# Eastern Bank provides Tk 30 lakh financial aid to Eye Trust Hospital

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has renewed its partnership with Bangladesh Eye Trust Hospital (BETH) to continue supporting quality eye care services for marginalised communities across the country.

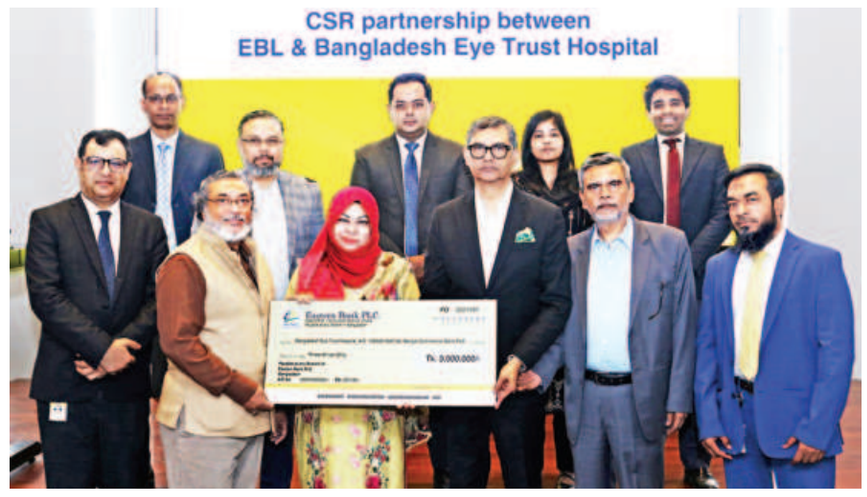
Under the initiative, the bank will fund comprehensive eye care support, including eye screenings, cataract surgeries, transportation and meals for underprivileged patients at BETH's office on Satmosjid Road in Dhaka.

Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external affairs at Eastern Bank PLC, handed over a cheque worth Tk 30 lakh to Niaz Abdur Rahman, managing director of Bangladesh Eye Trust Hospital, at a ceremony held at the bank's head office in the capital recently, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Karim said, "BETH continues to play an instrumental role in delivering humanitarian eye care services across the country free of cost. EBL is proud to support BETH through our CSR initiatives to ensure comprehensive eye care for disadvantaged communities."

Rahman remarked, "Our mission is to ensure that no one is deprived of the gift of sight due to financial hardship. With EBL's continued support, we are able to extend quality eye care services to thousands of underprivileged patients, restoring not only vision but also dignity and hope."

Mahziba Rahman Chowdhury, consultant ophthalmologist of the hospital; M Kamrul Islam Shanzeed, general manager; Maj (retd) Md Abdus Salam, head of administration at the bank; and Md Maskur Reza, head of business information systems, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.




**Niaz Abdur Rahman, managing director of Bangladesh Eye Trust Hospital, receives a financial aid of Tk 30 lakh from Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external affairs at Eastern Bank PLC, at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.** PHOTO: EBL

**Amara Hasan Abed, managing director of BRAC Enterprises, inaugurates Aarong's Guinness World Records achievement for the "World's Largest Craft Store" in Dhaka recently.** PHOTO: AARONG

# Aarong gets Guinness recognition for world's largest craft store

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Aarong, a leading fashion and lifestyle brand in Bangladesh and a social enterprise of BRAC, yesterday organised a programme to mark its Guinness World Records achievement for the "World's Largest Craft Store" at its Dhanmondi outlet.

Amara Hasan Abed, managing director of BRAC Enterprises, inaugurated the ceremony as chief guest, according to a press release.

Commenting on the achievement, she said, "This is more than a record. It is a recognition of the hands behind the craft. When we honour craft, we protect heritage, and when we expand the platform for it, we expand economic empowerment."

"This achievement celebrates the artisans whose skill sustains communities and transforms tradition into livelihood and dignity," she added.

The ceremony featured the reveal of the Guinness World Records certificate, followed by a showcase music video.

The film presents the store as a living gallery of Bangladesh's heritage, where craft, design, and storytelling converge.

# Meghna Bank rolls out wheelchair service at Kamalapur station

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Meghna Bank PLC has recently launched a wheelchair service at Kamalapur railway station to assist passengers with special needs.

Md Sadiqur Rahman, additional managing director of Meghna Bank PLC, handed over the wheelchairs to Shuboktagin, general manager (East) of Bangladesh Railway, CRB Chattogram, according to a press release.

The initiative aims to make movement and travel easier and more convenient for elderly, sick, pregnant, and other special-needs passengers visiting the station.

ABM Kamruzzaman, divisional railway manager of the Bangladesh Railway's eastern zone in Chattogram, along with senior officials from the bank and Bangladesh Railway, were also present at the event.

PHOTO: MEGHNA BANK

**Md Sadiqur Rahman, additional managing director of Meghna Bank PLC, and Shuboktagin, general manager (East) of Bangladesh Railway, CRB Chattogram, attend the launch of the wheelchair service at Kamalapur railway station recently.**

# Maritime insurance premiums surge amid Gulf war

REUTERS

As the conflict in the Gulf widens, maritime insurance premiums for war coverage are surging -- in some cases by more than 1000 percent -- dramatically driving up the cost of moving energy through a critical maritime corridor.

The conflagration sparked by Saturday's Israeli-US air strikes against Tehran has paralyzed traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a major shipping chokepoint. Iran on Monday said it would fire on any ship trying to pass, and at least nine vessels have suffered damage in the area since the conflict began.

War risk insurance allows ship owners to claim against any damage to their vessel or the cargo resulting from conflict or terrorism. Policies are typically annual, although some cover one-off voyages through risky waters, including war zones.

The spike in premiums underscores how the war is raising costs for ship owners, traders and energy companies moving cargo through the Strait, adding to fears the conflict -- which shows no signs of abating -- could stoke inflation if it goes on, said analysts.

"The hull war market has reacted more immediately," due to the risk of large, concentrated losses if multiple vessels are hit in the same area, said Stephen Rudman, head of marine, Asia, at global insurance broker Aon, adding that if the situation escalates materially, further rate correction is likely.

**The spike in premiums underscores how the war is raising costs for ship owners, traders and energy companies moving cargo through the Strait**

"Additional premiums for vessels transiting high-risk waters are rising sharply and may continue to fluctuate in the short term," he said.

Cargo war risk premium rates are also increasing, with quotes being reviewed on a voyage-by-voyage basis, particularly for energy and bulk commodity trades, he said.

Analysts at Jefferies estimated on Thursday that potential industry losses from at least seven vessels reported damaged, at the time its note was published on March 5, could reach up to $1.75 billion.

With most tankers valued between $200 million and $300 million, the new insurance rate of 3 percent would imply a hull war risk premium of about $7.5 million, up from around 0.25 percent, or $625,000, before the conflict began, the brokerage added.

Angus Blayney, marine divisional director at Gallagher, a major insurance broker, told Reuters that rates have increased and are changing daily depending on vessel type and individual circumstances, but he did not provide specific figures. He added that cover remains available.

Beirut's Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs stood in ruins on Saturday, as Israel warned Lebanon of a "very heavy price" if it failed to

Dylan Mortimer, marine hull UK war leader at insurance broker Marsh, estimated that ratings are roughly trending between 1 percent and 1.5 percent of vessel value, with a slight variation both upwards and downwards depending on specific risk factors.

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প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ
ফোনঃ ৮৮-০২-৯৬৭৪৭৮১ (অফিস)
ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৮-০২-৯৬৬৭২২২

মেমো নং ৫২৯৪(২)/প্রকৌঃ
তারিখঃ ৮/৩/২৬

**e-GP Tender Notice (OTM & LTM)**

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under University of Dhaka.

| Sl No. | Tender ID | Name of work | e-Tender last selling date & time | e-Tender closing date & time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1189284 | Repair and Renovation Works of the Department of Physics at Mokarrom Hossain Khandoker Biggan Bhaban, University of Dhaka. | 31-Mar-2026 12:30 | 31-Mar-2026 14:30 |
| 2 | 1202917 | Construction of a Net House with Corrugated Galvanized Iron Sheet for Research at the Department of Soil, Water and Environment, University of Dhaka. | 25-Mar-2026 12:00 | 25-Mar-2026 15:00 |
| 3 | 1189352 (LTM) | Supply of armless semi-revolving chair for computer lab at The Department of Law, University of Dhaka. | 25-Mar-2026 13:00 | 25-Mar-2026 15:00 |
| 4 | 1236997 | Supply of furniture for the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of Dhaka | 25-Mar-2026 12:30 | 25-Mar-2026 15:30 |

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. 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 branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-517

স্ট্যাটিক সিগন্যাল কোম্পানী
রামু সেনানিবাস

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ১ | প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম | ঃ | স্ট্যাটিক সিগন্যাল কোম্পানী, রামু সেনানিবাস |
| ২ | কাজের বিবরণ | ঃ | ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরে বাজেট কোড ১১৯০৬০১১০৪২৩৩/৪১১২২০৪ টেলিযোগাযোগ সরঞ্জামাদি (টেলিফোন সরঞ্জাম ক্রয়) খাত এর অনুকূলে বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ রামু সেনানিবাসের ৭নং ক্যাবিনেট (১২ ফিল্ড রেজিমেন্ট আর্টিলারি) হতে প্রস্তাবিত ২৮ মিডিয়াম রেজিমেন্ট আর্টিলারি পর্যন্ত (৪০০ মিটার) ৪০ পেয়ার মাল্টি ক্যাবল ক্রয় ও বিস্তার এর ব্যয় এতদসংক্রান্ত ব্যয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। |
| ৩ | দরপত্র বিক্রয় মূল্য | ঃ | প্রতিটি সিডিউল ১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার টাকা) করে নগদ প্রদানপূর্বক স্ট্যাটিক সিগন্যাল কোম্পানী, রামু সেনানিবাস এর অফিস হতে ক্রয় করা যাবে। |
| ৪ | দরপত্র বিক্রয় শুরু ও শেষ তারিখ | ঃ | জাতীয় পত্রিকায় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন হতে ১২তম দিন ১০০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। |
| ৫ | দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ | ঃ | বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ১২তম দিন পর্যন্ত। উল্লেখিত সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। |
| ৬ | দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান | ঃ | স্ট্যাটিক সিগন্যাল কোম্পানী, রামু সেনানিবাস। |
| ৭ | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ | ঃ | সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ন্যূনতম ১২ দিন পর ১৩তম দিনে (সরকারি বন্ধ থাকলে অফিস খোলার দিন) দরপত্র বক্স খোলা হবে। |
| ৮ | অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী | ঃ | দরপত্র তফসিলে বর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহ যথাযথভাবে পালনপূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। |

বিঃদ্রঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত দ্রব্যসামগ্রী/মালামালের পরিমাণ কমানো/বাড়ানো এবং যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২২৪

মেজর
অধিনায়ক
স্ট্যাটিক সিগন্যাল কোম্পানী
রামু সেনানিবাস

জিডি-৫২০

# Dollar holds steady

REUTERS, *Tokyo*

The US dollar held broadly steady in Asian trade on Friday and was poised for its steepest weekly gain in more than a year as the escalating conflict in the Middle East drove demand for safe-haven assets.

The euro and yen remained on the back foot as the crisis drove oil prices ever higher, spurring inflation risks in economies dependent on energy imports and upending policy expectations for the Federal Reserve and other central banks.

Earlier hopes for a de-escalation gave way to fresh uncertainty, with Iran warning that Washington would "bitterly regret" the sinking of an Iranian warship. US President Donald Trump said he wanted to be involved in choosing Iran's next head of state after US and Israeli air strikes killed Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in the early moments of the war.

# Dhaka, Delhi agree

FROM PAGE B1

Just 14 of the 42 projects have been completed, at a cost of roughly $410 million, or about 6 percent of the overall commitment under the first two credit lines.

Beyond the LoC, the two sides discussed a broader range of bilateral issues, including trade, customs, financial sector cooperation and digital infrastructure.

Verma said Bangladesh's priorities in the financial sector were discussed during the meeting, including improving the ease of doing business, tax reforms and expanding the use of technology to ensure broader participation in economic activities.

The Indian envoy said he briefed the finance minister on India's experience expanding financial inclusion through its digital public infrastructure.

The two sides also discussed development projects being implemented jointly by the two countries.

On trade, the Indian high commissioner said both sides emphasised the need to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties.

Discussions also focused on making existing connectivity through sea, land and air routes more efficient to facilitate trade and business activities.

"If various processes can be simplified as part of ease of doing business, cooperation between businesses of the two countries will increase," Verma said.

He added that this would help boost bilateral trade as well as increase Bangladesh's exports to the Indian market.

The meeting also discussed ways to integrate the two economies more closely at both bilateral and regional levels, he said.

Verma said constructive discussions would take place in the future regarding the potential use of ports between the two countries.

He added that stronger bilateral relations could be built in the future based on shared development priorities, new ideas, technology and people-centric cooperation.

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Memo No. 111/Engg.
Dated: 08/03/2026

**Invitation for e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)**

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under University of Dhaka

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Package No. | Name of work | e-Tender last selling date & time | e-Tender closing date & time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1231646 | SE/ELEC-1/DU/2025 2026/20 | Supply of different kinds of electrical goods for the season 2025-2026 at Electrical Store University of Dhaka | 23-March-2026 17:00 | 24-March-2026 14.00 |
| 2 | 1239443 | SE/ELEC-1/DU/2025-2026/28 | Supplying, Installation & testing of Busbar Trunking System (BBT) for Department of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering for the Construction of 19-Storied Academic Building with 21-Storied Foundation including 2-Layer Basement for the Faculties of Earth & Environmental Science Engineering & Technology at the place of Existing Science Cafeteria Building, University of Dhaka | 23-March-2026 17:00 | 24-March-2026 11:00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no office/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 branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-516

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Memo. No: 25.36.1500.110.000.07.0097.26.518/46(3)
Date: 08-03-2026

**e-Tender Notice(OTM)**

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 an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Detailed description of the Tender are as follows:

| Tender ID | Name of Work | Last Selling Date and Time | Closing Date and Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1241110 | Construction of Chawkbazar CMP Thana Bhaban (Metro Type-5) (04 storied Thana Building with single basement with 07 storied foundation) Sub-Head:(Civil, Sanitary, Internal Electrification, Deep Tubewell, Distribution line, Road, Drain & Apron etc.) under the project of Construction of administrative and barracks buildings of Bangladesh Police stations in various places of the country. | 29-March-2026 16:00 | 30-March-2026 12:00 |
| 1241111 | Construction of Boalkhali Thana Bhaban (Rural Type-1) (04 storied Thana Building with 06 storied foundation) under the project of Construction of Administrative and barracks buildings of Bangladesh Police stations in various places of the country. | 29-March-2026 16:00 | 30-March-2026 12:00 |

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

08.03.2026
(Mir Rasedul Karim)
Executive Engineer
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Rahomotgonj, Chattogram.

GD-519