

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.85%) lost 56.26 points and closed the week at 6,584.97 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-0.45%) lost 11.14 points and stood at 2,440.45 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-0.40%) lost 5.82 points and stood at 1,447.79 points. The large cap index CDSET (-0.19%) lost 2.49 points and closed at 1,325.69 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -2.54%, -3.64%, +1.16%, -2.46%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 22.6 billion (USD 263 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 5.7 billion (Δ% Week: -6.9%)

Market P/E: 16.2x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

Market performed four sessions during this week. Market started on a positive note (+0.32%) on Sunday. But the market stayed negative (-0.36%) on Monday and (-0.97%) on Tuesday. However, market ended at a positive note (+0.17%) on Wednesday.

Sectoral Performance

- All the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. General Insurance experienced the highest loss of -1.60% followed by Bank (-1.33%), NBFi (-1.23%), Mutual Fund (-1.22%), and Life Insurance (-0.95%).

- Most of the non-financial sectors registered negative performance this week. Telecommunication experienced the highest loss of 1.86% followed by Fuel & Power (-0.80%), Engineering (-0.30%), Food & Allied (-0.10%), and Pharmaceutical (+0.28%).

Macroeconomic arena

- Focus on social safety net in FY23 budget amid Covid fallout: CPD. RISKS GROWING for rising debt service-to-revenue ratio. Remittance income increasing from US, EU. Youngone to invest \$500m in textiles and IT. ITES exporters without BASIS, BACCO membership to get cash incentive too. Bangladesh set to move PTA proposal to Nepal. Steelmakers urge immediate ingredient tax waivers. NBR likely miss revenue target BDT 3.30t this year too. RMG exports to Russia withstand war headwinds. Businesses demand 5-year tax exemption for greenfield projects. Failsafe device probing payroll tax-dodging. Bangladesh's apparel exports to US increase by 44.38pc in Jan-Feb.

- Bangladesh Bank orders uniform provisioning policy. Banks asked to curb non-essential imports. Agent banking transactions top BDT 500.0 Bn. Lending leaping thru agent banking. BB issues new CSR reporting format for banks, NBFIs. Multilateral lenders mull higher cost loans.

- Hi-tech park to be established in Keraniganj. Fertiliser subsidy rises four times. Bangladesh loses NY lawsuit over USD 81m cyber heist. Push for open tender to buy spot LNG. Dhaka airport third terminal construction outpaces target. BSTI starts issuing halal certificates. Factories now face 15-day gas rationing from Tuesday. NBR to introduce DEDO pay app to resolve refund claims. Hospitality, tourism sector lost BDT 60.0 Bn in pandemic: BIDS. Matarbari deep seaport construction to be completed by 2026. Spot-market LNG imports rise on gas shortage. Bangladesh becoming a key sweater sourcing hub.

Stock Market arena

- Paramount Textile to form JV for 100MW plant. BSEC allows BD Paints to raise BDT 120m through QIO. MyGP lets sports-lovers enjoy sports tournaments. Trust deed signed for BDT 1.0 Bn Golden Jubilee Fund. Krishibid Seed makes debut on SME Platform today. Maiden commodity exchange by this year. Listed cos asked to give info on 5pc profit sharing with workers.

- Doreen Power's subsidiary gets BPDB nod to start commercial operation. Bourses asked not to list banks in 'Z' category. BB, Brac Bank sign deal to refinance small businesses. Walton doubles motherboard production. Two banks declare dividends for 2021.

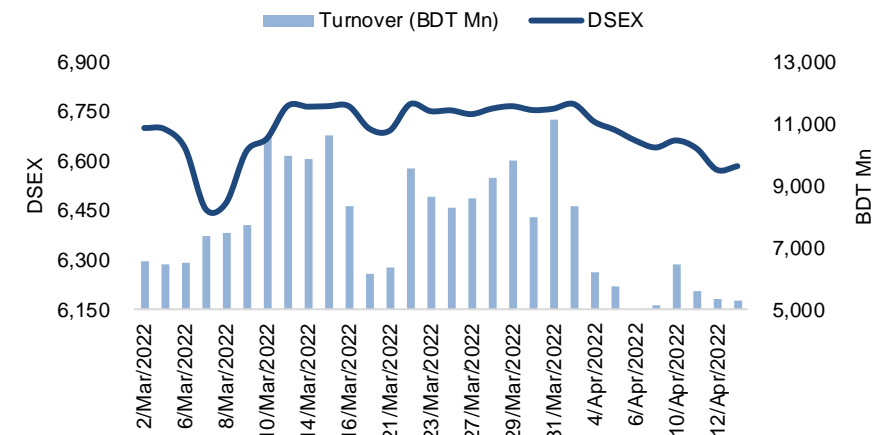
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2020	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	6,584.97	6,641.23	-56.26	6,756.66	-0.85%	-2.54%
DS30	2,440.45	2,451.59	-11.14	2,532.58	-0.45%	-3.64%
DSES	1,447.79	1,453.60	-5.82	1,431.12	-0.40%	+1.16%
CDSET	1,325.69	1,328.18	-2.49	1,359.13	-0.19%	-2.46%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	5,290,247	5,325,397	-0.7%
	Mn USD	61,514	61,923	
Turnover	Mn BDT	22,637	30,393	-25.5%
	Mn USD	263	353	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	5,659	6,079	-6.9%
	Mn USD	66	71	
Volume	Mn Shares	509	764	-33.4%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in last four weeks



Research Associate

Fahim Hassan

(880) 1709636546

fahim.hassan@bracepl.com

Junior Research Associate

Md. Mahmudul Hasan

(880) 1708805201

mmahmudul.hasan@bracepl.com

Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
JHRML	51.4	35.3	+45.6%	6,440	6.6	NM	1.7x
IPDC	47.7	42.8	+11.4%	17,701	1,719.9	20.1x	2.8x
PRIMEINSUR	86.8	78.8	+10.2%	3,548	57.3	26.0x	4.7x
SONALIPAPR	872.8	804.4	+8.5%	19,170	773.3	77.2x	3.5x
APEXTANRY	152.8	140.9	+8.4%	2,329	187.5	83.3x	2.4x
IMAMBUTTON	45.1	41.6	+8.4%	347	40.9	NM	9.4x
HRTEX	79.4	73.8	+7.6%	2,009	174.7	25.7x	1.6x
SAVAREFR	248.8	231.3	+7.6%	347	2.7	NM	606.8x
MEGHNAPEP	25.7	24.0	+7.1%	308	5.5	NM	NM
CITYBANK	26.5	25.1	+5.6%	28,281	98.8	5.1x	0.9x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
MERCANBANK	14.8	16.0	-7.5%	15,292	10.4	4.3x	0.6x
PTL	77.9	84.2	-7.5%	12,685	146.7	16.5x	2.8x
TAKAFULINS	65.0	70.2	-7.4%	2,768	11.8	28.9x	3.4x
GBBPOWER	28.0	30.1	-7.0%	2,850	134.2	21.2x	1.4x
MHSML	36.3	38.8	-6.4%	3,666	62.3	19.4x	1.9x
BANKASIA	18.9	20.2	-6.4%	22,036	2.6	8.1x	0.8x
BDCOM	34.9	37.3	-6.4%	1,992	287.3	25.0x	2.3x
UTTARABANK	23.3	24.9	-6.4%	13,157	67.5	5.9x	0.7x
CAPMBDBLMF	10.4	11.1	-6.3%	521	7.4	NM	1.2x
PRIMEFIN	12.3	13.1	-6.1%	3,357	35.4	30.7x	1.1x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
IPDC	47.7	42.8	+11.4%	17,701	1,719.9	20.1x	2.8x
BEXIMCO	145.4	148.8	-2.3%	127,417	1,474.4	10.2x	1.7x
SONALIPAPR	872.8	804.4	+8.5%	19,170	773.3	77.2x	3.5x
GENEXIL	111.3	112.6	-1.2%	12,638	645.2	29.2x	5.6x
LHBL	77.6	78.9	-1.6%	90,123	618.8	23.2x	4.6x
PROVATIINS	109.4	106.8	+2.4%	3,802	581.4	25.2x	5.2x
FORTUNE	122.6	129.3	-5.2%	19,927	508.0	42.0x	8.1x
SQURPHARMA	224.8	221.4	+1.5%	199,274	430.2	11.2x	2.1x
NAHEEACP	73.6	74.2	-0.8%	5,031	330.5	32.8x	4.2x
GEMINISEA	518.3	507.4	+2.1%	2,434	301.7	40.6x	85.7x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ADNTEL	65.0	+24.0%	4,202	25.0x	2.5x
IPDC	47.7	+23.6%	17,701	20.1x	2.8x
SQUARETEXT	62.4	+19.5%	12,309	8.5x	1.5x
UNIQUEHRL	57.9	+15.3%	17,046	NM	0.7x
LHBL	77.6	+9.1%	90,123	23.2x	4.6x
LHBL	77.6	+9.1%	90,123	23.2x	4.6x
TITASGAS	39.3	+8.3%	38,876	11.4x	0.5x
IBNSINA	290.5	+7.1%	9,076	16.2x	3.9x
CROWNCEMNT	66.5	+6.9%	9,875	14.7x	1.3x
KPCL	31.8	+6.4%	12,638	NM	1.5x

*BDT
**BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,476.4	1,496.2	1,589.69	-1.33%	-7.13%
NBFI	1,983.9	2,008.6	2,327.63	-1.23%	-14.77%
Mutual Fund	882.7	893.6	882.99	-1.22%	-0.03%
General Insurance	3,759.7	3,820.6	4,698.62	-1.60%	-19.98%
Life Insurance	2,538.2	2,562.5	2,687.55	-0.95%	-5.56%
Telecommunication	5,359.5	5,460.8	5,800.37	-1.86%	-7.60%
Pharmaceutical	3,884.1	3,873.1	3,866.63	+0.28%	+0.45%
Fuel & Power	1,793.4	1,807.8	1,792.97	-0.80%	+0.02%
Cement	2,728.9	2,758.1	2,534.76	-1.06%	+7.66%
Services & Real Estate	1,414.1	1,436.8	1,309.43	-1.59%	+7.99%
Engineering	4,761.8	4,776.2	4,727.46	-0.30%	+0.73%
Food & Allied	23,218.4	23,241.9	25,222.81	-0.10%	-7.95%
IT	3,018.5	3,090.3	3,274.61	-2.32%	-7.82%
Textile	1,562.5	1,589.9	1,470.60	-1.72%	+6.25%
Paper & Printing	9,792.9	9,414.9	9,680.03	+4.01%	+1.17%
Tannery	3,678.2	3,787.2	3,236.76	-2.88%	+13.64%
Jute	8,774.9	8,720.4	8,747.84	+0.63%	+0.31%
Ceramics	648.9	658.2	675.88	-1.42%	-3.99%
Miscellaneous	4,548.3	4,552.1	4,625.39	-0.08%	-1.67%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	322.1	400.5	-19.58%	+6.37%	7.7x	0.8x
NBFI	641.9	671.9	-4.46%	+12.70%	NM	3.5x
Mutual Fund	51.0	78.9	-35.44%	+1.01%	NM	0.8x
General Insurance	272.1	273.0	-0.31%	+5.38%	17.7x	1.9x
Life Insurance	105.6	172.7	-38.86%	+2.09%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	64.6	60.9	+6.12%	+1.28%	16.5x	5.0x
Pharmaceutical	525.3	473.6	+10.90%	+10.39%	18.2x	2.7x
Fuel & Power	215.9	220.4	-2.06%	+4.27%	11.5x	1.2x
Cement	167.7	287.1	-41.58%	+3.32%	20.2x	2.7x
Services & Real Estate	133.5	143.9	-7.22%	+2.64%	NM	1.1x
Engineering	581.1	709.1	-18.05%	+11.50%	18.8x	2.0x
Food & Allied	275.0	340.3	-19.20%	+5.44%	25.7x	8.9x
IT	323.3	298.0	+8.48%	+6.40%	30.5x	2.7x
Textile	435.1	691.9	-37.11%	+8.61%	28.7x	1.0x
Paper & Printing	248.3	158.6	+56.51%	+4.91%	NM	2.4x
Tannery	185.7	113.6	+63.37%	+3.67%	NM	3.9x
Jute	5.4	8.1	-33.48%	+0.11%	NM	23.9x
Ceramics	35.5	34.8	+2.13%	+0.70%	28.6x	1.8x
Miscellaneous	465.0	489.5	-5.01%	+9.20%	14.1x	2.2x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
LANKABAFIN	30.0	-19.6%	16,165	12.6x	1.6x
DUTCHBANGL	63.1	-19.2%	39,911	7.2x	1.1x
ACTIVEFINE	20.7	-19.1%	4,967	98.6x	0.9x
BRACBANK	45.2	-18.3%	62,926	11.5x	1.1x
DBH	63.2	-18.0%	11,203	10.7x	1.5x
PIONEERINS	96.7	-17.3%	7,444	12.6x	2.0x
OLYMPIC	134.5	-16.3%	26,892	16.0x	3.0x
IDLC	51.1	-15.3%	20,231	9.6x	1.2x
BXPBARMA	165.0	-14.4%	73,608	12.1x	1.9x
BANKASIA	18.9	-13.3%	22,036	8.1x	0.8x

Important News: Business & Economy

Hi-tech park to be established in Keraniganj

- A 15,000 square feet hi-tech park is going to be established in Keraniganj, southern suburb of Dhaka city. It was informed at the function that BDT 2.0 Bn will be invested in the hi-tech park project which will have facilities to provide training to 1000 people per year. In addition, some 3000 more people will get the opportunity to be employed directly and indirectly under the project.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167955/hi-tech-park-to-be-established-in-keraniganj>

Focus on social safety net in FY23 budget amid Covid fallout: CPD

- The Centre for Policy Dialogue on Tuesday suggested that the government should focus on the social safety net programme in Bangladesh's national budget for the forthcoming FY23 to improve the consumption capacity of people amid the Covid fallout. The local think tank recommended bringing 143 social safety net programmes under a single window in order to move from the social safety network to the social security.
- Given a high level of food price inflation and a rise in the living cost, the CPD suggested that the government increase the amount of allowance to BDT 1,000 and increase coverage. To keep the market stable, the CPD suggested that the government should examine the duty and tax structures for the essential commodities, both at import and domestic levels.
- The organisation said that the government should provide additional support for subsidised credit programmes for the agriculture sector, and restructure incentives towards export and market diversification and continuation of support to incentivise inward remittance flows.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167963/focus-on-social-safety-net-in-fy23-budget-amid-covid-fallout-cpd>

Fertiliser subsidy rises four times

- Government's expenditure on fertiliser subsidy has increased four times to BDT 300 billion in the ongoing financial year (FY '22) amid a volatile global market. A total of 6.3 million tonnes of fertiliser, including 2.6 million tonnes of urea, 1.5 million tonnes of DAP, 0.7 million tonnes of TSP, 0.75 million tonnes of MOP, and 0.55 million tonnes of Gypsum, will be needed in the upcoming fiscal year, said the Agriculture minister.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/fertiliser-subsidy-rises-four-times-1649785885>

RISKS GROWING for rising debt service-to-revenue ratio

- Bangladesh's debt service to revenue ratio rocketed to 81.2% in FY21 amid lower tax collection and higher borrowing, according to the International Monetary Fund. This compared to 56.2% registered in the pre-pandemic year of 2019.
- Although the risk of debt distress remains low, the risk from a rising debt service-to-revenue ratio has increased," said the IMF Bangladesh in an analysis in March. As a result, development and priority expenditures, including those aimed at supporting the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, will continue to put pressure on public finances, it said.
- Local economists have also described the situation as still okay but urged the government to be more cautious. Total public debt in Bangladesh stood at USD 147.8 billion in FY21, which was around 41.4% of GDP, way lower than the threshold of 70% estimated by the IMF. External debt accounted for USD 62 billion in FY21, or 17.5% of GDP.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/risks-growing-rising-debt-service-revenue-ratio-3003801>

Bangladesh loses NY lawsuit over USD 81m cyber heist

- The Supreme Court of New York has dismissed Bangladesh Bank's 2020 civil complaint over cyber heist of its \$81 million reserve "for lack of jurisdiction". A central bank spokesperson said they are aware of the development and would take the next action once they receive a copy of the judgement.
- The Bangladesh Bank lost another case in New York in March 2020 before filing this latest suit. The Bangladesh Bank appealed the decision with the US Court of Appeals, which was later withdrawn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/court/bangladesh-loses-ny-lawsuit-over-81m-cyber-heist-402246>

Bangladesh Bank orders uniform provisioning policy

- The central bank asks all the scheduled banks to follow a uniform policy for maintaining provision against classification of other assets for ensuring discipline in the country's banking system. The central bank fixed criteria for classification and provisioning of other assets divided into 12 items, including legal expenses, accrued income, accrued interest on loans and advances, accrued interest on investment and other accrued income.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bangladesh-bank-orders-uniform-provisioning-policy-1649818816>

Push for open tender to buy spot LNG

- Bangladesh will be able to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from spot market at lower rates if the government purchases the fuel through open-tendering method instead of the existing selective- and limited-tendering process, market insiders and experts said.
- Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) currently invited bids from only 16 listed suppliers to purchase LNG from spot market. But among the 16 suppliers, only a few - numbering half a dozen maximum, submitted bids to supply the expensive fuel to the Petrobangla. Only three to four listed suppliers are the regular participants in the bidding to supply spot LNG, said sources.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/push-for-open-tender-to-buy-spot-lng-1649819400>

Remittance income increasing from US, EU

- Bangladesh received second highest remittance from the United States in March, which showed a change in inward remittance flow. The remittance earning has been dominated by the Middle Eastern countries since independence.
- Executive director and spokesperson of Bangladesh Bank (BB) told that the remittance earning will get diversified because of freelancing job in the developed countries like the US, Canada and the EU. BB's remittance update shows that Bangladesh received USD 308.8 Mn remittance from the US in Mar'22, USD 377 Mn from Saudi Arabia, USD 214.16 million from UK, and USD 184.14 million from UAE.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/remittance-income-increasing-us-eu-401578>

Youngone to invest \$500m in textiles and IT

- Youngone Corporation is planning to invest up to USD 500 Mn at the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) in the textiles and information technology sectors in the next few years. The KEPZ, owned by the Youngone Corporation, is also developing another 50 acres of land that would host twenty 22-storey IT buildings. The park/complex will have a number of software development facilities, including high-rise IT buildings, universities, schools, and a community complex with service apartments.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/youngone-invest-500m-textiles-and-it-401642>

Dhaka airport third terminal construction outpaces target

- Construction of the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) is progressing in full swing with completion reaching 34.6%, 2 percentage point higher compared to the April target. Officials say the soft launch of the much-awaited terminal is expected within September-October next year. The BDT 213.0 Bn project titled "Third Terminal of HSIA" in Dhaka aimed at increasing the airport's passenger and cargo capacity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/dhaka-airport-third-terminal-construction-outpaces-target-401614>

ITES exporters without BASIS, BACCO membership to get cash incentive too

- The Bangladesh Bank on Monday waived the requirement of membership of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) and the Bangladesh Association of Call Center and Outsourcing (BACCO) for getting cash incentive against IT-enabled services exports. Earlier, certification of BASIS or BACCO was a requirement of the ITES exporters to get cash incentive at the rate of 4 per cent. At least 188 BASIS member-firms export ICT products and services.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167881/ites-exporters-without-basis-bacco-membership-to-get-cash-incentive-too>

BSTI starts issuing halal certificates

- The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution on Monday started issuing halal certificates for food and other products. Director General of BSTI said that the country has taken the initiative as a member of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries, the halal certification body of Organization of Islamic Cooperation member countries. He informed that Bangladesh has adopted the international standards related to halal products (BDS OIC / SMIIC 1: 2021, BDS OIC / SMIIC 2: 2021 and BDS OIC / SMIIC 24: 2021).
- Besides, expanding the export of domestic products has worked as a motivation behind issuing halal certificates, the Director General added. The products of three companies under Olympic Industries were awarded halal certificates on Monday. The products ranged from Wafer biscuits, lozenges, plain cakes and toffees to instant noodles and chips or crackers.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167872/bsti-starts-issuing-halal-certificates>

Banks asked to curb non-essential imports

- The Bangladesh Bank ordered banks to immediately adopt strict measures to discourage imports of non-essential items in a bid to rein in the escalating import payments and avert any pressure on the foreign currency reserves. Now banks have to impose at least 25 % margin on the opening of letters of credit for non-essential consumer goods. This means importers have to deposit at least 25% of the total import costs while opening LCs.
- The move is part of the BB efforts to run the monetary and credit programmes properly given the ongoing global state of affairs. Imports stood at USD 54.37 Bn in 8MFY22, an increase of 46.7% year-on-year. As a result, the trade deficit totaled USD 22.30 billion in 8MFY22 in contrast to USD 12.35 Bn during 8MFY21.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-asked-curb-non-essential-imports-3003106>

Factories now face 15-day gas rationing from Tuesday

- After having ordered CNG filling stations to remain closed for six hours a day, the government has now decided to ration gas supply to all industries, including forex-earning textile and readymade garment industries from 5pm to 9pm daily for 15 days amid a crisis in Ramadan. In a circular issued on Monday, PetroBangla asked factories to stop using gas for four hours every day till 26 April from Tuesday.
- Factory owners fear that reduction of spinning, dyeing and washing factories will be severely affected owing to gas supply suspension, and exports of readymade garments will suffer a blow too. Source at the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) said the country requires 15,000 MW of electricity at peak hours, which requires 1,400 million cubic feet (mmcf) of gas every day. But the power sector receives only 950mmcf to 1,000mmcf gas a day.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/factories-now-face-15-day-gas-rationing-tuesday-401414>

Bangladesh set to move PTA proposal to Nepal

- Bangladesh is set to put forward a package of proposals, including the signing of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), with Nepal during the upcoming foreign office consultation (FOC), officials say. The Bangladesh side will also submit proposals to its Nepalese counterpart for reduction of tariffs, removal of non-tariff barriers and para-tariff measures and rationalization of sensitive lists under SAPTA/APTA, they added.
- Other proposals to be placed before the meeting include finalization of the model text of bilateral investment treaty (BIT), holding trilateral meeting on hydropower cooperation and air connectivity and amendment to air service agreement between Bangladesh and Nepal.

- The negotiation process of finalizing the text of PTA to be signed between Bangladesh and Nepal had been going on for three years, a senior official said. PTA between the two countries has not been finalized as Nepal is yet to share the offer and request lists with Bangladesh. The PTA text and Rules of Origin have almost been finalized. Bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Nepal stood at around USD 73.47 million in the fiscal year 2020-21.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-set-to-move-pta-proposal-to-nepal-1649564688>

Steelmakers urge immediate ingredient tax waivers

- Steelmakers urge the government to waive all duties and taxes on raw materials forthwith, without waiting until new budget, to save the industry and construction works from a feared nosedive. They said that volatility in global-market prices and ingredient-freighting charges is about to deal a blow to their business and thereby by to a vista of development and building-construction activities.
- Bangladesh Steel Manufacturers Association told that they have been talking about the severe disruption to imported raw materials' supply chain and logistics on several occasions and predicts that the situation is likely to take three to five years of post-pandemic period to get back to normal. BSMA told that the cost of per-tonne scrap steels has increased to USD 680 from USD 565 within just two weeks.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/steelmakers-urge-immediate-ingredient-tax-waivers-1649610831>

NBR to introduce DEDO pay app to resolve refund claims

- The Duty Exemption and Drawback Office (DEDO) under the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is going to introduce the online refund app Dedopay to speedily resolve the refund claims of the taxpayers online. Under the app, it would be possible to resolve the refund claims within one day or even one hour, instead of a week.
- The app could also be used for conducting the operations of the DEDO officials. The designated officials of the DEDO can formulate claim vouchers, scrutinize VAT vouchers through online, prepare automated note sheets and take instant decisions related to refund through using such app. The app would make it possible to examine the data to comply with the mandatory provision for applying for refund claims within six months. As a result, there will remain no scope for applying for an expired refund claim.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nbr-to-introduce-dedo-pay-app-to-resolve-refund-claims-1649599428>

NBR likely miss revenue target BDT 3.30t this year too

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) may miss the fiscal revenue collection target as about half of the revenue collection is yet to be done with only four months left of the current financial year. Latest NBR data shows that the revenue board has collected BDT 1.76 trillion in eight months (July-February).
- The NBR has submitted a revised revenue collection plan with a target of BDT 3.05 trillion to reduce the gap between the target and achievement at the end of the fiscal year, reports UNB. If the ministry of finance approves the revised revenue collection plan, the revenue board has to collect BDT 320 billion per month on an average in the remaining (March-June) period.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nbr-likely-miss-revenue-target-tk-330t-this-year-too-1649592560>

Hospitality, tourism sector lost BDT 60.0 Bn in pandemic: BIDS

- The hospitality and tourism sector lost BDT 60.0 Bn and as many as 140,000 workers also lost their jobs due to the Covid pandemic, said a Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies report. According to the report, the sales and revenues in the HTS dropped significantly in 4QFY20; 84% for hotels and resorts while 98-100% for tour operators and travel agents and amusement parks.
- The average number of workers hired by the hotels and resorts was 42% lower in the pandemic year compared to the pre-pandemic year. The retrenchment, on the other hand, was 317% higher during the pandemic year. The average reduction in wages and salaries is quite substantial, 34% among the hotels and resorts, 34% among tour operators, and travel agents 26%.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167786/hospitality-tourism-sector-lost-tk-6000cr-in-pandemic-bids>

Agent banking transactions top BDT 500.0 Bn

- The amount of money transacted through agent banking exceeded the BDT 500.0 Bn mark for the first time in Jan'22 as the service has managed to expand its reach in the country's rural areas. Of the transactions, transactions in the rural areas stood at BDT 414.1 Bn, accounting for 79.38% of the total transactions through agent banking wing.
- The number of agent banking accounts in the country reached 14.4 Mn in Jan'22, which was 10.1 Mn in Jan'21. Of the accounts, 77.83% accounts were opened in the rural areas. In terms of holding customer accounts, Bank Asia is leading all other banks while Dutch-Bangla Bank, Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, Al-Arafah Islami Bank and Agrani Bank are following suit.
- The number of agents of the banks rose by 76.45% in the last two years to reach 14,081 in Jan'22 from 7,980 in the same month of 2020. Besides, the number of bank outlets increased by 69.83% to 19,396 in Jan'22 from 11,421 in the same month of 2020.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167788/agent-banking-transactions-top-tk-50000cr>

Lending leaping thru agent banking

- Although banks had initially focused on using agent banking platforms to mobilize deposits from rural areas, they have recently ramped up lending operations through the branchless banking model. Loan disbursement through the agent banking channel stood at BDT 53.47 Bn in 2021, up 182% year-on-year. At present, the lenders are disbursing loans ranging from BDT 20,000 to BDT 200,000 to borrowers at an interest rate of 9% through the channel.
- BRAC Bank has secured the top position in terms of lending among the banks, as it accounted for 63% of the loans disbursed by 29 lenders through the channel. Managing director of Brac Bank said they had laid emphasis on agent banking to disburse loans among cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises.
- Managing director of Bank Asia said loan disbursements through the platform would increase manifolds within a year or two. Bank Asia, which accounted for 15% of the outstanding loans in the agent banking platform, now concentrates on eight to 10 districts to disburse loans, he said. Bank Asia now offers 0.5% commission on the amount of loan disbursed by agents, and 2% commission on the deposits.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/lending-leaping-thru-agent-banking-3002271>

BB issues new CSR reporting format for banks, NBFIs

- The central bank has issued a revised Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reporting format for all the scheduled banks and non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) to enhance their responsibilities for socioeconomic development. Different issues including involvement of external implementing agency/third party/foundation for implementing the CSR activities have been brought under the revised reporting format, officials said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-issues-new-csr-reporting-format-for-banks-nbfis-1649610752>

RMG exports to Russia withstand war headwinds

- Despite the Russia-Ukraine war and a ban on some banks on the use of global payments messaging network SWIFT, apparel shipment from Bangladesh to Russia has largely remained unscathed because of the use of alternative routes and payment channels, exporters say. Garment exporters are sending shipments via alternative routes such as China and Hong Kong and the suppliers are receiving payments from China in the Renminbi.
- Russian importers are also placing a higher number of orders with Bangladesh to fill up the vacuum created after some large American and European retailers and brands pulled out of the market. Russian buyers are making advance payments to Bangladeshi garment exporters as well as the demand for apparel items has increased in the market.
- Nearly 150 suppliers export garment items to Russia. Apparel shipment fetched USD 600.0 Mn last fiscal year, up 36%. The export value may go up to USD 1.0 Bn in the current fiscal year ending in June.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rmg-exports-russia-withstand-war-headwinds-3002411>

Matarbari deep seaport construction to be completed by 2026

- Japan plans to complete the construction of the Matarbari Deep seaport by 2026, a senior official of the Japanese Foreign Ministry told the FE. As per the schedule, the port construction will be completed by 2026, and Japan is confident of meeting the deadline.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/matarbari-deep-seaport-construction-to-be-completed-by-2026-1649521847>

Businesses demand 5-year tax exemption for greenfield projects

- The Bangladesh Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) has demanded a five-year tax exemption for greenfield projects to attract investment in the country. The trade body has also demanded a 250 basis point tax cut in the corporate tax to encourage investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businesses-demand-5-year-tax-exemption-greenfield-projects-400426>

Failsafe device probing payroll tax-dodging

- Evading payroll taxes is being made difficult for both employees and employers as National Board of Revenue (NBR) started monthly scrutiny of salary payout through electronic tax deduction at source (e-TDS) system, as a measure of enhancing government revenue.
- NBR have set a target to register 5,000 companies under the e-TDS system, mopping up BDT 10 billion in taxes by June 30, 2022. According to a primary estimation, NBR assume an annual loss of tax revenue in the form of direct tax worth BDT 250 billion for not having e-TDS system in place thus far. The received a total of BDT 510 billion as Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) from the income taxpayers in FY21.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/failsafe-device-probing-payroll-tax-dodging-1649557729>

Multilateral lenders mull higher cost loans

- Low-cost foreign loans are going to be a thing of the past for Bangladesh as it enters the realm of increased per capita national income and growing economic development. Different development partners of Bangladesh - from the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) to JICA and AIIB - have also started mulling revisions to the terms of loans given to the country.
- Pear Mohammad, additional secretary and wing chief, ERD, said, the ADB was set to change the terms of the loans and also reduce the amount of flexible debts, while increasing the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) loans. He said that according to calculations, flexible loans for Bangladesh will come down once it graduates from LDC, but ADB wants to do that before the graduation.

- Another ERD official said that the per capita national income of Bangladesh was now more than USD 2,000. The WB wants to recognise Bangladesh as an IDA-blend. The WB will prepare an assessment report and at the end of 2027, following which Bangladesh would become an IDA-blend country. Then the IDA will reduce the amount of flexible loans. As a blend country, Bangladesh will have to take high-interest market based or SOFR based loans, which ranges interest rate of 3-4%.
- The ADB is currently giving Bangladesh loans at a 2% interest rate or a rate based on the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/multilateral-lenders-mull-higher-cost-loans-400442>

Spot-market LNG imports rise on gas shortage

- The government would import three liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes, instead of two, from the volatile spot market to overcome the countrywide gas crisis. The rise in LNG import is because of last week's abrupt fall in gas supply from the country's largest Bibiyana gas field, causing this crisis.
- It purchased the latest LNG cargo from the spot market at around USD 35 per metric million British thermal unit (mmBtu) for April delivery. Qatargas also increased supply of LNG under a term contract through rescheduling its previous LNG cargo delivery plan for Bangladesh.
- The overall supply increased to 3,150 mmcf/d with around 850-mmcf/d regasified LNG while local gas fields supplied around 2,300 mmcf/d to overcome the crisis. The country's overall natural gas demand is more than 4,000 mmcf/d, according to the state-run Petrobangla.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/spot-market-lng-imports-rise-on-gas-shortage-1649558767>

Bangladesh becoming a key sweater sourcing hub

- Bangladesh is turning into a major sourcing hub for sweaters for international clothing retailers and brands as work orders are shifting from China and global fashion trends are changing. Chinese manufacturers are no longer interested in making sweaters because of the complexities in the manufacturing process, higher cost of production, and shortage of skilled workers, according to industry insiders.
- Earnings from sweater exports reached USD 4.05 billion in FY21, up 12.62% year-on-year. In FY20, the receipts stood at USD 3.59 billion, a decrease of 15.47% from the previous year's USD 4.25 billion, as the severe fallout of the coronavirus pandemic took a toll.

- Managing director of Dragon Sweater and Spinning told that the historical trends indicate that the export earnings will cross USD 6.0 billion at the end of the current fiscal year. He added that his company secured 20% per cent higher rates this year after his buyers adjusted the price in line with increased cutting and manufacturing costs and raw materials prices in the local and international markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-becoming-key-sweater-sourcing-hub-3001701>

Bangladesh's apparel exports to US increase by 44.38pc in Jan-Feb

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the United States grew by 44.38% to USD 1.44 billion in 2MCY22 on the back of increased prices and demand for readymade garment products in the market. Exporters said that the successful rebound of the US economy from the shock of the Covid-19 pandemic and increased import orders of knitwear products from the US to Bangladesh contributed to growth.
- According to the Otexa data, the value of apparel products in January-February increased more than the volume in the world market. In terms of volume, the apparel export to the US from Bangladesh in the first two months of this year grew by 35.11% to 530 million square metres from 392 million square metres in the same period of 2021.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167708/bangladeshs-apparel-exports-to-us-increase-by-4438pc-in-jan-feb>

Important News: Capital Market

Paramount Textile to form JV for 100MW plant

- Paramount Textile Ltd (PTL) said it will form a joint venture company with Dynamic Sun Energy Private Ltd to establish a 100-megawatt solar power plant in Pabna sadar, a northwest district. Paramount will acquire 49 % stakes in the plant, which will require around BDT 13.0 Bn to produce and supply renewable energy to the national grid. The tariff would be USD 0.1195 per kilowatt hour and the contract period would be 20 years among others.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/paramount-textile-form-jv-100mw-plant-3003661>

BSEC allows BD Paints to raise BDT 120m through QIO

- As per the BSEC approval, the paint producer will issue 12 million ordinary shares at a face value of BDT 10 each under the fixed price method According to the company's audited financial statements for the year ended on 30 June 2021, its earnings per share stood at BDT 0.97 and net asset value per share BDT 15.94. Prime Bank Investment Limited and CAPM Advisory Limited are working as the issue managers for the company. The company will not be able to issue bonus shares within three years of its debut on the SME platform

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-allows-bd-paints-to-raise-BDT-120m-through-qio-1649778414>

MyGP lets sports-lovers enjoy sports tournaments

- Grameenphone has enabled sports-lovers to enjoy the broadcasts of various sports tournaments through its flagship app, MyGP, said a press release. Till now, MyGP has partnered with popular platforms like Rabbitholebd, Bioscope and Livetech to stream major sports events, like the English Premier League, La Liga, UEFA Champions League, Bangladesh national cricket team matches, IPL, and tennis tournaments.
- MyGP users can watch this premium or free content using mobile data and Wi-Fi. Subscription for premium content can be purchased through buying packs or using mobile balance. Besides sports, MyGP also offers entertainment services with exciting packs from Bioscope, Zee5, Cinematic, and Hoichoi. Moreover, through the app, customers can also avail of discounts on HungryNaki, Daraz, etc.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167950/mygp-lets-sports-lovers-enjoy-sports-tournaments>

Trust deed signed for BDT 1.0 Bn Golden Jubilee Fund

- The Capital Market Stabilisation Fund (CMSF) has taken an initiative to form a BDT 1.0 Bn new closed-end mutual fund named "ICB AMCL CMSF Golden Jubilee Mutual Fund" in a bid to increase the fund flow in the capital market. CMSF is the sponsor and ICB AMCL is the fund manager of the fund while Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC) and BRAC Bank will act as the trustee and the custodian of the fund, respectively. The CMSF will contribute 50% of the fund size.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/trust-deed-signed-tk100cr-golden-jubilee-fund-401570>

Krishibid Seed makes debut on SME Platform today

- Trading of the shares of Krishibid Seed, a concern of Krishibid Group, will commence on Tuesday on the SME Platform of Dhaka Stock Exchange and Chittagong Stock Exchange. The company's profit after tax jumped 88.35% to BDT 8.57 Mn in 1QFY22, as against BDT 4.55 Mn in 1QFY21.
- Its basic EPS stood at BDT 0.60 for 1QFY22 against basic EPS of BDT 0.46 for 1QFY21. However, post-QIO basic EPS for 1QFY22 would be BDT 0.29. The post-QIO net asset value (NAV) per share would be BDT 11.57.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/krishibid-seed-makes-debut-on-sme-platform-today-1649699330>

Maiden commodity exchange by this year

- The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) is planning to launch the country's first commodities exchange, or futures market, this year. Shaikh Shamsuddin Ahmed, commissioner of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), told that the BSEC was planning for a futures market. The BSEC expects to preliminarily include gold, industrial raw materials such as iron ore, and agricultural products, namely tea to the exchange.
- As part of the move, the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) will sign a contract with the Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) at a city hotel tomorrow (Tuesday). The MCX will facilitate the port-city bourse to frame rules and regulations as well as identify products for the long-awaited commodity exchange.

- The exchange will facilitate the participation of farmers alongside financing for them while the producers will have to avail of insurance. Acting managing director of the CSE told that the market will run on a non-delivery cash settlement system, so warehouse infrastructure is preliminarily not necessary. He added that the CSE would mainly need IT infrastructure to operate the exchange.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/maiden-commodity-exchange-year-3002421>

Listed cos asked to give info on 5pc profit sharing with workers

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has sought information from all listed companies about the formation of workers' profit participation fund and workers' welfare fund as the stock market regulator has found that many companies are yet to form such funds. Companies are required to establish WPPF and WWF as per section 234 of the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006.
- According to the labour ministry, only 242 local and multinational companies have paid BDT 6.12 Bn to the Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation since 2006. Many companies in profits refrain from donating to it in defiance of the law, ministry sources said.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167789/listed-cos-asked-to-give-info-on-5pc-profit-sharing-with-workers>

Doreen Power's subsidiary gets BPDB nod to start commercial operation

- The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) approved Chandpur Power Generation Limited - a subsidiary company of the Doreen Power Generations and Systems Limited - for starting its power plant's commercial operation. Although the company had already started the commercial operation of its 115 MW power plant on 11 February this year, the company received the Commercial Operation Declaration (COD) from the BPDB on 6 April 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/doreen-powers-subsi-dary-gets-bpdb-nod-start-commercial-operation-400994>

Bourses asked not to list banks in 'Z' category

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has asked Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges not to degrade any company's share, mainly the banks to 'Z' category, in case of failure to declare cash dividends due to any regulatory restrictions. The BSEC on April 7 issued a letter to the bourses and gave instructions.

- BSEC instruction said, 'No securities listed with the stock exchanges shall be placed or adjusted to 'Z' category in case of failure of declaring cash dividend for 2 consecutive years for any regulatory restrictions or compliance purpose.' The instruction would only be applicable to the banks as there are no listed companies except banks which have regulatory restrictions in declaration of cash dividend. There are 26 companies whose shares were trading under 'Z' category.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/167707/bourses-asked-not-to-list-banks-in-z-category>

BB, Brac Bank sign deal to refinance small businesses

- Bangladesh Bank and BRAC Bank have signed an agreement to provide refinancing facilities to cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs). The financial support will be provided as a Covid-19 stimulus package to help small businesses recover from the onslaught of the pandemic. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide the fund under its Covid-19 emergency and crisis response facility project. Under the agreement, BRAC Bank and other participating banks will avail of refinancing facilities amounting to BDT 25.2 billion from Bangladesh Bank and provide subsidised interest credit to the CMSMEs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/bb-brac-bank-sign-deal-refinance-small-businesses-3001581>

Walton doubles motherboard production

- Walton inaugurated its second motherboard manufacturing plant at its factory in Gazipur's Kaliakoir, where printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) is being produced. Similar to the first manufacturing unit, the second plant also has the capacity of installing 72,000 components per hour. Walton's motherboards have been used in 6.2 Mn digital devices since January 2021. The motherboards are also used in the products it exports to the markets such as the EU and the US.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/walton-doubles-motherboard-production-3001686>

Two banks declare dividends for 2021

- The City Bank recommended a 25% dividend – 12.5% cash and 12.5% stock. Consolidated net profit was BDT 5,496.1 Mn in 2021, up from BDT 4,364.9 Mn in the previous year. The consolidated EPS stood at BDT 5.15 and its net asset value at BDT 30.68.
- Pubali Bank recommended a 12.5% cash dividend for 2021. The consolidated net profit of the company was BDT 4,349.7 Mn in 2021, which was BDT 3,701.9 Mn in the previous year. Its consolidated EPS stood at BDT 4.23 and its net asset value at BDT 38.69.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/two-banks-declare-dividends-2021-40039>

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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Anika Mafiz	Research Analyst	anika.mafiz@bracepl.com	01708 805 206
Fahim Hassan	Research Associate	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Billal Hossain	Research Associate	billal.hossain@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Md. Mahmudul Hasan	Junior Research Associate	mmahmudul.hasan@bracepl.com	01708 805 201

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
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BRAC EPL Research

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (880)-2-9852446-50

Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com