



Stellar Women

Celebrates Women Who “**Redefined Boundaries**”

As a responsible corporate entity, bti has always believed in and strongly supported women's empowerment, both in the home and in the workplace. In recent years, women in Bangladesh have begun to shatter glass ceilings, redefining success through their determination, resilience, and sheer hard work. The Stellar Women initiative was born from a desire to honor every woman who has been diligently working to contribute in her sector without the proper accolades and appreciation. bti, in collaboration with The Daily Star, decided to launch the initiative in 2023. The first season was completed in 2024 with a mesmerizing Gala event.

bti The Daily Star Stellar Women Season 2 honored 12 new women throughout the year. After another successful year was completed, a star-studded Gala held on January 10, 2026, at Kurmitola Golf Club, recognized these amazing trailblazers in twelve different categories. In addition, guests of honor were invited in every category to award each winner with mementos. Every guest of honor dazzled with her presence, adding value to the event while simultaneously highlighting the empowerment of women in Bangladesh.



Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, noted that the initiative shines a light on the vital leadership roles women play across enterprises and institutions, while Arshi Haider, Chairman of bti, reaffirmed bti's commitment to recognising women who create meaningful impact despite challenges. The evening also featured a panel discussion moderated by Sarah Iqbal, with Shaheen Anam, Farah Kabir, and Shaila Shahid. All of these exemplary women offered valuable insights on leadership, inclusion, and women's evolving role in nation-building. There was also a recitation of classical poetry accompanying a choreographed dance. We eagerly await the launch of the third edition of this prestigious event, which has already started becoming a household name.



What's **New**

in **Real Estate?**

In the first quarter of 2026, Bangladesh's real estate sector was marked by high housing loan interest rates, tighter financing causing a drop in mid-segment housing, and new regulations aimed at stabilizing rental markets and improving land management.

Key developments during this time include:

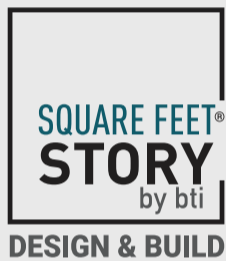
- Revised housing finance ceilings
- Tightened rental regulations by the DNCC, &
- Plans for a digital land survey to increase transparency in land management.

Current market trends show that high interest rates have stalled the mid-segment housing market, while rising rental costs due to inflation are prompting investors to seek "safe" projects and increasing interest in suburban areas. Emerging design trends emphasize sustainable building standards, "Warm Modern Minimalism," and high-demand gated communities. However, the construction sector is in a slump, with limited project approvals and private investment, even as demand for commercial real estate, particularly in e-commerce and co-working spaces, is on the rise.

Recently, the Cabinet has approved a plan to bring the Purbachal New Town project under the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), and the Dhaka WASA. Parts of the project in Narayanganj and Gazipur will be incorporated into the Dhaka district to resolve administrative difficulties and service gaps.

This strategic move will enable access to key public services, improve law enforcement, and ensure water and sewerage management. Officials believe it will end long-standing challenges faced by Purbachal residents.

What's in **New** SBU's?



In the first quarter of this year, the progress for Square Feet Story (SFS) and Property Brokerage is showing promise.

From January to March '26, Square Feet Story has achieved a lot: they have completed interiors for 7 homes, and 29 projects are at different stages of progress.



Property Brokerage has also been doing quite well. A total of 29 projects have been sold in the first three months of this year, suggesting that the rest of the year could bring even more positive growth.



