

Butterfly brings exclusive Eid offers on refrigerators

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Butterfly Group, the country's leading electronics retailer, has launched its special Eid campaign titled "Ghor Shajbe Eid Utshobe – Bhalobashar Dorja Kholo."

According to a press release, under the campaign, Butterfly showrooms are displaying a wide range of modern refrigerators from globally renowned brands, including Butterfly, Eco Plus, Haier, Hitachi, LG and Whirlpool.

The collection features various designs, sizes and features, catering to both small families and larger households under one roof.

The refrigerators range from 146 litres to 700 litres in capacity. Customers can choose from advanced inverter technology models in both frost and no-frost categories, including top mount, bottom mount, French door, side-



PHOTO: BUTTERFLY GROUP

by-side and chest freezer variants.

Prices range from Tk 27,300 to Tk 298,900. Equipped with modern cooling technology and smart designs, the refrigerators are positioned to preserve food efficiently for longer periods while

enhancing home aesthetics.

As part of the Eid campaign, customers can enjoy up to 100 percent cashback offers. Selected models are available with 0 percent interest installment facilities for up to 360 days.

Exchange offers of up to Tk 20,000 are also available.

Robi Elite, Banglalink Orange Club and GP Star customers will receive an additional 5 percent cashback. Selected bank credit card users can avail 0 percent EMI facilities for up to 24 months along with cashback of up to Tk 25,000. Customers paying through MFS platforms, including Nagad, can also enjoy cashback of up to Tk 500.

Butterfly is offering up to 10 years compressor warranty, 2 years spare parts warranty and 2 years free service on refrigerators to ensure after-sales support.

With a nationwide showroom network, customers can purchase from the nearest outlet. Home delivery is available across the country. Orders and payments can also be made online at butterflygroupbd.com or by calling 16571 for assistance.

BSRM contributes over Tk 6.2cr to workers' welfare fund



Head of Human Resources of BSRM Group Md Robiul Hossain is seen handing over the cheque to Minister for Labour and Employment Ariful Haque Chowdhury in Dhaka on May 17.

PHOTO: BSRM GROUP

STAR BUSINESS DESK

BSRM, one of the country's leading industrial conglomerates, has contributed a cheque worth Tk 6.21 crore to the Bangladesh Workers Welfare Foundation Fund.

According to a press release, the cheque was officially handed over during an exchange meeting held on May 17 at the office of the Minister of Labour and Employment Ariful Haque Chowdhury.

On behalf of the company, a two-member delegation led by Head of Human Resources of BSRM Group Md Robiul Hossain handed over the cheque to the minister. The cheque handover ceremony

was also attended by Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Md Abdur Rahman Tarafdar, along with other senior officials of the ministry.

The contribution was made on behalf of both BSRM Steels Limited and Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills Limited, amounting to Tk 3.13 crores and Tk 3.08 crores, respectively.

BSRM is committed to complying with the provisions of the Bangladesh Labour Law, and a designated portion of the dividend earned from BSRM's Workers' Profit Participation Fund is regularly contributed from the beginning to the Bangladesh Workers Welfare Foundation Fund.

EBL Skybanking wins award for advancing accessible digital banking

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC's (EBL) flagship mobile banking platform, EBL Skybanking, has received the "Recognition for Accessible Initiatives" award for its contribution to building an inclusive and accessible digital banking ecosystem in Bangladesh. EBL Skybanking was the only banking platform to receive the honour.

According to a press release, the award was presented at a programme organised by Aspire to Innovate (a2i) marking Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) 2026, held on May 21 at the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Auditorium in Dhaka. Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Faqir Mahub Anam and State Minister for Social Welfare Farzana Sharmin jointly handed over the award to M Khorshed Anwar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking of EBL.

EBL Skybanking earned the recognition for its continued efforts

to provide accessible, secure, and user-friendly financial services for all customers, including persons with visual impairments. The EBL app features several accessibility-focused solutions such as screen reader compatibility, voice-assisted

navigation, biometric login, and instant transaction alerts, ensuring a seamless banking experience for diverse user groups.

Speaking at the event, Fakir Mahub Anam emphasised that ensuring equal access

to digital services for persons with disabilities remains a key government priority. "This is not a matter of charity; it is their right," he said, underscoring the importance of aligning technology with people's diverse needs and abilities.

Farzana Sharmin said universal digital accessibility is essential to building an inclusive Bangladesh and reaffirmed the government's support for initiatives that promote accessibility and inclusion.

Through innovative digital solutions, EBL continues to strengthen financial inclusion, encourage cashless transactions, and contribute to Bangladesh's expanding digital economy.

Representing EBL at the event were Ahsan Ullah Chowdhury, head of digital financial services; Sanjit Dutta, head of application development and technology solutions; and Amin Md Mehedi Hasan, head of digital banking and ADC, among others.

The event was co-organised by Friendship and Sightsavers. The programme was chaired by Kazi Anwar Hossain, secretary of the ICT Division.



Faqir Mahub Anam, minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology, and Farzana Sharmin, state minister for social welfare, jointly hand over the award to M Khorshed Anwar, deputy managing director and head of retail and SME banking of EBL at a programme organised by Aspire to Innovate (a2i) at the BIDA auditorium in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: EBL

Regulator lifts

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again, arguing that the cap was harming service quality and international connectivity, with foreign carriers reporting low answer-seizure ratios, high network error rates, frequent call rejections, and increased call drops.

Traffic data shows that BTCL's actual call volume had stayed below the ceiling for months, falling from 243.99 million minutes in October 2025 to 198.72 million minutes in March 2026. Daily averages declined from 7.87 million to 6.41 million minutes over the same period, meaning actual traffic remained below the imposed ceiling.

Pointing to the decline, BTRC Chairman Md Emdad ul Bari said international incoming call volumes have fallen significantly in recent years, and BTCL already terminates fewer than 8 million minutes daily.

"Therefore, keeping this cap in place is no longer necessary," he added.

The decision has drawn scrutiny from industry observers who say it reflects a broader pattern of unequal enforcement.

TIM Nurul Kabir, a telecom industry expert, described the BTRC's approach as a "dual regulatory mechanism" in which government-owned entities receive preferential treatment and face little punitive action for non-compliance.

Similar non-compliance by private operators usually leads to stricter measures, including service restrictions, he said. "This creates concerns, as regulatory consistency is essential for maintaining market balance."

EU to assess

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market access to the EU remains equally important, he said.

The block is Bangladesh's largest export destination, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the country's annual exports, with annual shipments valued at over \$25 billion.

Nuria Lopez, chairperson of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (EuroCham Bangladesh), welcomed the ongoing communication between the two sides over a possible FTA.

Bangladesh is eager to commence these discussions, Lopez said in a WhatsApp message in reply to a question sent by The Daily Star.

She added that the prime minister had already conveyed Bangladesh's strong interest in an FTA in a letter to the president of the European Commission and that the EU is currently assessing the proposal.

"I met EU Ambassador Michael Miller in Bangladesh on Wednesday morning, and I remain hopeful," she said.

A private sector representative of both Bangladesh and the EU, Lopez will be in Brussels next month to advocate for the FTA.

"We are also working to demonstrate that an FTA is not only in Bangladesh's interest, but also of strong commercial interest to the European private sector."

WHY THE PACT MATTERS

Without an FTA or similar arrangement with the EU, Bangladeshi exporters will face a 10 percent duty from 2029 in EU. For now, the bloc has granted the country a three-year extension of zero-duty facilities.

At the same time, Bangladesh and the EU are negotiating a Partnership

and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which aims to strengthen cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, governance, human rights, climate action and sustainable development, according to the European Commission.

Bangladesh, a member of the World Trade Organization since 1995, currently enjoys duty-free, quota-free access to the EU market under the bloc's "Everything but Arms" (EBA) scheme for LDCs. The country is currently the largest beneficiary of the EU's EBA scheme, with €19 billion worth of exports receiving preferential access in 2024 under a 96 percent utilisation rate.

In 2025, Bangladesh was the EU's 35th-largest trading partner, accounting for 0.5 percent of the bloc's total goods trade. The EU, meanwhile, remained Bangladesh's largest trading partner, making up 21.5 percent of the country's global goods trade.

Total trade in goods between Bangladesh and the EU stood at €23.3 billion in 2025, with the EU recording a trade deficit of €19.1 billion.

Textiles accounted for nearly 94 percent of the EU's imports from Bangladesh, while the bloc mainly exported machinery, appliances and chemical products.

Trade in services between the two sides reached €1.5 billion in 2024, while total trade in goods and services amounted to €23.8 billion.

According to the European Commission, EU foreign direct investment stock in Bangladesh stood at €2.5 billion in 2024, while Bangladesh's FDI stock in the EU amounted to €86 million.

Renewable

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around 1.5 million diesel-powered irrigation pumps, consuming roughly 1 billion litres of diesel annually. Replacing them with solar-powered pumps could cut fuel imports, lower farming costs and reduce emissions.

Renewable expansion will also require improved storage systems and stronger grid readiness. As battery technologies become cheaper worldwide, Bangladesh must begin pilot projects and create incentives to support large-scale deployment. The main obstacle, however, remains institutional rather than technological. Bangladesh needs lower import tariffs on renewable technologies, access to concessionary financing, faster approval timelines, expanded net-metering systems and stronger coordination among institutions. Many approved projects also remain stalled, damaging investor confidence and slowing progress.

Bangladesh now faces a clear choice: continue relying on imported energy vulnerable to global shocks, or build a diversified renewable-energy system that offers greater price stability, lower long-term costs and stronger energy security. This is no longer simply an energy crisis. The decisions taken now will shape Bangladesh's economic future for years to come. Transitioning from short-term fixes to long-term energy resilience is no longer optional.

Mashid Rahaman is managing director of Rancon Solar and Rangs Properties Limited. Subail Bin Alam is chief operating officer at Rancon Solar and Rancon Infrastructure and Engineering Limited, and director at BSREA.

Dollar drifts lower

REUTERS

The dollar fell against major currencies on Monday as hopes of a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz pushed oil prices below \$100 per barrel, even as the US and Iran played down the chances of reaching an agreement soon.

Meanwhile many global markets - including in the US, Hong Kong, the UK and the majority of Europe - are closed for holidays on Monday, thinning liquidity.

As diplomatic efforts to find a resolution to the Iran war continue, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there would either be a good agreement or Washington would deal with the country in "another way."

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said on many

topics discussed in a potential memorandum of understanding with the US, but this did not mean Tehran was close to signing an agreement.

Oil markets tumbled on hopes of a peace deal, with Brent crude prices



down 4.5 percent to \$98.9 a barrel while US West Texas Intermediate was at \$88.98 a barrel, off 4.4 percent.

Over the weekend, there were

conflicting signs on a peace deal. US President Donald Trump said on social media on Saturday that a memorandum of understanding on a peace deal with Iran had been "largely negotiated," with both countries and mediators in Pakistan reporting progress.

However, on Sunday Trump said on Truth Social the US blockade on Iranian ships in the Strait of Hormuz would "remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed".

"Markets have become conditioned to be incredibly patient on a tangible breakthrough, but the base case of a deal remains firm, with the weekend news providing further conviction, even if the timing remains unclear," said Chris Weston, head of research at Pepperstone Group Ltd in Melbourne.



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e-Tender Notice-CE/Rev/Z-1/2025-26/09

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

Sl no	Package No	Name of works	Tender ID	Procurement Method	Tender Document last selling / downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
1	CCC/Xen-1 /W/7/25-26/WR-011	Installation of Deep Tube-well at Jahur Ahmed Chowdhury City Corporation Primary School located in 7 no ward ..	1278377	Open Tendering Method (OTM)	07-Jun-2026 12:00	07-Jun-2026 14:00

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 of following packages from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank branches up to particular date and time specified on the tender notice.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd/>)

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