



PHOTO: NESTLÉ BANGLADESH

Prof Mark A Benninga of the Netherlands speaks at a workshop on the science of the gut microbiome, titled "The Gut Nexus", in Dhaka recently.

Nestlé hosts workshop on gut microbiome science

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Nestlé Bangladesh recently organised a two-day workshop on the science of the gut microbiome, titled "The Gut Nexus".

The event brought together scientific experts and research professionals from home and abroad, according to a press release. It blended expert talks with interactive learning, creating an engaging platform for more than 250 specialists from various relevant fields to explore the latest insights on gut health.

Prof Shama Rajendrajith (Sri Lanka) and Prof Mark A Benninga (Netherlands) attended the workshop as distinguished international speakers and delivered impactful sessions on the importance of

gut health and functional gastrointestinal disorders.

Representing local expertise, Prof Md Iqbal Hossain of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), discussed the importance of gut-friendly foods in the Bangladeshi context.

Participants also explored scientific booths showcasing innovations in probiotics and symbiotics, highlighting Nestlé's commitment to advancing nutrition science.

The workshop received high acclaim and reinforced the Nestlé Nutrition Institute's leadership in promoting gut health education and improving well-being for generations to come.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Akij Cement, one of the country's leading brands in the construction industry, has launched a new campaign, titled "Cement a Lohar Shakti", marking its 24th year of commercial operations.

The cement manufacturer organised a programme at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka on Wednesday to celebrate its long journey.

Faria Hossain, chairman of Akij Resource, and Sheikh Jasim Uddin, managing director, jointly inaugurated the campaign, according to a press release.

Addressing the event, Faria said, "This journey of 23 years is a source of pride and inspiration for us. Akij Cement is always committed to providing quality products by giving utmost importance to the trust and confidence of our customers."

"Through the campaign, we want to showcase the quality, durability, and technological excellence of our products in a new way."

Akij Cement will play an even more important role in the country's infrastructure development in



Faria Hossain, chairman of Akij Resource, and Sheikh Jasim Uddin, managing director, jointly inaugurate a campaign, titled "Cement a Lohar Shakti", at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in Dhaka on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AKIJ CEMENT

the future," she added.

At the programme, Jasim Uddin said, "Akij Cement has embarked on a successful journey. Throughout this long journey, the unwavering cooperation, trust, and dedication of customers, distributors, engineers, and all concerned have

been the foundation of our success."

"With everyone's support, Akij Cement has established itself as a reliable name in the country's construction industry. The campaign will further strengthen our strong position," he said.

Modhumoti Bank opens 53rd branch in Jhenaidah

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Modhumoti Bank PLC yesterday opened its new Jhenaidah branch on Sher-e-Bangla Road in Jhenaidah Sadar upazila.

This is the bank's 53rd branch, according to a press release.

Humayun Kabir, chairman of Modhumoti Bank PLC, inaugurated the branch as the chief guest.

The bank has been continuously expanding its footprint through branches, sub-branches, and agent banking points, with a vision to extend its services further and gradually bring underserved communities under the umbrella of financial inclusion.

As part of this ongoing initiative, the bank launched the branch to help unbanked people, especially those in the Sadar upazila.

Salahuddin Alamgir, chairman of the executive committee; Mohammad Ismail Hossain and A Mannan Khan, directors, attended the event as special guests.



PHOTO: MODHUMOTI BANK
Humayun Kabir, chairman of Modhumoti Bank PLC, inaugurates the bank's Jhenaidah branch on Sher-e-Bangla Road in Jhenaidah Sadar upazila yesterday.



PHOTO: TRUST BANK

Anusha Khalid, team leader of Rancon Cars Limited, and Md Wahed Ibne Shahed, head of the retail banking division of Trust Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing a memorandum of understanding at the distributor's Tejgaon showroom in Dhaka recently.

Trust Bank to offer auto loans for Proton vehicles

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Rancon Cars Limited, the authorised distributor of Proton vehicles in Bangladesh.

Md Wahed Ibne Shahed, head of the retail banking division of Trust Bank PLC, and Anusha Khalid, team leader of Rancon Cars Limited, signed the MoU at the distributor's Tejgaon showroom in Dhaka recently, according to a press release.

Under the agreement, Trust Bank will provide auto loan facilities for customers purchasing Proton vehicles, offering easier and more convenient financing options.

Islami Bank launches AI-powered voice assistant 'CellFin Echo'

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC has launched the country's first artificial-intelligence (AI)-powered voice assistant, CellFin Echo, within its popular CellFin app.

The fully voice driven virtual assistant allows users to perform a wide range of banking activities through simple English voice commands.

According to a press release, CellFin Echo verifies the customer's identity and completes tasks automatically, requiring no physical touch.

Users can check balances by saying commands like "Show me CellFin/mCash balance" or by stating an account number. Fund transfers are also simplified; for instance, saying "Send Tk 10,000 to Mamun's account" prompts a preview of the transaction to the saved contact, which can be completed by entering a PIN and OTP.

Khidmah credit card bills can be paid and mobile recharges completed entirely via voice commands. Cash withdrawals from ATMs are easier, as users can generate withdrawal tokens with a simple spoken instruction.

Beyond transactions, CellFin Echo enables users to view account statements, CellFin and card limits, charges, and fees. Statements for specific periods can be filtered, and users can even log out using voice commands. Islami Bank says the experience feels "like a piece of science fiction brought to life."

The CellFin app, already widely used for bill payments, fund transfers, and remittances, now serves nearly 5.7 million customers, strengthening its position as one of Bangladesh's leading digital banking platforms.

Corrigendum to e-Tender (Tender ID: 1175155)

The following corrigendum to the e-Tender (Tender ID: 1175155) for the procurement work "Periodic Maintenance of Pavement with DBS Wearing Course including necessary repair of pavement distresses, construction of surface drains (saucer drains, cross drains), protective works, sign-signal works, and earthwork from (a) Ch. 00+000 to 00+700 & Ch. 1+276 to 13+668 of Bancharampur-Homra Road (Z-1043) and (b) Ch. 36+467 to 48+195 of Eliotganj-Muradnagar-Ramchandrapur-Bancharampur Road (Z-1042) under Road Division, Brahmanbaria under the PMP (Major-Roads) Programme for FY 2025-2026." has been made:

Field Name	Old Value	New Value
Document last selling date & time	07/12/2025 17:00	14/12/2025 17:00
Opening Date & Time	08/12/2025 12:00	15/12/2025 13:00
Last date & time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	08/12/2025 11:45	15/12/2025 12:00
Closing Date & Time	08/12/2025 12:00	15/12/2025 13:00
TDS/PDS C. Qualification Criteria	The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than BDT 21 (Twenty one) Crore only over the best 3 (Three) years during the last 10 (Ten) years. In calculating the annual construction turnover the payment certificate of construction work shall only be considered. Tenderers must submit the payment certificate of construction work for calculating Annual Construction Turnover. In case of a Joint Venture Partnership, the percentage of each shareholder of that Joint Venture shall be mentioned (Joint venture Agreement Copy). [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the egp]	b)The required average annual construction turnover under the public sector shall be greater than BDT 21 (Twenty one) Crore only over the best 3 (Three) years in the last 10 (Ten) financial years.
		Note 1: Average Annual Construction Turnover will be calculated on the basis of Payment Certificates issued by respective authority.
		Note 2: Only the payment certificate of Public Sector Construction Works shall be considered. Except payment certificate, no other documents/certificate will be considered for turnover calculation.
		Note 3: The tenderer shall submit Turnover Calculation sheet (Both hard copy and Excel sheet soft copy as per attached format in section 8, Particular Specifications).
		Note 4: In JVCA certificate supporting for turnover must be mentioned the share of each partner supported by JVCA Agreement.
		Note 5: All unreadable and unclear documents will be rejected.
		Note 6: The tenderer are requested to fulfil correctly 1 to 17 form of section 5 from document tab.

The corrigendum will be a part and parcel of the tender document.

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"There's a high level of disagreement among Fed policymakers right now, but we maintain our call the doves will prevail over the hawks ... to vote for another 25 basis point interest rate reduction at next week's meeting." Other US data released Wednesday contained conflicting signs on the economy.

Industrial production increased 0.1 percent in

September, in line with analyst expectations. The US services sector reported growth in November, with the Institute of Supply Management's overall rating coming in at 52.6, a 0.2 percentage point gain from the prior month and slightly more than analyst expectations.

But the employment index came in at 48.9, below the 50 level that separates growth from contraction.

zahirul Islam
Mohammed Zahirul Islam
ID No. 601992
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Brahmanbaria.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Procurement of Equipment for Search, Rescue Operation and Emergency Communication for Earthquake and Other Disaster Project (Phase-III)

Department of Disaster Management

83-88, Bangladesh Parjonton Corporation, 2nd Floor, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212

Ref No. 51.01.0000.000.07.103.24.1839

Date: 04/12/2025

Invitation for e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender)

1 Ministry Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
2 Implementing Department Department of Disaster Management
3 Project name Procurement of Equipment for Search, Rescue Operation and Emergency Communication for Earthquake and Other Disaster Project (Phase-III).

4 e-Tender ID & Package No. Tender security submission last date & time

e-Tender ID: 1162279

Package Number: Earthquake/2024-25/

Package-GD-18B

5 e-Tender ID: 1162278

Package Number: Earthquake/2024-25/

Package-GD-24-18/9/10/12

6 Description of Tender (ID: 1162279): Procurement of life jacket, radio, life buoy, torch light and signal flyer for 7600 boat man in 19 coastal river and adjacent district for CPP.

Description of Tender (ID: 1162278): Procurement of Emergency Sleeping Bag, Collapsible Water Container, Body Bag, Portable Torch Light and Standard Quality Shovel.

7 Name, designation & address of official inviting tender Kazi Safiqul Alam

Project Director, (Joint Secretary)

Address: 83-88, Bangladesh Parjonton Corporation,

2nd Floor, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212

Phone: +880 193 707 0707

E-mail: safiq737@hotmail.com

8 This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd

GD-2657