

Asian Paints unveils 'Colour of the Year 2025' in Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Asian Paints, one of the largest paint manufacturers in Asia, has launched an initiative "Colour of the Year 2025" under the title "Colour and Material Trends-ColourNext 2025" in Bangladesh. The initiative follows an extensive global research collaboration with creative professionals across diverse disciplines.

Joseph Eapen, chief executive officer of Asian Paints International Limited, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest at an event held at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in the capital, according to a press release.

The launch event convened leading figures from Bangladesh's interior design, architecture and creative industries.

In his remarks, Eapen stated, "Today's consumers seek more than colour—they desire spaces that tell a story and evoke emotion. With ColourNext 2025, we've merged global insights with local nuances to offer a design toolkit that reflects both lifestyle and sentiment." He added, "Our aim is to continue curating colour and material solutions that are not only visually compelling but also meaningful, enhancing both aesthetic appeal and everyday usability."

Budhaditya Mukherjee, regional head for South Asia and the South Pacific Islands at Asian Paints International, commented: "ColourNext serves as a lens through which we interpret what genuinely resonates with people. Cardinal speaks to the emotional truth of our time, and we are proud to bring that narrative to Bangladesh."

Each year, Asian Paints collaborates with thought leaders across architecture, design, fashion, media and sociology to produce ColourNext, an authoritative forecast of emerging trends in colour, material, texture and finish.

Since its inception in 2003, the initiative has explored the intersection of culture and design, gradually becoming Asia's most respected colour and material intelligence platform.

In Bangladesh, Asian Paints remains the only home décor brand to undertake such rigorous and nuanced trend research.

This year's spotlight was on Cardinal, named the Colour of the Year 2025. A dusky, soulful purple, Cardinal reflects emotional depth and unfiltered authenticity. Inspired by contemporary identity and introspection, it introduces softness, sophistication, and a grounded emotional resonance to interior spaces.



Joseph Eapen, chief executive officer of Asian Paints International Limited, and Budhaditya Mukherjee, regional head for South Asia and the South Pacific Islands at Asian Paints International, inaugurate the initiative titled "Colour of the Year 2025" at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: ASIAN PAINTS

EU still seeks trade deal after new Trump tariff threat

AFP, Brussels

The EU still hopes to strike a deal with the United States despite President Donald Trump's ramped-up threat of 30-percent tariffs, the bloc's trade chief said Monday, with pressure on Brussels to toughen its stance.

The US leader threw months of painstaking talks into disarray on Saturday by announcing he would hammer the bloc with the sweeping tariffs if no agreement is reached by August 1.

Heading into Brussels talks with EU trade ministers, the bloc's trade chief Maros Sefcovic said despite Trump's latest threat he "felt" Washington was ready to continue negotiating—and he planned to speak with his US counterparts later in the day.

Sefcovic, who is leading talks on behalf of the EU's 27 states, said reaching a deal remained the priority—while acknowledging calls from countries including key power France for the bloc to flex its muscles in negotiations.

"The current uncertainty caused by unjustified tariffs cannot persist indefinitely," Sefcovic told reporters, adding the EU was preparing for "all outcomes", including "well-considered, proportionate countermeasures". European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday delayed a package of retaliatory measures over US tariffs on steel and aluminium—a day before they were set to kick in—as a sign of goodwill.

Eastern Bank signs deal with Norwegian Refugee Council



Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director and chief executive officer of Eastern Bank PLC, and Sehnaz Ozdamar, country director for Bangladesh at the Norwegian Refugee Council, pose for photographs after signing the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Sunday.

PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has entered into a strategic partnership agreement with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), an independent humanitarian organisation.

Sehnaz Ozdamar, country director for Bangladesh at NRC, and Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director and chief executive officer of the bank, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Sunday, according to a press release.

Under the terms of the agreement, Eastern Bank will provide NRC with a comprehensive suite of banking products and services aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and streamlining financial processes across the organisation's operations in Bangladesh.

Among others, Michele Carezis, advocacy and communications manager of NRC Bangladesh; Monirul Huda, human resources manager; Ahmed Shaheen, additional managing director of the bank; and Md Jabelul Alam, head of transaction banking and corporate banking; were also present.



Md Rabiul Islam, managing director and chief executive officer (current charge) of SBAC Bank PLC, and Md Mahiuddin Khan, executive chairman of the National Pension Authority, shake hands and exchange signed documents of the memorandum of understanding at the conference room of the finance division in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: SBAC BANK

Mercantile Bank organises training for management trainee officers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mercantile Bank PLC has recently conducted a month-long foundation training programme for the 14th batch of its management trainee officers.

A total of twenty-four officers took part in the programme.

Mati Ul Hasan, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the training as the chief guest at the bank's training institute in Dhaka, according to a press release.

In his inaugural address, Hasan urged the trainees to adhere strictly to banking ethics and regulatory guidelines, and to demonstrate initiative in delivering exceptional service to the bank's customers.

The programme was moderated by Javed Tariq, principal of the bank's training institute, and was attended by members of the bank's senior management team.



Mati Ul Hasan, managing director of Mercantile Bank PLC, poses for group photographs with participants of the training programme at the bank's training institute in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: MERCANTILE BANK

SBAC Bank signs MoU with National Pension Authority

STAR BUSINESS DESK

SBAC Bank PLC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Pension Authority (NPA) to facilitate and promote the Universal Pension Schemes.

Md Mahiuddin Khan, executive chairman of the NPA, and Md Rabiul Islam, managing director and chief executive officer (current charge) of the bank, signed the MoU at the conference room of the Finance Division under the Ministry of Finance in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Under the terms of the agreement, SBAC Bank will be authorised to register individuals and collect monthly instalments for various Universal Pension Schemes—namely Pragoti, Surakkha, Samata and Probash—through both online and offline channels.

Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder, secretary of the finance division, attended the ceremony as the chief guest.

Md Masoodur Rahman, senior executive vice-president and head of banking operations division at the bank, was also present, along with senior officials from both organisations.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
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Bagerhat

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Memo No. 22.01.0000.481.29.011.25.2993

Date: 10/07/2025

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Sundarban East Forest Division, Bagerhat.

Tender ID Package No.	Name of work	Tender document last selling/ downloading date and time	Last date and time for tender security submission	Tender closing date and time
Tender ID: 1129719 Package No. SEFD/WD-10/Tiger/2024-25	Construction and installation of 25 Nos. Signboard at different place of Sundarbans.	28 July, 2025 16.00pm	29 July, 2025 13.00pm	29 July, 2025 15.00pm
Tender ID: 1129693 Package No. SEFD/WD-09/Tiger/2024-25	Construction of RCC Observation tower for fire monitoring in Sundarbans (with two landing station and 50 feet height including soil test) at Nangli and Dhansagor.	28 July, 2025 16.00pm	29 July, 2025 13.00pm	29 July, 2025 15.00pm
Tender ID: 1129686 Package No. SEFD/WD-08/Tiger/2024-25	Construction of forts/elevations (earth work) for shelter of Tigers and game animals (each 50mx22mx3m) at 2 different place of Sundarbans.	28 July, 2025 16.00pm	29 July, 2025 13.00pm	29 July, 2025 15.00pm
Tender ID: 1129682 Package No. SEFD/WD-07/Tiger/2024-25	Nylon rope fence will be constructed in the area adjacent to Sundarban locality (14 km).	06 August, 2025 16.00pm	07 August, 2025 13.00pm	07 August, 2025 15.00pm

(Signature)

Md. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury
Divisional Forest Officer
Sundarban East Forest Division
Bagerhat

GD-1575

সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

জরুরি দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর জন্য দেশীয় মুদ্রায় ছকে উল্লিখিত উৎসবসূহ অন্যান্য প্রতিরক্ষা ও মহাপরিদপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত ব্যবসায়ী/প্রকৌশলী/আমদানীকারক/ইন্ডাস্ট্রি প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীল মোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।

২। দরপত্রের সিডিউল নিম্নের ছকে উল্লিখিত তারিখ ও সময় মোতাবেক সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস থেকে নম্বর মুদ্রা (অক্ষরযোগ্য) সপ্রস্তুত করা যাবে। প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলীসহ দরপত্র সীল মোহরযুক্ত খামে এই মহাপরিদপ্তরে রক্তিত টিকার বক্রে আগামী ২৪ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ ০৯০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৩০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত জমা নেয়া হবে এবং একই দিন ১৩০৫ ঘটিকার দরদাওয়ার উপস্থিতিতে (যদি বেহে উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।

ক্রমিক নং	প্রার্থীর বিবরণ	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	দরপত্র জমা এবং উন্মুক্তের তারিখ	দরপত্র নম্বর
ক।	মেডিসিন	১০-০৭-২০২৫	২৪-০৭-২০২৫	04/2025-2026/Corres/Open

৩। দরপত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত তথ্যাদি/নথিপত্র সংকলিত করতে হবে:
ক। প্রিন্টিংপাল এর নিকট থেকে ছাদী এজেন্সি সনদপত্র।
খ। প্রকৌশলীর কোম্পানির নাম ও দেশ।
গ। দরপত্রের সাথে আইটেমের নম্বর/ক্যাটাগরি।
ঘ। বাংলাদেশ উৎস প্রাপ্ত অধিকার কর্তৃক প্রদানকৃত রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর/এমএ নম্বর/অন্যপতি সনদ (NOC) এর কপি।
ঙ। দরপত্রের হার্ড কপি সহ MS Word এ প্রস্তুতকৃত সফট কপি সেনা ড্রাইভে।
চ। দরপত্র জমা হ্রদিশ।

৪। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
৫। কার্যসেপ্তার প্রক্রিয়ার পর দেশীয় আইটেমের ক্ষেত্রে ২০ (বিশ) এবং বিদেশী আইটেমের ক্ষেত্রে ৪৫ দিনের মধ্যে সরবরাহ করতে হবে।
৬। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে ছাদী দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি/কমানো এবং দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার রাখবে।
৭। পিপিআর/২০০৬ ও পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী।
৮। দরপত্রের সফট কপি অন লাইনে দাখিল না করিলে দরপত্রটি বাতিল বলে গণ্য করা হবে।
৯। বিকল্প অফার (Alternative Offer) গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

আই এস পি আর/বিবিধ/২১৮

সে কর্নেল
সহ-মহাপরিদপ্তর (স্টেশনার)
সামরিক চিকিৎসা সার্ভিস মহাপরিদপ্তর
প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
তারিখ: ০৬ জুলাই ২০২৫

China exports

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The strong export figures "help to partly offset the weak domestic demand and likely keep GDP growth around the government target of five percent in the second quarter", Zhang said.

"But the outlook for the second half of the year is unclear, as the frontloading of exports (to the United States) will fade out sometime," he said.

Customs official Wang Lingjun told a news conference on Monday that Beijing hoped "the US will continue to work together with China towards the same direction", state broadcaster CCTV reported.

The tariff truce was "hard won", Wang said. "There is no way out through blackmail and coercion. Dialogue and cooperation are the right path," he added.

Analysts say China's economy is expected to have expanded more than five percent in the second quarter thanks to its strong exports. Official figures are due to be released on Tuesday. But they also warn Trump's trade war could cause a sharp slowdown in the final six months of the year.

Beijing is targeting an overall expansion of around five percent in 2025—the same as last year but a figure considered ambitious by many experts. First-quarter growth came in at 5.4 percent, beating forecasts and putting the economy on a positive trajectory.

Beijing has struggled to sustain growth since the pandemic as it battles a prolonged debt crisis in the property sector, chronically low consumption and high youth unemployment.

Data released last week showed that consumer prices edged up in June, barely snapping a four-month deflationary dip, but factory gate prices dropped at their fastest clip in nearly two years.

Many economists argue that China needs to shift towards a growth model propelled more by domestic consumption than the traditional key drivers of infrastructure investment, manufacturing and exports.

Beijing has introduced a slew of measures since last year in a bid to boost spending, including a consumer goods trade-in subsidy scheme that briefly lifted retail activity.