

Trust Bank, AGAM International partner to introduce nano loan

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Trust Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with AGAM International (BD) Limited to expand and strengthen digital financial inclusion across Bangladesh.

Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Trust Bank PLC, and Nish Koteka, chairman of AGAM International (BD) Limited, signed the MoU in Dhaka, according to a press release.

At the signing ceremony, Koteka highlighted how the initiative would ease financial burdens on workers while fostering responsible money management.

Chowdhury said leveraging AGAM's

fintech expertise would broaden access to loans for individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and underserved communities nationwide.

Under the partnership, Trust Bank will launch a fully digital nano loan service, offering fast and seamless credit access to marginalised and underserved customers.

Through the AGAM app, customer onboarding, loan applications and digital know-your-customer (KYC) processes will be handled entirely online.

The app will support both individual and business lending, powered by AI-driven credit scoring, a comprehensive loan management system and an integrated payroll portal.



Nish Koteka, chairman of AGAM International (BD) Limited, and Ahsan Zaman Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Trust Bank PLC, pose for a photograph after signing the memorandum of understanding in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: TRUST BANK

Ziaul Islam made DMD of ONE Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Kazi Ziaul Islam has been appointed as deputy managing director and head of financial services and public sector, respectively, of ONE Bank PLC.

Prior to joining ONE Bank PLC, he served as chief country representative of Mashreq Bank, Bangladesh, according to a press release.

Islam brings more than 25 years of experience in the financial services sector.



Kazi Ziaul Islam

He began his career at HSBC Bangladesh. Earlier, he held senior positions at Standard Chartered Bank.

Islam obtained his MBA from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) at the University of Dhaka.

Midland Bank gets Mastercard licence for global transactions



Md Ahsan-uz-Zaman, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank PLC, receives the licence from Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager of Mastercard Bangladesh, at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Saturday.

PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Midland Bank PLC has received an affiliated membership licence from Mastercard, a global digital payment solutions provider.

Md Ahsan-uz-Zaman, managing director and CEO of Midland Bank PLC, received the licence from Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager of Mastercard Bangladesh, at a ceremony held at the bank's head office in Dhaka on Saturday, according to a press release.

The partnership establishes Midland Bank as a Mastercard affiliated member, enabling the bank to issue Mastercard credit, debit and prepaid cards. It will allow customers to enjoy seamless ATM, POS and e-commerce transactions worldwide. The licence also unlocks access to digital wallet integrations, cross-border payments and other innovative Mastercard digital services, offering faster and more secure everyday banking.

Md Zahid Hossain, deputy managing director and chief risk officer of the bank, and Md Nazmul Huda Sarkar, deputy managing director and head of IT and chief technology officer, among others, were also present.



SM Nurul Alam Rezvi, director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC, and SM Mahbubul Alam, managing director, inaugurate the production of advanced ACC Kappa compressor at the Walton headquarters in Chandra, Gazipur recently.

PHOTO: WALTON

Walton unveils ACC Kappa compressor

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Walton, one of the leading compressor manufacturers in Bangladesh, has launched production of the European ACC brand's Kappa compressor, featuring a compact design, high efficiency, durability and environmental sustainability.

Designed to perform reliably under challenging power conditions, the compressor supports a wide operating voltage range of 85 volts to 300 volts, enabling stable performance without the need for additional voltage stabilisers, particularly beneficial for rural areas and regions prone to power fluctuations.

Its ultra-low noise level also ensures quiet operation, enhancing user comfort.

SM Nurul Alam Rezvi, director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC, and SM Mahbubul Alam, managing director, inaugurated the advanced ACC Kappa compressor platform at Walton's headquarters in Chandra, Gazipur recently, according to a press release.

Expressing pride in the launch, Alam said the Walton Research and Innovation Centre had achieved a major milestone by commencing production of the renowned ACC Kappa compressor.

"The launch is not merely the introduction of a new product, but a reflection of Walton's growing technological capability, self-reliance and commitment to global excellence in compressor engineering," he said.

Walton has been exporting compressors to several countries in Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, he said, adding that since the start of Kappa compressor production, buyers from different parts of the world have shown strong interest.

Speaking at the event, SM Almas Rahman, chief business officer of Walton Compressor, said, "With its compact size, the Kappa compressor saves internal refrigerator space while delivering a wide cooling capacity range suitable for diverse refrigeration needs."

Eastland Insurance holds annual business conference

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastland Insurance PLC recently held its "Annual Business Conference 2026" at the Officers' Club on Bailey Road in Dhaka.

Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of Eastland Insurance PLC, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release. Mohammed Salim, chief executive officer of the company, presented a report on the firm's annual business performance.

Despite various economic challenges, the company achieved 88 per cent of its business target for 2025 and recorded a 5 per cent increase in turnover compared to the previous year.

Rizwan Rahman, vice-chairman of the company, praised the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority's (IDRA) zero-commission policy, describing it as a necessary step to curb unfair market competition.



Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of Eastland Insurance PLC, attends the insurer's "Annual Business Conference 2026" at Officers' Club on Bailey Road in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: EASTLAND INSURANCE

Panchagarh's tourism potential remains untapped

FROM PAGE B4 BYPASSING THE LODGING CHALLENGE

The lack of accommodation is a detriment not only for tourists but also for tour operators.

"When we organised our first tour in 2016, with a total of 36 tourists, Panchagarh was largely unknown as a tourist destination," said Shafiqul Islam Polash, chief executive officer at Banglar Pothe, a tour operator.

He added that, at that point, accommodation options were extremely limited, with only a few basic hotels primarily catering to local businessmen.

Even now, the number of tourists outweighs the capacity of hotels in Panchagarh. The solution to this problem has been elusive for years, until some tour operators came up with the idea of "day-trips."

Mostafa Hossain Munna, founder and CEO of the tour operator Panchagarh Tourist Management Centre, said the company has been organising tours to Panchagarh since 2021. After facing the difficulties of finding accommodation for all the tourists under his charge a few times, he started taking groups on "day-trips."

This type of trip requires booking a bus for a group of tourists. The bus

leaves Dhaka at around 7pm and reaches Panchagarh right around daybreak, perfectly on time for them to experience the magnificent sight of the first rays of the sun shining upon the peak of Mount Kanchenjunga.

The tour group then visits around ten other attractions scattered across the district, Munna said. At the end of the day, the group again boards a bus and returns to Dhaka by the next morning.

No hotel or resort booking is required for the entire trip, and therefore, the lack of accommodation in Panchagarh does not affect the tourists at all.

This type of trip costs around

Tk 2,000 to Tk 3,500 per person," Munna told the Daily Star.

In case the tourists want to stay overnight despite the lack of vacancy in the hotels and resorts, there is another way to accommodate them, Munna said, referring to homestays.

Sensing that accommodation facilities were inadequate considering the rush of visitors, the district's administration in 2021 took the initiative to develop "community tourism" with help from the Bangladesh Tourism Board.

The concept refers to locals renting out one or two rooms of their houses, alongside providing food. Over time,

this concept has evolved into the idea of "homestays" in the region.

TOURISM CONTINUES TO PROP UP LOCAL BUSINESSES

Hafizul Islam runs a tea stall next to a small pond in the border area of Magura union in Panchagarh Sadar upazila. The border between Bangladesh and India lies right beyond the pond. Tourists curious to peek at the border frequent his shop, and that's how the tea seller earns his livelihood.

Tourists started coming to this area in 2020, and Islam decided to open the tea shop. The first year, nearly 2,000 cups of tea were sold

daily, he recalls. Now, that number has risen to around 3,000 cups per day. The profit is not spectacular, he says, but he is comfortable.

The Jannat Hotel and Restaurant was opened at the beginning of 2022. The eatery, located at the Chaurasta Bazar in Tetulia upazila, also enjoys steady business.

At first, there were around 350 to 400 tourists eating there daily in peak season, and daily sales were around Tk 25,000. The number of customers increased to nearly 700 per day during the same period in 2025, and daily sales were around Tk 40,000.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Director CEMSU, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229. www.caab.gov.bd

Memo No : 30.31.0000.186.07.050.24.32

Dated : 02/02/2026

e-GP Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Package information is available in tender notice under e-GP system portal.

This is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Detailed of the Goods listed below:

Sl. No.	Name of Goods	Package No.	e-GP Tender ID	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
01.	Supply of Water Dispenser Machine for Cox's Bazar Airport.	30.31.0000.146.13.026.25.	1221350	22-Feb-2026 at 17.00 Hrs	23-Feb-2026 at 12.00 Hrs

Further information and guidelines is available in e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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সাইজ: ৫ ইঞ্চি X ৮ কলাম

GD-249

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GOVT. OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (EED) LALMONIRHAT

Invitation for e-GP Re-tender (OTM)

TENDER NOTICE NO: e-GP-30/XEN/EED/LAL/23 Polytechnic/Workshop & Boundary Wall/2025-2026

Date: 02/02/2026

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. The Tender who have registered in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is eligible to participate in this Tender. The fees of downloading the e-Tender documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to the following date and time.

Sl. No	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender ID	Last Date & Time of Selling Documents	Last Date & Time of Opening Documents
01	WD- 90	CONSTRUCTION OF 6-STORIED WORKSHOP BUILDING WITH 6-STORIED FOUNDATION INCLUDING SANITARY, WATER SUPPLY & ELECTRIFICATION WORKS AT LALMONIRHAT POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.	1223222	16-Feb-2026 Time 17:00	17-Feb-2026 Time 11:00
02	WD -232	Construction of Retaining wall, Boundary wall and Main gate of Lalmonirhat Polytechnic Institute Under Sadar upazila,Lalmonirhat.	1223223	16-Feb-2026 Time 17:00	17-Feb-2026 Time 11:00

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

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(Md. Golam Mostafa)
Executive Engineer

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