



With just days to go before Durga Puja, the biggest festival of the Hindu community, shoppers throng retail markets to purchase clothes, especially saris and salwar kameez, alongside gifts for their loved ones. The photo was taken on Kathpotti Road in Barishal city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Shanta Lifestyle brings Kohler to Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Shanta Lifestyle has entered into a partnership agreement with Kohler Co, the American multinational renowned for its premium bath and sanitary products, marking a milestone in Bangladesh's design and lifestyle sector.

Dewan Sajid Afzal, chief executive officer of Shanta Lifestyle, inaugurated Kohler's first showroom in Bangladesh at Concord Bilkis Tower on Madani Avenue in Dhaka, according to a press release.

"Bringing Kohler to Bangladesh reflects our ambition to make world-class design and craftsmanship accessible to discerning consumers. Kohler represents more than just bathroom fixtures; it represents a lifestyle," Afzal said at the event.

The American multinational company is renowned for its premium bath and sanitary products

With Kohler's debut, Shanta Lifestyle strengthens its position as a curator of globally acclaimed brands, underscoring its mission to introduce international standards of excellence to the local market.

The showroom showcases Kohler's signature approach to luxury living, from the elegant lines of freestanding bathtubs to the sleek minimalism of wall-hung toilets.

For the first time, Bangladeshi consumers are able to experience first-hand what has established Kohler's global reputation: transforming the everyday into the extraordinary through bold design.

Jane Alam Romel, group chief marketing officer of Shanta, highlighted how Kohler's 150-year design legacy would set new benchmarks in Bangladesh.

"Kohler has always been at the forefront of design leadership. By bringing this heritage here, we aim to redefine how Bangladesh views not just bathrooms, but lifestyle spaces as a whole," he said.

New telecom policy

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fibre optic networks, international connectivity that includes submarine cables, and non-terrestrial networks. A fifth one, called telecom-enabled services, will need only registration, not a full licence.

In practical terms, mobile operators, internet service providers, submarine cable operators, tower firms and satellite service providers will move into this unified system.

Old licence types such as international internet gateway (IIG), interconnection exchange (ICX), national internet exchange (NIX) and international gateway (IGW) will be phased out as they expire, with most due to end by 2027.

The new policy says it will adopt "a technology-neutral model that ensures necessary licence obligation and enhances quality of service and quality of experience for consumers." Rather than specifying which technologies must be used, it will allow operators to choose and innovate.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP LIMITS

According to the new telecom policy,

mobile operators may have up to 85 percent foreign ownership, but at least 15 percent must be held locally through joint ventures, stock market listings or other arrangements.

Companies will have three years to comply.

Infrastructure firms will face a 65 percent cap on foreign ownership, while providers of international connectivity will be limited to 49 percent.

"This safeguard is intended to promote domestic investment, align with national development objectives, and ensure long-term strategic interests," the policy says.

It mentions that the goal is to encourage global capital while keeping critical networks under some domestic control.

SPACE FOR NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The policy places a strong focus on emerging services, from the internet of things and private 5G and 6G networks to blockchain, mission-critical communications and quantum computing facilities.

"BTRC shall adopt a proportionate and flexible regulatory approach for

IMED suggests reforms

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backgrounds in economics, commerce, finance, or project planning, and preferably those with overseas training in these areas," Mahmud told reporters after the meeting. Noting that the Ministry of Health consistently lags in project implementation, he questioned the practice of appointing doctors as PDs. "Managing a project's financial operations is far beyond their expertise. This is a glaring example of our weakness in identifying suitable PDs."

Mahmud further suggested that, in line with international standards, the government could consider recruiting project directors from outside the public sector by offering attractive benefits.

"Countries like Japan, South Korea, and Singapore excel in project implementation because they place the right people in the right roles," he said.

IMED further underscored the need for credible feasibility studies, recommending that these undergo mandatory peer reviews by independent experts before approval.

It proposed that project proposals include dedicated chapters on market surveys, demand forecasting, risk analysis, and environmental and social impact assessments.

Export diversification

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readmade garments accounted for 81.23 percent of total exports of \$34.6 billion. By FY25, the share of readmade garments to total exports rose to 81.49 percent, according to export data compiled by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

The export market has also remained stuck with the European Union and the United States.

These two markets together account for over two-thirds of Bangladesh's exports, reflecting a slight change in reality, despite policymakers and businesses having discussed diversifying exports and destinations over the years.

Preferring anonymity, some Planning Commission officials described the project as "poorly designed" and cautioned against any further extensions.

"Due to the delays, Bangladesh will end up paying more in local currency against World Bank loans," one senior official said on condition of anonymity.

M Abu Eusuf, executive director of the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), said the project must be completed by the latest deadline to realise its benefits as LDC graduation

Rupali Bank launching rebranded MFS 'RupaliCash' today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

State-run Rupali Bank PLC is launching its rebranded mobile financial service (MFS) platform "RupaliCash" today with upgraded features developed by its own tech department.

Services through its previous MFS brand, "SureCash", were discontinued on September 19 this year, according to officials.

The previous platform was being used to provide a number of services such as the disbursement of stipend and allowance, distribution of subsidies, and mobile banking transactions.

However, Rupali Bank had faced difficulties for long with SureCash after its technology partner, Progoti Systems Ltd, which operated the MFS, decided to change its service model following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Progoti Systems later handed over SureCash's data centre and related systems to Rupali Bank. The bank then decided to introduce the service under a new brand with upgraded features. Kazi Md Wahidul Islam, managing director of Rupali Bank PLC, told The Daily Star that Rupali Bank was the only lender among state-owned ones offering MFS.

"Mobile banking saves both time and

cost. Keeping customer needs in mind, RupaliCash has been designed with various features," he said.

He added that customers will be able to open eKYC-based accounts, deposit and withdraw cash, transfer funds between wallets, check balances and transaction statements, disburse and receive salaries, recharge mobile phones, and make merchant payments through RupaliCash.

Customers can also transfer money directly from Rupali Bank accounts to RupaliCash wallets without any charge, he said. "In the future, the service will expand to include savings, microcredit, remittances, e-commerce, credit card transactions, and ATM cash-out facilities," he added.

Rupali Bank first introduced its MFS in 2016 under the name Rupali Bank SureCash, which was later operated with technical support from OSV Bangladesh Ltd, a sister concern of Progoti Systems.

Currently, 13 MFS providers operate in the country. Of them, bKash, Nagad, and Rocket dominate the market, with Nagad still running under an interim licence from Bangladesh Bank.

As of July, the total number of MFS accounts stood at 14.58 crore while transactions amounted to Tk 1,48,566 crore, according to central bank data.

FTA talks with EU

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Noting that 90 percent of Bangladesh's exports are confined to the EU and the US, he said, "So, the priority is to secure the two markets although the government is trying to expand its market base to other destinations."

With LDC graduation looming, the government is prioritising signing free trade agreements (FTAs) with its major trade partners. It has concluded the final round of negotiations for signing an EPA with Japan, with the deal expected soon. The first round of negotiations for signing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with South Korea was completed last month.

The commerce ministry sent a letter to the EU last month expressing interest in an FTA and convened an internal meeting for September 29 to discuss the issue, The Daily Star reported last week.

On reducing the trade gap with the USA, the commerce secretary said the government has been constructing warehouses to facilitate the import and sale of US cotton. The annual trade gap between the two countries currently exceeds \$6 billion.

Bangladesh has also

signed agreements to import 3.5 million tonnes of wheat from the US and is increasing imports of LNG, CNG, soybean, and cotton, he added.

Labour law reforms are also underway in consultation with the International Labour Organization to meet international standards.

Also speaking at the event, Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser, said Bangladesh has been preparing for LDC graduation although there are some challenges, including creating national consensus, managing apprehensions, expectations, and transition.

Other challenges include expanding productive capacity, skills, technology, energy, logistics infrastructure, negotiating trade and investment deals, and enhancing state capacity.

Inamul Haq Khan, senior vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said local millers, traders, and mill users have been increasing the import of US cotton, and exports of garment items to the American market are rising following tariff reductions

Stocks climb for second day

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka stocks extended gains for a second consecutive session yesterday, thanks to shares of non-bank financial institutions (NBFI) as well as fuel and power, while turnover also rose.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the bourse, increased 45.18 points, or 0.84 percent, to close at 5,392, according to Dhaka Stock Exchange data.

Other indices followed suit as both the Shariah-based DSES and the blue-chip DS30 ended the day higher.

Turnover, a key indicator of investor activity, stood at Tk 576 crore, up from Tk 467.59 crore in the previous day of trade, reflecting higher investor participation in line with the positive indexes.

The market closed in the positive as all the large-cap sectors posted positive performances, said BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Ltd in its daily market update.

Rice prices may ease in coming months

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According to the food ministry, the government procured a total of 1.7 million tonnes of Boro paddy and rice this year.


As of September 17, the government's grain collection stood at 1.82 million tonnes, including 1.72 million tonnes of rice, 81,711 tonnes of wheat, and 19,533 tonnes of paddy.

In August, the government approved the duty-free import of half a million tonnes of rice to stabilise the market.

Private importers began bringing in consignments from August 12.

On the distribution side, 5.74 lakh tonnes of rice were distributed between July 1 and September 11 this year, which is significantly higher than the 3.10 lakh tonnes of the same period of 2024.

These developments, the GED said, suggest that rice prices may ease in the coming months if no major supply-side disruptions occur.



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
যান্ত্রিক সরঞ্জাম বিভাগ-১
কর্নফুল পানি বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র
বিউলো, কাপ্তাই
ফোন: ০১৩১৫-০৯৬১৯২

Memo No. 27.11.8436.425.05.206.25.1202Date: 23/09/2025

e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of: following goods:

SL No.	Tender ID	Tender/ Proposal Package No.	Description	Tender/ proposal publish date and time	Tender/ proposal document last selling date and time	Tender/ proposal closing and opening date and time
1	1155383	KHS_MMDI_GR3_2025-2026	Procurement of Battery for KATO Crane, SANY Crane, Fork Lift and Dump Truck.	28-Sep-2025 12:00	12-Oct-2025 11:00	12-Oct-2025 12:00
2	1155628	KHS_MMDI_GR5_2025-2026	Procurement of MS Plane Sheet and Angle.	28-Sep-2025 12:00	12-Oct-2025 11:00	12-Oct-2025 12:00

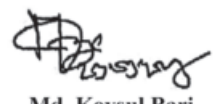
These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents for the tender (Tender ID: 1155383, Tender/Proposal Package No. KHS_MMDI_GR3_2025-2026); tender (Tender ID: 1155628, Tender/Proposal Package No. KHS_MMDI_GR5_2025-2026); from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 12-Oct-2025 11:00 and Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission Up to 12-Oct-2025 11:30.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) /Contact Number (01762625528-31).

Date: 23/09/2025

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১৫১(২)/২৪/০৯/২৫



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