

bKash offers discounts on healthcare services

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mobile financial service (MFS) provider bKash is offering discounts of up to Tk 400 on the purchase of medicines, medical tests, and health check-ups at select pharmacies, diagnostic centres, and hospitals.

According to a press release issued by bKash, the offers will remain valid until September 10, 2025.

For health check-ups at 127 hospitals across the country, customers can receive a Tk 100 discount when making a bKash payment of at least Tk 1,500. To avail of this offer, users must apply the code 'H3' before completing the payment.

For medical tests, customers will receive a Tk 100 discount by making a minimum bKash payment of Tk 1,000 using the code 'H2' at 483 diagnostic centres nationwide, including Popular Diagnostic, Medinova, BRAC Healthcare, and others. This discount can be used once per day and up to a maximum of two times during the campaign period.

To purchase medicines, customers can enjoy a 5 percent daily discount (up to Tk 25), redeemable up to four times throughout the campaign. The offer applies at nearly 4,500 pharmacies across the country, including Lazz Pharma, Tamanna Pharmacy, AKS Pharmacy, and others. To receive this discount, users must apply the code 'H1' before payment.

PKSF to provide free skills training to 12,000 low-income youth



Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder, secretary to the Ministry of Finance and national programme director of the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (SICIP), poses for group photographs after inaugurating the PKSF's part of the SICIP project at the PKSF Bhaban in Agargaon, Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PKSF

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has launched its part of the Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP), aiming to transform underprivileged and marginalised communities into skilled manpower and ensure their sustainable employment through modern, industry-oriented technical training.

Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder, secretary of the Ministry of Finance and national programme director of SICIP, attended the project's launching ceremony as chief guest at the PKSF Bhaban in the capital's Agargaon, according to a press release.

He praised PKSF's contributions to skill development, stating, "Following the successful training of 12,000 youth under the PKSF-SICIP project, the government will extend further support to PKSF."

"There is a strong demand for skilled workers abroad. In this context, PKSF and

its partner organisations can make an effective contribution to the government's efforts to develop a skilled labour force," he added.

Under the regular training component of this three-year project, 12,000 young people across the country will receive training free of charge. Of them, 30 percent will be women. Priority will also be given to youth from low-income families and marginalised regions within the remaining 70 percent.

Participants will receive training in 12 different trades and business areas. The project will cover their accommodation and meal expenses. In addition, after successful completion of the training, necessary support will be provided for both self-employment and wage-based employment aligned with the skills acquired.

Commenting on the initiative, Zakir Ahmed Khan, chairman of PKSF, remarked that Bangladesh's current demographic advantage will not last

indefinitely. "To capitalise on this dividend, there is no alternative to developing a skilled workforce," he said.

"To that end, the SICIP-PKSF project will complement various government initiatives aimed at workforce development," he added.

The state-owned development organisation also signed agreements with partner training institutions under the project, which is supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Previously, PKSF successfully trained a total of 38,633 individuals under the SEIP project, the predecessor to the SICIP-PKSF initiative.

Among others, Mohammed Walid Hossain, additional secretary and executive programme director of SICIP; Md Fazlul Kader, managing director of PKSF; Mohammad Jashim Uddin, additional managing director; and Md Ziauddin Iqbal, senior general manager, were also present.

Euro struggles to recoup losses

REUTERS, Singapore

The euro struggled to recoup its steep losses on Tuesday as investors sobered up to the fact that terms of the trade deal between the US and the European Union favoured the former and hardly lifted the economic outlook of the bloc.

France, on Monday, called the framework trade agreement a "dark day" for Europe, saying the bloc had caved in to US President Donald Trump with an unbalanced deal that slapped a headline 15 percent tariff on EU goods.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said his economy would suffer "significant" damage due to the agreed tariffs.

The euro slid 1.3 percent in the previous session, its sharpest one-day percentage fall in over two months, on worries about growth and as euro-area government bond yields fell.

The common currency failed to recoup its losses and last traded 0.02 percent lower at \$1.1584.



"It hasn't taken long for markets to conclude that this relatively good news is still in absolute terms, bad news as far as the near term implications for euro zone growth are concerned," said Ray Attrill, head of FX research at National Australia Bank.

"The deal has been roundly condemned by France while others including German Chancellor Merz are playing up the negative consequences for exporters, and with that, economic growth."

The slide in the euro in turn boosted the dollar, which jumped 1 percent against a basket of currencies overnight.

The dollar held on to gains on Tuesday and knocked sterling to a two-month low of \$1.3338. The yen edged 0.2 percent higher to 148.22 per dollar.

The dollar index steadied at 98.66.

City Bank brings City Impex for seamless trade services

STAR BUSINESS DESK

City Bank PLC has recently launched a new online platform, titled "City Impex", to provide seamless trade services.

Clients can carry out all types of trade transactions through City Impex from anywhere in the world and at any time, according to a press release issued by the bank.

Hossain Khaled, the new chairman of the bank, inaugurated the platform at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. Aziz Al Kaiser, the immediate past chairman of the bank, was present.



Hossain Khaled, the new chairman of City Bank PLC, inaugurates the new online platform, titled "City Impex", at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. Aziz Al Kaiser, the immediate past chairman of the bank, was present.

PHOTO: CITY BANK

services, and real-time statements secured by robust digital security measures.

Mashrur Arefin, managing director and chief executive officer of the bank; Faruk Ahmed, deputy managing director and head of TSD; and Mesbaul Asif Siddiqui, deputy managing director and head of wholesale banking, along with other senior officials of the bank and clients, were also present at the event.

UCB Investment, UCB Stock Brokerage get Euromoney awards

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank (UCB) PLC has celebrated a momentous achievement as its two leading subsidiaries -- UCB Investment Limited and UCB Stock Brokerage Limited -- have been recognised at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2025.

Sharif Zahir, chairman of UCB, inaugurated the celebration at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

UCB Investment Limited (UCBL) was named "Best Investment Bank in Bangladesh 2025", reinforcing its reputation as a trailblazer in the country's capital markets.

The award acknowledges UCBIL's steadfast commitment to strategic innovation, market leadership, and a client-centric approach. From



Sharif Zahir, chairman of United Commercial Bank, inaugurates a celebration at the bank's head office in Dhaka, recognising the achievements of UCB Investment and UCB Stock Brokerage at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2025.

PHOTO: UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK

advising on landmark transactions to promoting sustainable finance, UCBIL continues to play a transformative role in the financial sector.

Meanwhile, UCB Stock Brokerage Limited earned two accolades such as the "Best Securities House -

Bangladesh 2025" and the "Best Bank for Research - Bangladesh 2025".

These achievements further establish UCB Stock's leadership in both brokerage services and financial research, the press release noted.

EU defends Trump trade deal

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Industry groups in both countries made plain their disappointment, with Germany's main auto sector body saying the 15 percent levy "burdens" carmakers while its VCI chemical trade association said the rates were "too high".

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban attacked the deal in blunt terms, saying: "Trump ate Ursula von der Leyen for breakfast."

European stock markets dipped later on Monday, wiping out early gains and reflecting unease at terms viewed as lopsided.

"It looks a bit like a capitulation," said Alberto Rizzi of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR).

"The EU accepted a fairly

unbalanced deal," he added, saying it delivered a "political victory for Trump".

Von der Leyen had faced intense pressure from EU states to strike a deal quickly with the bloc's biggest partner and protect a \$1.9-trillion trading relationship.

Defending Brussels' approach, Sefcovic warned that a no deal scenario -- meaning a 30 percent tariff and the prospect of further escalation -- would have risked up to five million jobs in Europe.

Throughout the months-long talks, Brussels prioritised stability and maintaining good relations with Washington over escalation.

"But if you're trying to avoid worse national security outcomes, well then maybe the deal is not so bad," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Gopalgonj

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Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridge/ Road Transport and Highway Division
2	Agency	Roads and Highways Department
3	Procuring Entity Name	Md. Azharul Islam, Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalgonj.
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable
5	Procuring Entity District	Gopalgonj.
6	Invitation for	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Modhumoti Bridge (Kalna Bridge) at 4th km of Bhatiapara-Kalna-Lohagara-Narail-Jessore Road (N-806) for 3 (Three) years under Gopalgonj Road Division during the year 2025-2026.
7	Invitation Ref No	35.01.3500.428.07.002-25-1799
8	Date	29-07-2025
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	None
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project / Program Code (if applicable)	None
13	Project Name (if applicable)	None
14	Tender Package No.	01/Manual/PSN/GRD/2024-2025 (2nd Call)
15	Tender Package Name	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Modhumoti Bridge (Kalna Bridge) at 4th km of Bhatiapara-Kalna-Lohagara-Narail-Jessore Road (N-806) for 3 (Three) years under Gopalgonj Road Division during the year 2025-2026.
16	Tender Publication Date	29-07-2025
17	Tender Last Selling Date	27-08-2025 and 04.00 pm
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	28-08-2025 and 12.00 pm
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	28-08-2025 and 03:00 pm
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	<p>- Selling Tender Document (Principal) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalgonj.</p> <p>(i) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.</p> <p>(ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur (iii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Shariatpur.</p>
NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS		
21	- Receiving Tender Document	(i) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalgonj.
	- Opening Tender Document	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Gopalgonj.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	As Per TDS
23	Brief Description of Services	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Modhumoti Bridge (Kalna Bridge) at 4th km of Bhatiapara-Kalna-Lohagara-Narail-Jessore Road (N-806) for 3 (Three) years under Gopalgonj Road Division during the year 2025-2026.
25	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	4000.00
	Package No	Identification of Package
	01/Manual/PSN/GRD/2024-2025 (2nd Call)	Location
		Tender Security Amount (Tk)
		20.00 (Twenty) Lakh
		Completion Time in Weeks / Months
		36 Months
PROCURING DETAILS		
30	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Azharul Islam
31	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, RHD
32	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Gopalgonj Road Division, Gopalgonj.
33	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 02479961678, E-mail : eegopal@rhd.gov.bd
34	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the Tender at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.	This notice will be available on RHD website: rhd.portal.gov.bd and on CPTU website: www.cptu.gov.bd .

29.7.25
(Md. Azharul Islam)
ID - 602306
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Gopalgonj.