

Eastern Bank declares 35% dividends

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has announced a 35 percent dividend, including a 17.50 percent cash dividend, for the year that ended on December 31, 2024.

The declaration was made during the bank's 33rd annual general meeting (AGM), which was held virtually yesterday, according to a press release issued by the bank.

Md Showkat Ali Chowdhury, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting as the chief guest.

Anis Ahmed, Salina Ali, Gazi Md Shakhawat Hossain, KJS Banu, Zara Namreen, Ruslan Nasir, Mahreen Nasir, KM Tanjib-ul Alam, and Khondkar Atique-e-Rabbani, directors of the bank, joined the meeting.

During the proceedings, shareholders commended the board and management for EBL's strong financial performance in 2024, particularly acknowledging the successful launch of Islamic banking alongside the bank's established conventional operations.

Despite the challenges arising from global economic volatility and domestic instability, shareholders expressed satisfaction with the declared dividend and the bank's strategic direction.

All agenda items presented at the AGM were duly approved by the shareholders.

Ali Reza Iftakhar, managing director of the bank, and Md Abdullah Al Mamun, company secretary, along with other senior officials and a large number of shareholders from across the country, also participated in the meeting.

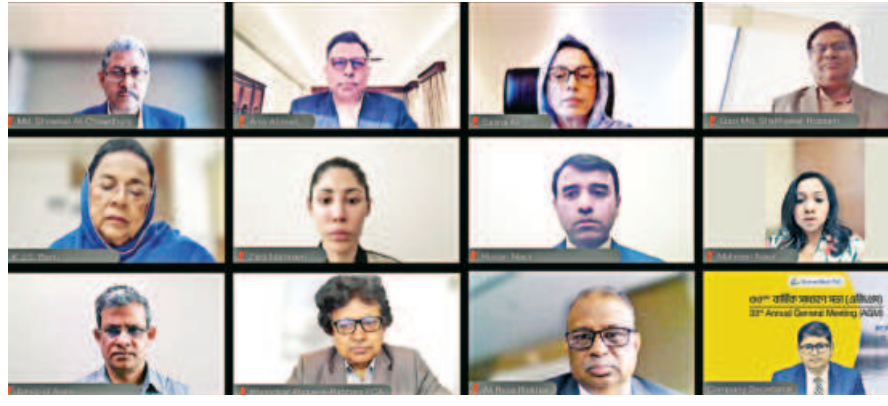


PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

Md Showkat Ali Chowdhury, chairman of Eastern Bank PLC, presides over the bank's 33rd annual general meeting held virtually yesterday. The meeting has announced a 35 percent dividend, including a 17.50 percent cash dividend, for 2024.

UK inflation hits 15-month high

AFP, London

Britain's annual inflation rate surged more than expected in April as energy and water bills rose sharply, official data showed on Wednesday.

The Consumer Prices Index soared to 3.5 percent last month, up from 2.6 percent in March, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. Analysts' consensus forecast had been for a jump to 3.3 percent.

At 3.5 percent, the headline rate was the highest since the beginning of 2024, the ONS noted.

"I am disappointed with these figures because I know cost of living pressures are still weighing down on working people," finance minister Rachel Reeves said in a statement.

UK regulators allowed private companies to hike household bills from April, taking into account movements in oil and gas markets and indebted water providers.

"Significant increases in household bills caused inflation to climb steeply," ONS acting director general, Grant Fitzner, said in a statement.

"Gas and electricity bills rose... compared with sharp falls at the same time last year."

He noted that "water and sewerage bills also rose strongly... as did vehicle excise duty, which all pushed the headline rate up to its highest level since the beginning of last year."

Energy bills are expected to drop from July, however, following recent heavy falls to oil prices in the wake of US President Donald Trump's tariffs blitz, according to analysts.

Businesses were additionally hit in April by a tax hike and rise to the minimum wage, which both took effect last month having been introduced by the Labour government following its July election victory that ended 14 years of Conservative rule.

Tory spokesman on the economy, Mel Stride, blamed "Labour's economic mismanagement" for the surge to inflation.

"Families are paying the price for the Labour... choices," he added, as businesses pass on higher costs to consumers.

Analysts said the latest data could see the Bank of England ease the pace at which it has been cutting interest rates in recent months.

Dhaka Bank logs Tk 6,000cr deposits in Jan-Apr



Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, managing director and CEO of Dhaka Bank PLC, attends a celebratory programme organised by the bank at its head office in Dhaka recently, marking the achievement of a milestone.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

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Dhaka Bank PLC has achieved a milestone as over 5 lakh new accounts were opened and fresh deposits exceeding Tk 6,000 crore were mobilised in four months, spanning January to April this year, according to a press release.

This accomplishment aligns with the bank's strategic objectives of fostering financial inclusion, enhancing customer engagement, and boosting deposit mobilisation through a diverse suite of products, efficient service delivery, and a trusted brand presence across Bangladesh.

The milestone serves as a powerful testament to the trust and confidence the bank enjoys from customers nationwide and represents a significant step in its continued commitment to customer-centric banking and national economic advancement.

It reflects the strength of the bank's comprehensive strategy to expand

financial access, improve both digital and in-branch services, and nurture enduring relationships with individual and corporate clients alike.

To celebrate this milestone, the bank organised a commemorative event at its head office in Dhaka, attended by Sheikh Mohammad Maroof, managing director and CEO of the bank, as the chief guest.

AKM Shahnawaj, additional managing director of the bank; AMM Momen Uddin, deputy managing director and chief operating officer; Md Mostaque Ahmed, deputy managing director and chief emerging market officer; and Akhlaqur Rahman, deputy managing director for corporate, also attended the event.

HM Mostafizur Rahaman, senior executive vice-president and head of retail business division at the bank, and Mosleh Saad Mahmud, executive vice-president and head of cash management unit, were present as well, along with other senior officials.

NCC Bank, bKash partner for 24/7 cash management

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with bKash Limited, the leading mobile financial services (MFS) provider in Bangladesh, to introduce 24/7 automated cash management services.

M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of the bank, and Kamal Quadir, chief executive officer (CEO) of the MFS provider, signed the MoU at a recent event held in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Speaking at the event, Arefin remarked, "This partnership enables a seamless digital transaction ecosystem. Now, bKash agents, and merchants can generate e-money in their digital wallets directly from NCC Bank accounts and vice versa, ensuring uninterrupted business operations."

This initiative aims to enhance the efficiency of financial transactions for bKash distributors, agents, and merchants.

The new service will allow bKash stakeholders with NCC Bank accounts to effortlessly add funds and transfer e-money in real time, offering a secure and convenient

platform for round-the-clock transaction management.

The collaboration is expected to significantly streamline cash flow operations for bKash partners across the country.

M Khurshed Alam, additional managing director of the bank; and Md Mahub Alam, Md Zakir Anam, Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, and

Md Monirul Alam, deputy managing directors, attended the event.

Shahin Akter Nuha, head of the transaction banking and cash management department of the bank, and Moimuddin Mohammed Rahgir, chief financial officer (CFO) of the MFS provider, along with senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Kamal Quadir, chief executive officer (CEO) of bKash Limited, and M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing the memorandum of understanding at a function in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NCC BANK

Pubali Bank donates two microbuses to Bangladesh Agricultural University

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC has donated two microbuses to Bangladesh Agricultural University as part of its corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of the bank, handed over the symbolic keys to Prof AK Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, vice-chancellor of the university, at a recent event held in Dhaka, according to a press release issued by the bank.

In his remarks, Ali stated, "Pubali Bank is not solely a profit-oriented organisation; beyond that, it consistently contributes to the education sector as part of its social responsibility. In line with this commitment, Pubali Bank has donated two microbuses to Bangladesh Agricultural University."

He further expressed that the donation would stand as a symbol of friendship and mutual cooperation between the two institutions in the years ahead.

Prof Humayun Kabir, treasurer of

the university, and Md Shahnewaz Khan, deputy managing director of the bank, attended the event as special guests.

Md Halal Uddin, registrar of the

university, and Md Monirul Islam, head for Mymensingh region of the bank, were also present, together with other officials from both organisations.



Prof AK Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University, receives dummy keys from Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC, in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Premier Bank inks MoU with National Pension Authority

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Premier Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Pension Authority (NPA) to enable registration under the Universal Pension Schemes (UPS) and facilitate the collection of subscription fees.

Under the terms of this agreement, subscribers will be able to register for the UPS and pay their monthly subscription fees through Premier Bank PLC.

Mohammad Abu Jafar, managing director and CEO of the bank, and Md Mahiuddin Khan, executive chairman of the NPA, signed the MoU at the conference

room of the Finance Division at the Ministry of Finance in the capital recently, according to a press release.

Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder, secretary to the Finance Division at the Ministry of Finance, attended the event as the chief guest.

Senior officials from both organisations were also present.



Md Mahiuddin Khan, executive chairman of the National Pension Authority, and Mohammad Abu Jafar, managing director and CEO of Premier Bank PLC, shake hands and exchange signed documents of the memorandum of understanding at the conference room of the Finance Division at the Ministry of Finance in the capital recently.

PHOTO: PREMIER BANK

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Memo No. 35.01.3936.430.00.003.25- /1031 Date: 19-05-2025

e-Tender Notice

These are online Tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no off line/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Jamalpur Road Division, Jamalpur for the procurement of below mentioned work:

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Tender Security Submission Date and Time	Last Selling Time	Tender Closing Time
1098791	01/e-GP/Dev/JRD/2024-2025	Re-construction of Flexible Pavement, Construction of Rigid pavement, Construction of Bridge & Culvert and Protective work from Ch. 18+000 to Ch. 26+000 KM of Jamalpur (Madarganj)-Koyra-Mansumagar (Kazipur)-Abdullah More (Sarishabari)-Tangail (Dhanbari) Zilla Highway (Z-4029) under Jamalpur Road Division (WP-3).	23-06-2025 11.30	22-06-2025 17.00	23-06-2025 12.00

(Md. Nawajish Rahman Biswas)
 ID No-602246
 Executive Engineer (CC) RHD
 Road Division, Jamalpur

GD-1229