

# Aarong opens outlet in Cox's Bazar

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Aarong, a fashion and lifestyle retail chain in Bangladesh, has expanded its operation by opening an outlet in Cox's Bazar, marking its first presence in the country's premier beach destination.

Tanvir Hossain, chief business officer of the lifestyle brand, inaugurated the outlet recently.

This is the 31st outlet of the lifestyle brand, according to a press release.

Located on Jhautola Main Road, this two-storey, 11,000-square-foot outlet offers an immersive shopping experience featuring Aarong's sub brands—Taaga, Taaga Man, and Aarong Earth.

Customers will also have the

opportunity to choose products from a diverse selection of handmade apparel, jewellery, home décor, skincare, and accessories, ensuring something special for every shopper this Eid-ul-Fitr season.

"We are delighted to bring Aarong to Cox's Bazar. As Bangladesh's premier tourist destination, this vibrant city provides the perfect backdrop to celebrate our heritage, craftsmanship, and commitment to empowering artisans," said Tamara Hasan Abed, managing director of BRAC Enterprises.

"We look forward to welcoming both locals and visitors from around the world to experience Aarong's commitment to timeless craft and community," she added.



Tanvir Hossain, chief business officer of Aarong, inaugurates the outlet in Cox's Bazar recently.

PHOTO: AARONG

## Al-Arafah Islami Bank strikes payroll banking deal with Lubana General Hospital

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC has signed an agreement with Lubana General Hospital Limited to provide payroll banking services for the hospital's employees.

Md Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy managing director of the bank, and Md Shah Zahirul Islam, managing director of the hospital, signed the agreement in

the capital yesterday, according to a press release.

As part of the agreement, the hospital's employees will benefit from unique and exclusive financial propositions and privileged banking services, along with complete retail banking solutions.

Mohammad Soharwardi, chairman of the hospital, attended the signing ceremony.



Md Shah Zahirul Islam, managing director of Lubana General Hospital, and Md Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, shake hands and exchange signed documents of the agreement in the capital yesterday.

## Shahjalal Islami Bank opens ATM booth in Bhaluka

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC opened an ATM booth on the premises of Excellent Tiles Industries Limited in Bhaluka, Mymensingh on Sunday, aiming to provide fast and round-the-clock banking services to customers.

Abdul Halim, a director of the bank, inaugurated the ATM booth as the chief guest, the bank said in a press release.

Mosleh Uddin Ahmed, managing director of the bank, presided over the programme, where Azizul Hakim (Sumon), managing director of Excellent Tiles Industries, was present as a special guest. The bank's Visa

cardholders can withdraw cash and check balances 24 hours a day from this ATM booth.

It is working to gradually expand its ATM services nationwide to ensure better services for its customers.

Among others, Ismail Hossain Nawab, a director of Islami Insurance Bangladesh, and Md Riad Hossain, head of cards division of the bank, Md Ibrahim Hossen, senior assistant vice-president from the corporate head office, Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun, manager of Bhaluka SME/Krishi branch, and KM Harunur Rashid, junior assistant vice-president and in-charge of the public relations division, were also present.



Abdul Halim, a director of Shahjalal Islami Bank, inaugurates the ATM on the premises of Excellent Tiles Industries in Bhaluka, Mymensingh on Sunday.

PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK

## Dollar hobbled by economic worries

REUTERS, Tokyo/London

The dollar hovered near a five-month low against major peers on Monday, bruised by President Donald Trump's erratic trade policies and soft economic data, at a time when other currencies, including the euro, benefit from domestic drivers.

The euro was last at \$1.0905, up 0.2 percent on the day, and heading back towards the \$1.0947 it hit last week, its highest since October 11. The Japanese yen was also marginally stronger on the day at 148.48 per dollar, again after hitting its strongest in five months last week at 146.5 to the dollar.

That left the dollar index, which measures the US currency against its six major counterparts, at 103.5, just off its five-month trough of 103.21 reached last Tuesday.

## Banks must allocate

FROM PAGE B1

enterprises, will be recognised as informal or marginal entrepreneurs.

As per the new policy, entrepreneurs in informal sectors engaged in production, services, or trading, with no more than 10 employees (including family members), will be eligible for loans of up to Tk 5 lakh.

There is no turnover requirement for this category of entrepreneurs. However, the total fixed

assets of their industrial establishment—excluding land and factory buildings—must be valued at less than Tk 5 lakh.

Under the new policy, medium-scale industrial entrepreneurs will be eligible for loans of up to Tk 100 crore.

This loan facility will be available to labour-intensive industries with 1,000 employees or ready-made garment (RMG) factories with 121 to 300 workers.

In the service sector, medium-scale enterprises with 51 to 120 employees will be able to secure loans of up to Tk 75 crore.

For the manufacturing sector, micro industries will be eligible for loans of up to Tk 2 crore, while

small industries can receive up to Tk 25 crore.

In the trading sector, medium enterprises can get up to Tk 10 crore, whereas small enterprises in the trading and service sectors can avail themselves of loans of up to Tk 8 crore.

Meanwhile, micro-industries in the trading sector will be able to secure loans of up to Tk 75 lakh. Cottage industries will have access to loans of up to Tk 20 lakh.

The previous policy, formulated on September 5, 2019, was intended for a five-year term. As that policy period has expired, the new policy has been introduced, which will remain in effect for the next five years.

## Golden Life

FROM PAGE B1

The crisis at the headquarters has also affected Golden Life's regional offices.

A visit to its Chattogram divisional office on March 16 found only one official present, with the office head's room locked and no other staff in sight.

**'A COMPANY CAN'T OPERATE LIKE THIS'**

Amid the crisis at Golden Life, the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra) has intervened.

The company's managing director, head of accounts, and company secretary were summoned by Idra last week for updates.

Yesterday was the deadline set by the insurance regulator for resolving the issue, but the company failed to meet it and requested more time.

The regulator granted the request, setting the next meeting for March 20.

Md Apel Mahmud, Idra's member for life insurance, said, "A company cannot operate like this. They also

do not have the authority to shut down a company's head office in this manner. There are certain systems and rules in place."

Meanwhile, AKM Azizur Rahman, chairman of Golden Life Insurance, assured Idra in a letter yesterday that all outstanding urgent claims would be settled within the next 30 days.

Golden Life's troubles are not new.

A special audit by Idra in 2022 uncovered massive irregularities, resulting in a Tk 22 lakh fine, which remains unpaid.

Besides, the company has failed to provide approval documents for its 14 insurance products, raising further concerns about its compliance and governance.

Golden Life's total assets stand at Tk 55.85 crore, with 140,000 policyholders.

Bangladesh has 82 insurance companies, 36 in the life insurance sector and 46 in the non-life sector.

[Md Nazrul Islam from Chattoqram contributed to this report.]

## bKash's Facebook live sessions facilitate Eid shopping

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mobile financial service (MFS) provider bKash is enhancing the Eid shopping experience through its Facebook live sessions, allowing customers to purchase products from leading lifestyle brands at discounted prices.

During these live sessions, customers can enjoy discounts or cashback of up to Tk 500 on purchases from lifestyle brands such as Le Reve, SaRa Lifestyle, Sailor, Raw Nation, Fabrilife, and Shalai.

The sessions are streamed on bKash's official Facebook page, bKash for Business, and various merchant pages.

The live broadcasts also feature Eid collections from a variety of brands, according to a press release.

Customers can place orders directly from the merchants' Facebook pages or websites during these live sessions. They can avail themselves of up to Tk 500 in discounts by using the "R1" coupon when making payments via bKash.

As part of this initiative, daily live sessions are being held on these pages, where popular hosts present the Eid collections from these renowned brands.

Additionally, customers can win gifts by sharing the live session across different groups, pages, or profiles.

STOCKS		
	DSEX ▼	CASPI ▼
	0.31%	0.19%
	5,205.44	14,556.64

COMMODITIES		
	Gold ▲	Oil ▲
	\$2,997.43	\$67.88
	(per ounce)	(per barrel)

ASIAN MARKETS				
	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
	▲ 0.46%	▲ 0.93%	▲ 0.61%	▲ 0.19%
	73,169.95	37,396.52	3,859.36	3,426.13

**MICROCREDIT REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
MRA Bhaban, Plot # F-14(D/1), Agargaon,  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
Website: [www.mra.gov.bd](http://www.mra.gov.bd), Hot Line: 16133

**INVITATION FOR TENDERS**

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance
2 Agency	Not applicable
3 Procuring Entity Name	Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA)
4 Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6 Invitation for	Procurement of Microbus rental service (Daily Basis)
7 Invitation Ref No	53.04.0000.002.07.005.25-523
8 Date	17 <sup>th</sup> of March 2025
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
9 Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
10 Budget and Source of Funds	MRA's own fund
11 Development Partners (if applicable)	Not applicable
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
12 Project / Program Code (if applicable)	Not applicable
13 Project Name (if applicable)	Not applicable
14 Tender Package No.	mra/03/05
15 Tender Package Name	Procurement of Microbus rental service (Daily Basis)
<b>TENDER PUBLICATION AND OPENING DATE</b>	
16 Tender Publication Date	17 <sup>th</sup> of March 2025
17 Tender Last Selling Date	16 <sup>th</sup> of April 2025
18 Tender Closing Date and Time	17 <sup>th</sup> of April 2025 12:00 pm
19 Tender Opening Date and Time	17 <sup>th</sup> of April 2025 12:15 pm
20 Name & Address of the officer(s)	Address
- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	MICROCREDIT REGULATORY AUTHORITY, MRA Bhaban, Plot # F-14(D/1), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Website: <a href="http://www.mra.gov.bd">www.mra.gov.bd</a> , Hot Line: 16133.
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>	
21 Eligibility of Tenderer	This procurement aims to procure microbus rental services (daily basis) in 6 different routes in Dhaka city to ensure the transportation facility for the officers and staffs of MRA.
22 Brief Description of Services	
23 Price of Tender Document (Tk)	1,000/- (BDT: One Thousand)
Package No	Identification of Package
mra/03/05	Procurement of Microbus rental service (Daily Basis)
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
24 Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin
25 Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Vice Chairman
26 Address of Official Inviting Tender	MICROCREDIT REGULATORY AUTHORITY, MRA Bhaban, Plot # F-14(D/1), Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Website: <a href="http://www.mra.gov.bd">www.mra.gov.bd</a> , Hot Line: 16133.
27 Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Email: <a href="mailto:evc@mra.gov.bd">evc@mra.gov.bd</a> , phone: 8332772
28	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.

GD-691

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সওজ) এর কার্যালয়  
সড়ক বিভাগ, ঠাকুরগাঁও  
[eetha@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eetha@rhd.gov.bd)

**ই-জিপি দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অত্র সড়ক বিভাগধীন ছকে বর্ণিত দরপত্রটি গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের e-GP Portal এর মাধ্যমে আহ্বান করা হয়েছে যা ১৭/০৩/২০২৫ইং তারিখ হতে পোর্টালে পাওয়া যাবে। e-GP Portal এ নিবন্ধিত যে কোন অগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/ত্বিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানার জন্য উক্ত ওয়েবসাইট [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) ভিজিট করতে পারেন।

Tender ID No.	Tender No.	Tender package description	Tender closing date & time
1078120	e-GP-11/EE/TRD/2024-2025	Surfacing works by Seal coat including necessary repair at 09th(P) & 10th (P) Km of Thakurgaon-Ruhia Road (Z-5059) under Road Division, Thakurgaon during the year 2024-2025.	07/04/2025 13:05

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ  
সড়ক বিভাগ, ঠাকুরগাঁও

GD-691

**পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি**  
**POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212  
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৭৩৫.১৯.০০৮.২৫.৭২৯  
[www.powergrid.gov.bd](http://www.powergrid.gov.bd)  
তারিখঃ ১৭/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

**e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের এইচভিডিভিসি সার্কেল, দ্বন্দ্ববন্দী দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1085571	27.21.0000.735.07.025.727; Date: 17/03/2025	Supply of Resin for Valve Cooling System for Block-2 at BIPTC, Bheramara under HVDC Circle, Ishwardi.	13 Apr 2025 at 12:00
1085573	27.21.0000.735.07.025.725; Date: 17/03/2025	Supply of different kinds of tools and measuring devices for BIPTC, Bheramara under HVDC Circle, Power Grid.	
1085572	27.21.0000.735.07.025.726; Date: 17/03/2025	Store building maintenance at BIPTC, Bheramara under HVDC Circle, Power Grid.	06 Apr 2025 at 12:00
1085592	27.21.0000.735.07.025.724; Date: 17/03/2025	Security post maintenance at BIPTC, Bheramara under HVDC Circle, Power Grid.	

অগ্রহী ত্বিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ শরিফুল ইসলাম  
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, এইচভিডিভিসি সার্কেল, দ্বন্দ্ববন্দী