

EBL donates Tk 61 lakh for underprivileged children's healthcare

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Shishu Sasthya Foundation, Bangladesh (SSF, B), to support its initiative in strengthening services for paediatric inpatients from underprivileged and marginalised families.

Ahmed Shaheen, additional managing director of EBL, handed over a cheque for Tk 61 lakh to Reza Karim, secretary general of the foundation, at a ceremony held at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

Ahmed Shaheen stated, "This partnership with the Shishu Sasthya Foundation, Bangladesh, is an effort to ensure that no child is deprived of the care they deserve due to financial constraints."

"Together, we can pave the way for a healthier and brighter future for the children," he added.

Karim remarked, "EBL's support will undoubtedly strengthen the efforts of SSF, B in assisting the distressed."

The donation will be allocated towards upgrading paediatric inpatient services, including the renovation of two wards, the installation of modern medical



Ahmed Shaheen, additional managing director of Eastern Bank PLC, hands over a cheque for Tk 61 lakh to Reza Karim, secretary general of Shishu Sasthya Foundation, Bangladesh, at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

equipment, enhanced nursing stations, and oxygen systems.

With these improvements, the hospital will be able to serve approximately 2,400 children annually, providing critical medical care to those in need.

Among others, AKM Shamsuzzaman, joint secretary general of the foundation; Prof Shah Mahfuzur Rahman, member of the executive board; Mohammad Jannat, deputy director; Md Abdullah Al Mamun, company secretary of the bank; Md Maskur Reza, head of business information systems; Md Shahjahan Ali, head of compliance; and Md Sufiqul Islam Zahid, head of financial operations and control, were also present.

Education system fails to create

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As a result, the skills demanded by the modern economy, both globally and domestically, are not being supplied, said Jahan, who has authored 19 books and over 150 articles in national and international academic journals.

Education and employment are closely linked. However, in Bangladesh, there is a strong societal preference for traditional higher education over vocational training. Families and communities prioritise university degrees, often associating them with social prestige.

For example, if a parent says, "My son has completed an MA degree," it is seen as a mark of honour. However, the relevance of that degree to the job market is rarely considered.

In contrast, technical and vocational training, such as carpentry or mechanical work, is undervalued, despite its importance for economic development. Often, students who are not academically strong are pushed into vocational

training as a last resort.

This negative perception prevents technical education from receiving the recognition it deserves, ultimately limiting its growth, Jahan said.

Regarding entrepreneurs' approach to hiring skilled labour, he said that industries assume cheap labour leads to higher profits.

However, they overlook the fact that while labour may be inexpensive, low productivity and minimal value addition mean profits are not optimised, according to the economist.

Instead of focusing on cheap labour, investment should be made in skill development to increase productivity and enhance value addition, he said.

"Take our garment industry, for example. The work we do in Bangladesh within this sector is low-value-added, relying on cheap labour with relatively low productivity."

In contrast, Vietnam, despite higher labour costs, generates greater profits because its workers are highly productive. Through training and education,

they have integrated high-value-added processes within their garment industry, he said.

If Bangladesh aims to expand its industrial output, the government must identify sectors with high-value addition potential and ensure workers are adequately skilled for them.

Moreover, Bangladesh is transitioning beyond the least developed country (LDC) category, meaning it will no longer receive tariff exemptions and concessional aid. Entrepreneurs will have to compete directly in the global market.

"If our workforce remains unskilled and our products lack high-value additions, we will struggle to compete."

On the issue of low remittances despite increasing manpower exports, the economist pointed out that many overseas workers are low-skilled, limiting their earning potential. Unlike India, where a significant portion of migrant workers are professionals, Bangladesh mainly exports

unskilled labour.

Another reason is policymakers' complacency. Since the country receives \$20-30 billion annually in remittances, they are satisfied with the existing system. However, they fail to recognise that this figure could be doubled by exporting more skilled professionals, said Jahan.

He added, "Over time, the demand for unskilled labour will decline. Automation is rapidly transforming industries, including garments. In the future, unskilled workers performing routine tasks, such as sewing buttons, may no longer be needed."

He said that Bangladesh, unfortunately, has not been proactive in training workers for the future. While traditional vocational training exists, it does not focus on enhancing skills for securing higher paying jobs abroad. To maximise remittance earnings, the country must prioritise sending skilled and professional workers overseas.

Jahan also highlighted inequality in two key forms: outcome inequality and opportunity inequality.

Outcome inequality refers to differences in income and wealth, while opportunity inequality relates to disparities in access to quality education, healthcare and employment.

In Bangladesh, education and healthcare systems are highly unequal. A child studying in a well-equipped Dhaka school has vastly different opportunities compared to one from a rural village. This disparity extends to the job market, creating long-term socio-economic divisions.

Moreover, inequality is not just economic, it has political, social and cultural dimensions. Unequal access to freedom of speech, justice, and cultural participation contributes to a divided and polarised society. Addressing inequality requires a holistic approach beyond financial redistribution, said the economist.

He recommended assessing current and future skill demands, both domestically and internationally, to guide education and training.

In the next phase, the government should align education and training systems with market needs. Continuous monitoring and policy adaptation will be essential, he added.

Mastercard launches campaign for Eid, Baishakh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Global digital payment service provider Mastercard has launched the "Mastercard Holiday Spend Campaign 2025", styled "Festival means Mastercard", a 25-day flash campaign.

This campaign is designed to enhance the festive seasons of Eid-ul-Fitr and Pahela Baishakh, offering a range of exciting rewards for its cardholders, according to a press release.

From March 26 to April 19 of this year, the flash campaign will present priceless experiences and fantastic prize opportunities for shoppers using their Mastercard debit, credit, and prepaid cards.



mastercard.

The top 50 spenders will have the chance to win exclusive rewards, with the grand prize being a Tk 100,000 travel voucher, alongside a range of travel and home appliance vouchers.

These prizes are intended to add an extra layer of joy to the holiday celebrations for Mastercard users. With each transaction made using Mastercard debit, credit, or prepaid cards, cardholders will increase their chances of winning.

Participants must make both cross-border and domestic transactions to qualify for these prizes.

The selection of winners will be based on the total spend volume. The campaign is open to all cardholders of Mastercard branded debit, credit, and prepaid cards issued by the 18 participating banks and non-bank financial institutions in Bangladesh.

Community Bank holds 62nd board meeting



Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam, chairman of Community Bank Bangladesh PLC, presides over the 62nd board meeting at the police headquarters in the capital's Gulistan on Monday.

PHOTO: COMMUNITY BANK BANGLADESH

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Community Bank Bangladesh PLC organised the 62nd board meeting at the police headquarters in the capital's Gulistan on Monday.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Baharul Alam, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting, the bank said in a press release.

During the meeting, several important decisions were made regarding investment proposals and various policy matters of the bank.

Muntashirul Islam, additional DIG (highway police) of Bangladesh Police; Sufian Ahmed, additional DIG (joint police commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police); Ahmad Muyeed, additional DIG of Bangladesh Police Kallyan Trust; Kamrul Hasan Talukdar, inspector of Bangladesh Police and president of Bangladesh Police Association; Masud Khan, independent director of the bank; Mohammad Abdul Qaium Khan, managing director (current charge); and Saiful Alam, company secretary, were also present.

AHQ, E in C's BRANCH, WORKS DIRECTORATE, DHAKA CANTONMENT INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Notice no. 300/Ad/68/E-3/17

Dated: 23 March 2025.

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence			
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services			
3.	Procuring Entity Name	E in C			
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)	Infrastructural Development for Mongla Commander Flotilla west (Comflot west)			
9.	Selling of tender will commence from	27 March 2025 (During Office hour).			
10.	Selling of tender will Close on	09 April 2025 (During Office hour).			
11.	Last date & time of submission of Tender	10 April 2025 at 1200 hours.			
12.	Date & time of opening of Tender	10 April 2025 at 1230 hours.			
13.	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka & AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka. Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Central Dhaka			
- Selling Tender Document		- Receiving Tender Document			
- Opening Tender Document					
14.	Eligibility of Tenderer	a. MES enlisted contractors Class "D" for lot no. 15(a), (b) & (c). b. On receipt of DGFI clearance with others Department (equivalent classes) contractors may also apply for tender. c. Contractors having experience in similar works with enlistment in other Govt., Semi, Government & Autonomous Organization may also apply. d. Having experience of similar work mentioned in Lot No 15(a) amounting Tk. 39,00,000.00 (b) amounting Tk. 33,50,000.00 (c) amounting Tk. 37,00,000.00 for each lot in single tender during last 05 (Five) years.			
15.	Brief Description of Works	Identification of Lot			
Lot No	Location	Location	Price of Tender Document (Non Refundable)	Tender Security in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay order in favour of AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Canton. (Taka)	Completion Time in weeks/ Months
1		3	4	5	6
a.	Manufacture & supply of furniture of 'C' Type Quarter for Infrastructural Development for Mongla Commander Flotilla West (Comflot West).	GE (Navy) Khulna	2000.00	1,60,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
b.	Manufacture & supply of furniture of 'D' Type Quarter for Infrastructural Development for Mongla Commander Flotilla West (Comflot West).	GE (Navy) Khulna	2000.00	1,40,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
c.	Manufacture & supply of furniture for BSO & BSD Office Bidg and Store, MES Office Bldg, Annex SMBK, Utility Bldg at Infrastructural Development for Mongla Commander Flotilla West (Comflot West).	GE (Navy) Khulna	2000.00	1,50,000.00	08 (Eight) Months
16.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works			
17.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works			
18.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Army Headquarters, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. Web address : www.army.mil.bd			
19.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel No. 9832870			
20.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders	Fax No. 9832882 e-mail: wksdt@army.mil.bd			

আই এস পি আর/সেনা /২৪২

MD FARUK HOSSAIN

XEN E/M

For Director of Works

Works Directorate

Engineer in Chief's Branch

Dhaka Cantonment

Tel: Mili: 8711111 Ext: 2886

Civil: 9832886

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH					
Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD)					
Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka.					
Tender for Goods (Single Lot)					
Date: 25/03/2025					
Ref. No: CMSD/GR-2419/CT/2024-25/Proc.D-3/09					
KEY INFORMATION					
1	Procurement Method / Document	ICT Open			
2	Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (Government)			
3	Development Partner	N/A			
4	Project / Programme Code	N/A			
5	Project / Programming Name	N/A			
6	Tender Package No.	GR-2419			
7	Tender Package Name	Procurement of "Digital Mammography Machine"			
8	Tender Opening Date	27/03/2025			
9	Tender Last Selling Date	12/05/2025			
10	Tender Closing Date and time	13/05/2025 11:00 AM			
11	Tender Opening Date and time	13/05/2025 12:00 PM			
12	Name and Address of the Officer(s)	Selling Tender Document(Principal) Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed, Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 Selling Tender Document(Others) Do Receiving Tender Document Do Opening Tender Document Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed, Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka (Conference Room, Room No.-115)			
13	Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed, Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka (Conference Room, Room No.-115) 15/04/2025 12:00 PM			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
14	Eligibility of Tenderer	As per tender document.			
15	Brief Description of Goods or Works	3D Digital Mammography with Breast Tomosynthesis, Stereotactic Biopsy Devices & Dedicated Biopsy Table & Chair			
16	Brief Description of Related Services	As per technical specification			
17	Tender Document Price	BDT 4,000/- (Bangladesh Taka Four thousand) or US\$ 50 (fifty) only.			
17	Lot No	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount in Taka	Completion Time in weeks/months
GR-2419	Digital Mammography Machine	Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD)	To be delivered on or within 16 weeks following the date of confirmation of the L/C for delivery from abroad and after signing of the contract for delivery from within Bangladesh. Tenders offering delivery beyond 16 weeks will be treated as non-responsive.	BDT 8,80,000.00 only or USD 7,250.00 or equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency through a scheduled bank in Bangladesh	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
18	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Shah Md. Helal Uddin			
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director (Additional Secretary)			
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed, Sharani, Tejgaon			