

# Int'l yarn and fabric show starts on Jan 15

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The 23rd Dhaka International Yarn and Fabric Show 2025 (Winter Edition), an event for the textile and garment industry of Bangladesh and South Asia, will be held at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka from January 15 to 18.

The four-day show was jointly organised by CEMS Global USA, a leading multinational exhibition organiser, and the Sub-Council of Textile Industry of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT TEX).

Over 325 exhibitors from over 15 countries from across the world will showcase their products on yarn, fabric, trims, and accessories, said a press release.

Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS Global, made the disclosure through a press conference at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka in the capital yesterday.

As one of the world's largest apparel exporters, Bangladesh provides a dynamic setting for industry leaders to engage in meaningful collaboration and dialogue, enhancing the value of the show, she said.

The event will provide the Bangladesh and South Asian textile and garment industries to explore sourcing opportunities in one of the world's most dynamic textile markets, Islam added.

It is part of CEMS Global's widely acclaimed "Textile Series of Exhibitions", which spans three continents in



Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global, speaks at a press conference regarding "23rd Dhaka International Yarn and Fabric Show 2025" at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: CEMS-GLOBAL

Bangladesh, Brazil, Morocco, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The event is an unparalleled platform for professionals in the textile and garment sector to explore innovations, foster partnerships and connect with hundreds of exhibitors showcasing yarn,

fabrics, trims, and accessories.

This event will mark the 8th anniversary of joint endeavours between CEMS Global USA and CCPIT TEX to promote textiles in Bangladesh, which is extremely helpful for increasing the country's exports from the industry.

The exhibitions will be open for business visitors upon registration every day from 10:00am to 7:00pm.

Chen Bo, deputy secretary general and director of the Sub-Council of Textile Industry at CCPIT TEX, joined the conference virtually from Beijing.

## US-Bangla Airlines will be title sponsor of Dhaka Travel Mart 2025



PHOTO: THE BANGLADESH MONITOR

Md Shafiqul Islam, head of marketing and sales of US-Bangla Airlines, and Farhad Kamal, managing editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding at the latter's office in the capital yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

US Bangla Airlines, the country's leading private airline, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Bangladesh Monitor to join the 20th edition of the international tourism fair "Dhaka Travel Mart 2025" as the title sponsor.

Md Shafiqul Islam, head of marketing and sales of the airline, and Farhad Kamal, managing editor of the publication, penned the MoU at the latter's office in the capital yesterday, said a press release.

Under the agreement, US Bangla Airlines will extend its all-out support to The Bangladesh Monitor in organising and promoting the Dhaka Travel Mart 2025 at home and abroad.

The airline will also offer attractive packages and discounts on airfares to various destinations across their network for visitors of the fair.

The Bangladesh Monitor, the country's

premier travel and tourism publication, organised the three-day fair to be held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka between February 6 and 8 this year.

This year, more than 45 public and private organisations from India, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Thailand, the UAE and hosts Bangladesh will showcase their products and services during the fair.

Participants include national tourism organisations, airlines, hotels, tour operators, financial institutions and other travel related service providers, among others.

The mart will be open for visitors from 10:00am to 8:00pm every day on payment of an entry fee of Tk 50 per person, the press release added.

Among others, Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, and Md Kamrul Islam, general manager of public relations at the airline, were also present.

## Bengal Commercial Bank gets new DMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Bengal Commercial Bank PLC has promoted Md Humayun Kabir to the post of deputy managing director.

Prior to his new role, Kabir was serving the bank as a senior executive vice-president and company secretary concurrently, the bank said in a press release.

He joined Bengal Commercial Bank as an executive vice-president and company secretary in 2018.

He played a vital role in the entire preliminary works in relation to formation of the bank as well as in the bank's overall development since its establishment.

Kabir started his banking career with Social Islami Bank PLC (SIBL) in 2000.

During his 24-year long professional career, he assumed various significant roles, including head of share department and company secretary of SIBL and chief executive officer of SIBL Securities Limited.

He obtained his bachelor's degree in law and master's degree in social science.

Kabir is a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh.

## Oil resists dollar pressure

REUTERS, London

Oil prices eased on Monday, pressured by a strong dollar, but remained at their highest since mid-October as colder weather spurred buying while further support came from expectations of tighter sanctions on Iranian and Russian oil exports.

Brent crude futures lost 33 cents, or 0.4 percent, to \$76.18 a barrel by 0950 GMT, their highest since Oct. 14.

US West Texas Intermediate crude was down 35 cents, or 0.5 percent, at \$73.61, also the highest level since Oct. 14.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (JAN 6, 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 54-Tk 58	6.67 ↑	14.29 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-10.53 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	0
Soybean (litre)	Tk 163-Tk 165	-1.50 ↓	4.13 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 60	-29.03 ↓	-8.33 ↓
Onion (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 85	-44.90 ↓	-20.59 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 45-Tk 50	-3.06 ↓	9.20 ↑

SOURCE: TCB

## Al-Arafah Islami Bank donates bus to Chattogram Govt Women's College

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC recently donated a bus to transport the students of Chattogram Government Women's College.

Farman R Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of the bank, handed over a dummy key of the bus to Tahmina Akhter Noor, principal of the college, at a function on the college premises in the port city, the bank said in a press release.

Mohammad Fazlur Rahman Chowdhury, deputy managing director of the bank, was present as special guest.

Md Habib Ullah, senior executive vice-president of the bank, Mohammad Azam, zonal head for Chattogram, and Jalal Ahmed, executive vice-president, along with branch managers of the Chattogram zone of the bank, and teachers and students of the college were also present.



Tahmina Akhter Noor, principal of Chattogram Government Women's College, receives a dummy key of a bus from Farman R Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, at a function on the college premises in Chattogram recently. PHOTO: AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK

## Southeast Bank unveils countdown clock for its 30th anniversary



PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

MA Kashem, chairman of Southeast Bank, unveils a digital countdown timer at the bank's Banani office in Dhaka recently as part of the celebration of its 30th anniversary on May 25.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC recently launched a special digital countdown clock at its Banani office in the capital as a part of the celebration of its founding anniversary.

The bank will celebrate its 30th anniversary on May 25 this year, according to a press release.

MA Kashem, chairman of the bank, unveiled the digital countdown timer clock as the chief guest.

This initiative is considered as a milestone in honouring the bank's three decades of achievements and its unparalleled journey in banking services.

The digital timer, installed in the bank's own premises in Banani, symbolises the proud history, integrity, and innovative banking services of Southeast Bank.

Beyond counting down to May 25, the 30th anniversary, the timer aims to inspire all members of the Southeast Bank family to work together towards building a prosperous future. While delivering his speech at the inauguration ceremony, Kashem said: "Southeast Bank's 30-year journey reflects the unwavering trust and support of our customers, partners and employees."

## Risk and resilience

FROM PAGE B4

Trying to anticipate the actions of such an unpredictable figure is a fool's errand. However, the ambiguity about Trump's direction will have tangible consequences. Start with the financing of US government debt, which the International Monetary Fund puts at 121 percent of GDP. The bond market will constrain the president's scope for running large budget deficits - especially if he seeks to undermine the Federal Reserve's inflation-fighting credentials.

Most other governments in the developed world already face debt constraints. An exception could be Germany, where a new chancellor could release the "debt brake" which has hobbled Europe's largest economy. The military threat from Russia may induce European countries to once again embrace joint borrowing, this time to fund defence spending. China looks set to respond to US technology restrictions by wielding export controls of its own. And the prospect of American tariffs may prompt the world's second-largest economy to take decisive action to halt its real estate slump.

Corporate chieftains will have to spend 2025 navigating around governments and regulators as well as more fundamental business

shifts. Elon Musk's role at the heart of Trump's administration - at least for the time being - should propel his SpaceX unit to new heights. The Tesla CEO may also help to speed up the arrival of self-driving cars in the United States. Looser antitrust restrictions could clear the way for a wave of big mergers. Insurance companies, meanwhile, will pile into the private credit boom.

In the next 12 months, tech companies will find out whether the tens of billions of dollars they have poured into AI are beginning to pay off. If the technology's applications expand then OpenAI, the inventor of the ChatGPT chatbot, could be the meme-stock initial public offering of the year. If not, Microsoft boss Satya Nadella may have to pen an apologetic letter to the software giant's shareholders. Technology trends will also pull in different directions, as Silicon Valley pursues smart glasses while smartphone-wary parents spark a revival of the brick phone.

As ever, the coming year will throw up surprises that did not feature in even the most elaborate scenarios. The hope must be that, when they arrive, the global economy and financial system display the same surprising resilience they have shown in the past five years.

## Eurozone economy ended 2024

FROM PAGE B4

sharper increase in input costs. The composite output prices index rose to a four-month high of 52.5 from 51.9.

"At the (December) ECB press conference, President Lagarde reiterated that services inflation is still too high. December's PMI survey for the services sector confirm this," de la Rubia said.

"For monetary policy, this means the central bank should remain

cautious and make only small interest rate cuts in the first quarter of 2025."

The European Central Bank cut interest rates for a fourth time in December and kept the door open to more easing as the eurozone economy is dragged down by political instability at home and the threat of a US trade war.

It is expected to cut at least 100 basis points more this year, according to a Reuters poll.