



Humayun Kabir becomes vice-president of SAFA

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mohammed Humayun Kabir, a council member and ex-president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, has been appointed as the vice-president of the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) for the year 2025. Ashfaq Yousuf Tola, ex-president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan, was appointed as the president of SAFA for the same year.

Kabir shall be appointed as the president of SAFA automatically for the year 2026, according to a press release.

Kabir has a professional experience of over 43 years. Apart from his roles at chartered accountant firms and financial institutions, he has been involved with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) as a facilitator of alternate dispute resolution (ADR) since March 2012.

Midland Bank signs MoU with Ship International Hospital



Futoshi Kono, director (administration) of Ship International Hospital, and Md Rashed Akter, head of retail distribution division and chief bancassurance officer of Midland Bank, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding at the latter's head office in the capital's Gulshan-2 recently.

PHOTO: MIDLAND BANK

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Midland Bank PLC signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ship International Hospital Limited, a private hospital located at Dhour, Turag in the capital's Uttara.

Md Rashed Akter, head of retail distribution division and chief bancassurance officer of the bank, and Futoshi Kono, director (administration)

of the hospital, penned the MoU at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan-2 recently, the bank said in a press release.

Under this agreement, all the bank's debit, credit and prepaid cardholders will enjoy 100 percent discount on hospital registration, along with an identical 15 percent discount on doctor consultation, and on all category beds, including cabin, intensive care unit, cardiac care unit,

high dependency unit, neonatal intensive care unit.

The cardholders will also enjoy a 15 percent discount on laboratory, radiology and imaging tests.

Md Abed-Ur-Rahman, head of cards of the bank, and Sazal Ahmed, merchant relationship officer, and Md Touhidul Islam, deputy manager for business development of the hospital, were also present.

Southeast Bank organises agent banking conference



MA Kashem, chairman of Southeast Bank, poses for group photographs with participants of the "Annual Agent Banking Conference 2025" at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan yesterday.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

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Southeast Bank PLC yesterday organised the "Annual Agent Banking Conference 2025" at the bank's head office in the capital's Gulshan.

MA Kashem, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the conference as the chief guest, said a press release.

In his speech, Kashem said, "Agents are vital business partners of Southeast Bank. Along with bringing banking services to remote areas, agent banking outlets play a crucial role in remittance collection from abroad and remitting funds to remote areas within the country." "Their tireless efforts significantly contribute to financial inclusion and economic growth. We are grateful for their valuable contributions and are committed to working even more closely with them," he added.

The event was attended by all proprietors of the bank's 132 agent banking outlets across the country.

During the conference, the overall progress of Southeast Bank's agent banking activities in 2024 was reviewed, and various policies were discussed to achieve the business targets for 2025. Southeast Bank's agent banking facility "Shagotom" was launched in March 2021.

The bank has been working to extend banking services to remote areas of the country, focusing on farmers, small entrepreneurs, and school banking, while maintaining its commitment to financial inclusion.

Chinese EV giant BYD reports surge in sales in 2024

AFP, Shanghai

Leading Chinese electric car maker BYD's vehicle sales surged in 2024, the company said in a statement, as the firm grows its overseas presence.

The EV and battery giant is the most prominent of Chinese automotive firms expanding abroad -- plans that are increasingly threatened by thorny trade disputes between Beijing and the West.

BYD sold 4,272,145 vehicles last year, up 41.3 percent from 2023's 3,024,417 units, the company said Wednesday.

In December alone, BYD sold 57,154 vehicles outside of China -- a 58.3 percent jump from the same period in 2023.

But BYD still sold almost 90 percent of its cars in its home market in December 2024. The majority of the company's 2024 sales were for plug-in hybrid models -- 58 percent of total units sold.

BYD -- which adopts the English slogan "Build Your Dreams" -- is the biggest EV manufacturer in China, the world's largest automotive market.

The company's quarterly revenue surpassed global rival Tesla's for the first time during the third quarter last year.

The initial rapid sales growth of BYD and its industry peers in their home market was facilitated in part by generous subsidies from Beijing.

The European Union has said that extensive state support has led to unfair competition, with an investigation by the bloc finding that Beijing's subsidies were undercutting local competitors.

The EU announced in October that it would levy extra tariffs of up to 35.3 percent on Chinese EVs, prompting Beijing to say it would "take all necessary measures" to protect firms' interests.

Earlier in 2024, the United States and Canada raised customs duties on Chinese EVs to 100 percent. BYD's figures come after global EV sales hit a record 1.8 million units in November, according to industry research company Rho Motion.

"This quarter has picked up significantly for EV sales globally as we see record-breaking month after record-breaking month," Rho Motion expert Charles Lester said in a press release last month.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (JAN 4, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 70-Tk 84	4.05 ↑	14.07 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 55	0	7.14 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-10.53 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	0
Soybean (litre)	Tk 163-Tk 166	-1.20 ↓	4.44 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 45-Tk 60	-32.26 ↓	-12.50 ↓
Onion (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 85	-44.90 ↓	-20.59 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 45-Tk 50	-3.06 ↓	9.20 ↑

SOURCE: TCB

US regulator warned banks on crypto but didn't order halt to business

REUTERS, Washington

A US bank regulator told banks to pause dabbling directly in crypto in 2022 and 2023, but did not order them to stop providing banking services to crypto companies contrary to industry complaints of widespread "debanking," according to documents released on Friday.

A judge ordered the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to provide versions of supervisory "pause letters", it sent to unidentified banks after History Associates Incorporated, a research firm hired by crypto exchange Coinbase, sued the agency to release them.

The FDIC first released the letters in December but was ordered by the judge to resubmit them with more "nuanced redactions." The new batch of 25 letters includes two additional letters sent to unidentified banks that were not included in the original FDIC submission.

The litigation is part of a campaign by Coinbase to expose what it and other crypto companies say has been a concerted effort on the part of US bank supervisors to choke off crypto companies from the traditional financial system.

Coinbase's chief legal officer, Paul Grewel, said in a post, on X Friday that the less redacted letters show a "coordinated effort to stop a wide variety of crypto activity" and called for further investigation by Congress.

In a bid to combat those claims, the FDIC also on Friday published a 2022 internal memo, detailing how supervisors should assess queries from lenders looking to directly deal in crypto assets, versus offering banking services to crypto companies.

Together, the documents provide a rare glimpse into the confidential bank supervisory process. They suggest that while FDIC examiners have been cautious towards the crypto sector, which has been beset by scams, bankruptcies and volatility, they did not order

banks to entirely cut off the crypto sector.

The documents are being released weeks before President-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration is expected to outline a broad crypto policy overhaul. Trump is expected to issue an executive order directing bank regulators to go easier on the sector, potentially as early as his Jan. 20 inauguration.

Several of the FDIC letters show staff directed banks to either pause entering crypto initiatives or refrain from further expanding client crypto services. In others, the FDIC required banks to answer detailed questions before proceeding further with crypto ventures.

The internal memo, meanwhile, distinguishes between a bank engaging directly in crypto activities, like holding crypto assets in custody, and offering traditional banking services for crypto clients, like lending and providing deposit accounts. The first category requires stricter scrutiny, it says.

Microsoft

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China has started offering developing countries subsidized access to scarce computer chips and help building local AI datacenters, according to Smith.

"The Chinese wisely recognize that if a country standardizes on China's AI platform, it likely will continue to rely on that platform in the future," Smith said.

The US should move quickly to promote its AI technology as superior and more trustworthy, enlisting allies in the effort, he recommended.

For its part, Microsoft is on pace to invest about \$80 billion this year to build out AI datacenters, train AI models and deploy cloud-based applications around the world, according to Smith.

Politicians will hinder

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shortfalls between now and 2029 are four times smaller than what the IMF recommends.

In other words, the political masters of the biggest economies have embraced a near-permanent state of fiscal expansion. And they are not rowing back any time soon, as austerity is a sure-fire vote loser. Alberto Alesina and other economists found that a package of tax increases worth 1 percent of GDP reduces the vote share of the governing party by 7 percent on average at the following election.

Belts are already starting to loosen. In the United States, the policies pledged by President-elect Donald

Trump would add up to \$15 trillion to an already huge budget deficit by 2035, according to the non-partisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. In Britain, the Labour government presented plans to increase public expenditures by almost 70 billion pounds a year until 2029 -- and said it would fund half of that through more borrowing. Germany may follow suit, with a February election likely to usher in a freer-spending government. In Europe, seven countries, including heavyweights France and Italy, are in breach of the bloc's budgetary rules.

Politicians' penchant for fiscal expansion, and its

inflationary effects, leaves central bankers with two unpalatable options. The first is to simply close one eye to deficits and debt, keep lowering rates and live with inflation above their 2 percent target. That's a path few rate-setters will take because they fear that tolerating elevated prices would lead to persistently high inflation, with dire consequences for both their credibility and living standards. Powell, Lagarde and their peers were roundly criticised for letting prices spiral out of control in 2022 and 2023.

The second option is to stop cutting rates much earlier than markets expect and start raising them again at the first

glimmer of rising inflation. The United Kingdom is already showing the way: investors reacted to the government's spending plans by betting that the Bank of England would abandon one of its expected rate cuts, according to derivatives prices collected by LSEG. Yet as the global fiscal expansion gathers steam in 2025, investors will have to dial back even further their hopes for looser policy. That will keep markets volatile, and government bond yields will stay elevated, driving up funding costs. As politicians insist on walking towards the fiscal abyss, homebuyers, bond investors and businesses will pay a high price.

পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (পিজিসিএল) (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী) প্রধান কার্যালয়, নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ।	
বাড়ি ও গ্যারেজ ভাড়া দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
০১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	১। জ্বালানি ও বনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও বনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২। এজেন্সি	২। বাংলাদেশ জৈব, গ্যাস ও বনিজ সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)।
০৩। দরপত্র আহ্বানের সত্তার নাম ও ঠিকানা	৩। পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
০৪। দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	৪। ২৮.১৮.০০০০.০০৬.৪৫.০০৩.২৪/৪০৯২ তারিখঃ ২২/১২/২০২৪।
০৫। দরপত্র আহ্বান পদ্ধতি	৫। উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
০৬। বাজেট ও অর্থায়নের উৎস	৬। পিজিসিএল-এর রাজস্ব বাজেট।
০৭। দর আহ্বানের বিষয়	৭। পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (পিজিসিএল)-এর আওতাধীন সিরাজগঞ্জ ডিস্ট্রিক্টে অধিসূচের জন্য বাড়ি ও গ্যারেজ ভাড়াদার।
০৮। দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	৮। দরদাতার দরপত্রাকৃত বাড়ি ও গ্যারেজ (একই ভবনে) সিরাজগঞ্জ শহরের এস. এস. রোড অথবা দুটিব সড়কে অবস্থিত হতে হবে এবং দরদাতাকে দরপত্রাকৃত বাড়ির যৈষ মালিক হতে হবে।
০৯। দরপত্রাকৃত বাড়ি ও গ্যারেজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	৯। দরপত্রাকৃত বাড়ির ক্ষেত্রে কমন স্পেস ব্যতীত ন্যূনতম ৪০০০ বর্গফুট হতে সর্বোচ্চ ৪৫০০ বর্গফুট (একটি মাত্র ফ্লোর) এবং কমন স্পেস ব্যতীত গ্যারেজের ক্ষেত্রে ন্যূনতম ১০০০ হতে সর্বোচ্চ ১২০০ বর্গফুটের মধ্যে হতে হবে এবং ন্যূনতম ৫/৬ টি জীপ/কারিগর/পিকআপ গাড়ি রাখার ব্যবস্থা থাকতে হবে। গ্যারেজ ও বাড়ি একই ভবনে অবস্থিত হতে হবে। বাড়ির সমুদ্রের সীমান্ত ন্যূনতম ৩৫(পঁচিশ) ফুট চওড়া হতে হবে এবং রাজস্ব দুই পাশে হাটচারের জন্য দুটিপাত থাকতে হবে। বাড়িটি ০১/০৮/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে হাজারের সম্পূর্ণ উপযোগী হতে হবে। অন্যান্য বিবরণ ও শর্তাবলী দরপত্র দলিঙ্গে উল্লেখ থাকবে।
১০। দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	১০। ০৭/০১/২০২৫ হতে ১১/০১/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন)।
১১। দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১১। ২২/০১/২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১২। ২২/০১/২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:১০ ঘটিকা।
১৩। দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	১৩। অর্থ বিভাগ, পিজিসিএল, নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
১৪। দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান	১৪। প্রধান কার্যালয়, পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
১৫। চুক্তির মেয়াদকাল	১৫। ০১/০৮/২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ০১/০৭/২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ০৩ (তিন) বছরের জন্য বাড়ি ও গ্যারেজ ভাড়া চুক্তি সম্পাদন করা হবে।
১৬। দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	১৬। ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অক্ষেরতথ্যে)।
১৭। দরপত্র জামানত	১৭। ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (সেরতথ্যে)।
১৮। দরপত্র যৈষদার মেয়াদ	১৮। ৯০ (নব্বই) দিন।
১৯। অধিম ভাড়া বা নিরাপত্তা জামানত	১৯। বাড়ি ও গ্যারেজ ভাড়া গ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে অধিম ভাড়া কিংবা নিরাপত্তা জামানত প্রদেয় হবে না।
২০। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী ও দপ্তরের ঠিকানা	২০। মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন) পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ।
২১। টেলিযোগাযোগ	২১। টেলিফোন নং-০২৫৮৮৮১৪৪৮, মোবাইল নং ০১৭৩০-৩৫৭২৩৭ ইমেইল gm.admin@pgcl.org.bd, servicepgcl@gmail.com
২২। সংরক্ষিত ক্ষমতা	২২। ক) অধিবর্তী কার্যবশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে দরপত্র দলিল, গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্বন্ধ না হলে পরবর্তী প্রধান কার্যালয়ে একই স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র দলিল, গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। খ) পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড কর্তৃক কোন কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতীতকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/খতিল কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষিত করে।
PGPR-25/2024-2025	
GD-27	
22/12/2024 মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন)	