and the rising popularity of products developed using modern, scientific methods.

Angelina, the first brand to feature next-generation formulations, is now available in the market. Nazifa Tushi, a model and film actress, inaugurated the product, according to a press release.

Khandaker Ishitak Ahmed, business director of ACI Limited; Mezanur Rahman, general manager of sales; Deepankar Biswas, general manager of factory operations; and Md Nahid Newaj, general manager of media and communications, were present at the event.

Raunak Zahan, brand manager; and Annan Masum Ahona, brand lead, along with other distinguished guests, were also in attendance.



Khandaker Ishitak Ahmed, business director of ACI Limited, and Nazifa Tushi, a model and actress, pose for photographs after the launch of "Angelina Hyaluronic Booster" in Dhaka recently.

Microfinance presence

FROM PAGE B4

"There are many banks and MFIs in Bangladesh. Yet, we still find a significant presence of mohajons in rural areas," Chowdhury said, adding that the entry of an additional MFI reduces the total volume of loans taken from traditional moneylenders.

However, Chowdhury noted that mohajons are unlikely to disappear anytime soon.

"The average interest rate charged by mohajons is a staggering 145 percent. Yet, rural communities continue to rely on them in times of urgent need as they lack access to credit cards and other formal financial services available to urban

populations," he said. He explained that villagers often turn to mohajons for immediate expenses, such as medical emergencies or crop losses, highlighting the persistent gap in accessible financial support.

Echoing those concerns, Md Fazlul Kader, managing director of the Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation, said there is a mismatch between MFIs and borrowers regarding expected loan disbursement period, which often forces rural borrowers to turn to moneylenders.

Sajjad Zohir, executive director of the Economic Research Group, and Kazi Iqbal, BIDS research director, also spoke at the event.

Stocks rebound

FROM PAGE B4

saw price increases, 160 closed lower, and the remaining securities experienced no price fluctuations.

Turnover increased by 11.60 percent, reaching Tk 466 crore compared to the previous day's trading session. The pharmaceuticals sector dominated the turnover chart, accounting for 13.68 percent of the total turnover.

In the individual company category, Fu-Wang Foods topped the gainers' list with a 10 percent rise, while Midland Bank saw the largest decline, falling by 8 percent.

Sector-wise, life insurance, jute,

and information technology (IT) were the top three sectors that closed in the positive this week, according to UCB Stock Brokerage's daily market update.

However, ceramics, non-bank financial institutions (NBFI), and food & allied sectors were the top three that closed in the negative.

According to BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage, large-cap sectors showed mixed performance yesterday. The telecommunications sector posted the highest gain of 0.52 percent, followed by the engineering sector (0.07 percent) and the pharmaceuticals sector (0.06 percent).

Elon Musk is not India's

FROM PAGE B4

consider lowering or dropping the auto tariffs - to please Trump - or carving out exemptions for Tesla. But that would only weaken New Delhi's hand in negotiating with Musk.

Trump has already remarked that a Tesla factory in India aimed at circumventing local duties would be "unfair" to the US. Moreover, it's not clear Tesla needs another factory either. The EV maker utilised just three-quarters of its existing production capacity across the US, Germany and China in 2024 - down

slightly from the year before. That suggests the company expects global demand to slow further.

The risk to Modi is for him to grant concessions to Musk, only to end up with little more than Tesla showrooms. True, the government has another bargaining chip: Musk's Starlink is awaiting security clearance for a licence to offer satellite broadband services in India. But against the backdrop of Trump's tariff threats, New Delhi should be careful of what it wishes for from the world's richest man.