

Southeast Bank holds agent banking conference

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Southeast Bank recently organised its agent banking conference at the bank's head office in Dhaka.

Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hussain, managing director of the bank, attended the conference as chief guest, the bank said in a press release.

All the agent outlet partners of Southeast Bank's agent banking across the country, divisional heads of the head office of the bank, head of branches and other officials participated in the conference.

Southeast Bank had launched its agent banking service "Shagotom" on March 7, 2021.

Its objective was to expand banking services for the unbanked



Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hussain, managing director of Southeast Bank, poses for photographs with participants of an agent banking conference at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

people, especially for farmers and small entrepreneurs, to uphold the trend of financial inclusion and

spread banking services across the "Tijarah", an Islamic and conventional banking service, through agent banking

Shagotom continues to provide outlets across the country.

Prime Bank gets new DMD

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Prime Bank has promoted an official to the post of deputy managing director (DMD).

The official, Ziaur Rahman, was concurrently serving as senior executive vice-president and head of human resources division prior to his new charge, read a press release.

He previously worked for Bangladesh Civil Service, UNICEF Bangladesh, AB Bank,

Citibank, Standard Chartered Bank, and bKash.

He has worked in different capacities during his 31-year career. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from the University of Chittagong and completed an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration at the University of Dhaka.

German consumer mood sours

AFP, Frankfurt

German consumers are feeling significantly more pessimistic heading into February, a key survey showed Friday, as the downturn in Europe's largest economy drags on.

Pollster GfK said its forward-looking survey of around 2,000 people plunged to minus 29.7 points, a drop of 4.3 points compared with a month earlier.

Analysts surveyed by financial data firm FactSet had expected another rise in consumer sentiment after two months of increases.

"Crises and wars, as well as persistently high inflation are unsettling consumers and thus preventing an improvement in consumer sentiment," said GfK, which published the survey with the Nuremberg Institute for Market Decisions (NIM).

The survey found that respondents were more downbeat about the prospects for the economy as well as their own income expectations for the months ahead.



Romo Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia, along with the members of the board of directors and senior management team of the bank attends an event to celebrate the 10th founding anniversary of its agent banking service at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka's Purana Paltan recently.

PHOTO: BANK ASIA

Bank Asia celebrates 10th founding anniversary of its agent banking

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Bank Asia Limited recently celebrated the 10th founding anniversary of its agent banking service.

Romo Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of the bank, along with the members of the board of directors and senior management team of the bank attended the anniversary programme at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka's Purana Paltan, said a press release.

Bank Asia is the pioneer of agent banking in Bangladesh and the service was rolled out on January 17, 2014.

The bank has financially included 6.4 million customers across the country through agent banking, and some 92 percent of them are from rural segments and 63 percent are women.

Mercantile Bank organises annual business summit

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Mercantile Bank recently organised its Annual Business Summit 2024 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

Morshed Alam, chairman of the bank, attended the event as chief guest, the bank said in a press release. Alam thanked heads of branches, sub-branches and divisions for their sincere efforts to attain the organisational goals.

He also stated that the banking sector took the lead to keep the country's economic stability despite challenges emanating from the Middle East crisis, the Russia-Ukraine war and economic downswing across the world.

Md Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of the bank, presided over the event, where ASM Feroz Alam, vice-chairman of the bank, Md Anwarul Haq, vice-chairman of the board of directors and chairman of risk management committee, Akram Hossain (Humayun), chairman of executive committee, M Amanullah, chairman of Mercantile Exchange House (UK), MA Khan Belal, chairman of Mercantile Bank Securities, and Mohammad Abdul Awal, director, attended the event.

The managing director of the bank urged the officials concerned to emphasise agriculture and SME loans to ensure food security of the country and sustainability of the rural economy.



Morshed Alam, chairman of Mercantile Bank, attends an "Annual Business Summit-2024" at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka in the capital recently.

PHOTO: MERCANTILE BANK

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (JAN 27, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 62-Tk 75	5.38 ↑	1.48 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 54	6.12 ↑	6.12 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 48-Tk 50	3.16 ↑	-16.95 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	10.26 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 155-Tk 160	0	-6.80 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 50	-28.00 ↓	66.67 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 75-Tk 90	-2.94 ↓	120.00 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 43-Tk 47	2.27 ↑	5.88 ↑

SOURCE: TCB



Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, senior executive vice-president and chief financial officer of NCC Bank, receives a crest and a certificate from Sayed Mohammad Abu Daud, a member of tax admin and human resources management at the National Board of Revenue (NBR), at a ceremony held at the NBR multipurpose hall in Dhaka on Wednesday.

PHOTO: NCC BANK

NCC Bank gets NBR taxpayers' award

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NCC Bank has been honoured by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) as one of the highest taxpayers in the banking sector in fiscal year 2022-23.

Sayed Mohammad Abu Daud, a member of tax admin and human resources management at the NBR, handed over a crest and a certificate to Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, senior executive vice-president and CFO of the bank, at a ceremony held at the NBR multipurpose hall in Dhaka on Wednesday, said a press release.

Among others, Md Iqbal Bahar, commissioner of taxes, large taxpayers' unit at the NBR, was also present.



Md Golam Kabir, commissioner of Tax Zone, Cumilla, and Kazi Touhida Akhter, commissioner of the Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Cumilla, attend a programme, titled "International Customs Day-2024", at Hotel Elite Palace in Cumilla's Jhawtala on Friday.

Int'l Customs Day celebrated in Cumilla

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Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate of Cumilla celebrated "International Customs Day-2024" with the theme of "Customs engaging traditional and new partners with purpose" at Hotel Elite Palace in Cumilla's Jhawtala on Friday.

Kazi Touhida Akhter, commissioner of the Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Cumilla, presided over the programme, where Md Golam Kabir, commissioner of tax zone, Cumilla attended the event as chief guest.

Among others, Md Mannan Sarder and Nahid Nawshad Mukul, additional commissioner of the Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Cumilla, and Md Babul Iqbal, joint commissioner, were present.

Agrani Bank opens Raipura Bazar branch in Narsingdi

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Agrani Bank has launched a Raipura Bazar branch, the 975th branch of the bank, in Raipura Upazila of Narsingdi yesterday.

Rajjuddin Ahmed Raju, member of parliament from the Narsingdi-5 constituency, inaugurated the branch as chief guest, where Md Murshedul Kabir, managing director and CEO, was also present, the bank said in a press release.

Among others, Wahida Begum, deputy managing director of the bank, and Md Shamsul Alam, general manager, were also present.



Rajjuddin Ahmed Raju, member of parliament from Narsingdi-5 constituency, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the Raipura Bazar branch of Agrani Bank in Raipura Upazila of Narsingdi yesterday.

PHOTO: AGRANI BANK



Shamima Nargis, former senior secretary and chairman of Bangladesh Development Bank, attends a "Managers Conference-2024" at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT BANK

Bangladesh Development Bank arranges managers' conference

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Bangladesh Development Bank held its "Managers' Conference-2024" at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

Shamima Nargis, former senior secretary and chairman of the state-owned bank, attended as chief guest, the bank said in a press release. Md Habibur Rahman Gazi, managing director and CEO of the bank, presided over the meeting.

Among others, Md Ekhlashur Rahman, Md Abu Hanif Khan and Subhash Chandra Sarker, members of the board of directors, alongside managers and senior executives were also present.

Did central banks

FROM PAGE B4

Other economists counter that it was massive Covid stimulus spending, from direct payouts to unemployment and business support, that flooded economies with money likely to drive prices higher.

That view was countered in June 2022 by Fed chairman Jerome Powell, who discounted the impact of government pandemic aid but insisted nonetheless that sharply higher interest rates were necessary - even if it meant a recession.

For Stiglitz, Powell and his supporters were effectively prescribing economic pain for

millions. "By killing the economy, there would be no excess demand, and by definition (in their minds) no inflation," he wrote.

Some proponents of the rate hikes argue that regardless of the source of inflation, unless central bankers showed they were serious about tackling it, expectations of persistent and widespread price increases would only grow.

"Without a tightening, economic agents could have anticipated inflation would have stayed high," Benoit Mojon, head of economic analysis at the Bank of International Settlements, wrote in a December report.