

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.21%) lost -12.85 points and closed the week at 6,193.96 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-0.09%) lost -1.90 points and stood at 2,193.40 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-0.41%) lost -5.55 points and stood at 1,353.28 points. The large cap index CDSET (-0.03%) lost -0.40 points and closed at 1,214.02 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -0.21%, -0.09%, -0.41%, -0.03%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 11.3 billion (USD 107 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 2.3 billion (Δ Week: -15.5%)

Market P/E: 17.2x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note (-0.18%) on Sunday. It remained negative on Monday (-0.28%). However, it turned positive on Tuesday (+0.12%) and stayed positive (+0.28%) on Wednesday. Lastly, the market closed on a negative note (-0.14%) on Thursday.

Sectoral Performance

- Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Life Insurance booked the highest gain of 2.48% followed by Bank (+0.20%). Mutual Fund experienced the highest loss of 0.14% followed by General Insurance (-0.14%), NBF1 (-0.04%).

- All the non-financial sectors registered negative performance this week. Pharmaceutical experienced the highest loss of 0.70% followed by Engineering (-0.28%), Food & Allied (-0.11%), Fuel & Power (-0.05%), and Telecommunication (0.00%).

Macroeconomic arena

- Time extended for banks to collect funds from offshore units till June. Defying looming recession, RMG-textile readies for USD 4 Bn in new investment. India assures Bangladesh of providing energy support, says Nasrul. Bangladesh recycles only 36% plastic waste: experts. Six ICDS top export, import handlers' list for seventh year. Only two export items fared well in first half of FY23. New guidelines on filling up top posts at state banks, NBFIs. China to fund potential Mongla port project. Monthly profit payout proposed for Pensioner Savings Certificates. Local players eye bigger slice as cloud computing gains foothold. Cenbank goes for printing money to support budget. Motorcycle sales drop slightly in 2022. Reduced VAT on edible oil until April 30. Bangladesh's growth to slow, unlikely to face recession. BB raises dollar rate to BDT 100. Bagerhat shrimp farmers in hot water. Area-wise wage gap 60% among female RMG workers. Vegetable cultivation shows promise in Pabna. Ctg customs' revenue grew 10.61% in Jul-Dec. Trade gap reduced in July-November. New monetary policy to facilitate liquidity supply, minimise gap in dollar rates. Dec exports all-time high. Four more Islamic banks take BB emergency loans.

- RMG labour rights body want 175% hike in monthly wage. Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation seeks to pull out of joint venture with Saudi Arabia over anomalies. Remittance inflow increases by 4.23% in December. BDT 102 per dollar for exporters. Jute millers seek low-cost fund. Commerce ministry for 10% cash incentive on export. Fervent Multiboard Industries to invest USD 93 Mn in Jamalpur Economic Zone. Ensure stable energy prices for economic recovery. Reduced VAT on edible oil to continue for a while. Card, diary, calendar business dull as New Year dawns. No smooth sailing this year. Pvt sector foreign debt sees first fall since 2020. Targets for export, import, reserve also slashed, inflation hiked. BDT 100 Bn fund formed amid talks of contracting EDF. RMG workers earn less than half living wage: Sanem. Local IT firms eye USD 5 Bn export by 2025. Banks see operating profit. Financial sector most talked about issue. USD 67 Bn export earning target will be achieved despite global crisis: Tipu Munshi.

Stock Market arena

- EXCHANGE | Dhaka bourse's ATB begins trading with two companies. IFADAUTOS | BDT 3 Bn bond of IFAD Autos gets go-ahead. EXCHANGE | DSE, trading technology provider NASDAQ extend partnership. ESQUIRENIT | Esquire Knit plans to issue preference shares worth BDT 1 Bn. METROSPIN | Metro Spinning's stock dividend rejected again. GP | Sales ban on GP SIM withdrawn. QUEENSOUTH | Wise Star Textile keen to take over Ring Shine. VFSTDL | BSEC cancels VFS Thread Dyeing's stock dividend. EXCHANGE | Dhaka bourse to launch alternative trading board amid liquidity crunch. BEXIMCO | 28% of the eligible Sukuk converted into Beximco shares. NCCBANK | NCC Bank inks deal with Millennium Information. AMBEEPHA | Ambee Pharma restrained from paying stock dividends. BRACBANK | Brac Bank Tara, Go DESHi to serve women entrepreneurs. SILVAPHL | Shareholders allow Silva Pharma till Dec 2023 to use IPO fund. EXCHANGE | 6 SME firms listed, five more in queue for 2023.

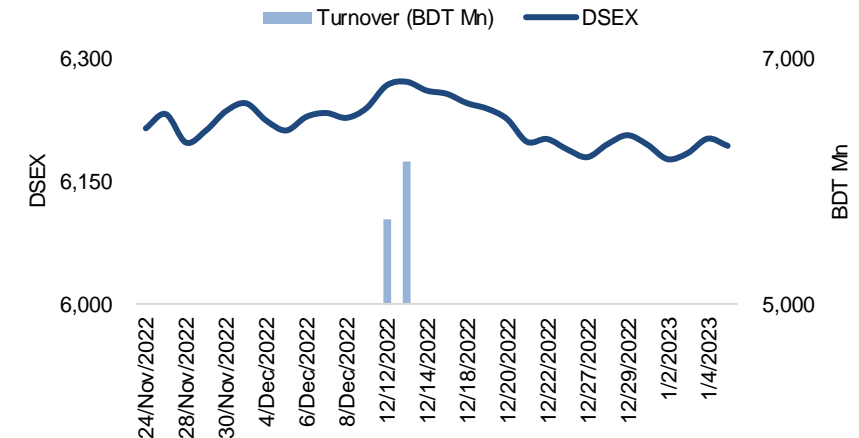
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ (Pts)	29-Dec-2022	Δ % Week	Δ % YTD
DSEX	6,193.96	6,206.81	-12.85	6,206.81	-0.21%	-0.21%
DS30	2,193.40	2,195.30	-1.90	2,195.30	-0.09%	-0.09%
DSES	1,353.28	1,358.84	-5.55	1,358.84	-0.41%	-0.41%
CDSET	1,214.02	1,214.42	-0.40	1,214.42	-0.03%	-0.03%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
M cap	Mn BDT	7,606,088	7,609,369	-0.0%
	Mn USD	71,756	71,786	
Turnover	Mn BDT	11,330	10,723	+5.7%
	Mn USD	107	101	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	2,266	2,681	-15.5%
	Mn USD	21	25	
Volume	Mn Shares	176	143	+23.4%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in last four weeks



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Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ICICL	44.9	28.1	+59.8%	2,274	4.4	49.7x	2.8x
SEAPPEARL	212.2	186.7	+13.7%	25,623	584.4	78.6x	16.3x
PRAGATILIF	133.4	121.7	+9.6%	4,602	219.3	NM	NM
MEGHNALIFE	69.9	64.3	+8.7%	2,964	93.7	NM	NM
RSRMSTEEL	17.8	16.6	+7.2%	1,801	9.0	NM	0.4x
PADMALIFE	48.0	45.2	+6.2%	1,866	69.9	NM	NM
POPULARLIF	69.0	65.0	+6.2%	4,170	55.3	NM	NM
PRIMELIFE	56.6	53.4	+6.0%	1,727	9.4	NM	NM
FAREASTLIF	79.2	75.0	+5.6%	5,920	106.5	NM	NM
SONALLIFE	62.8	59.6	+5.4%	2,983	51.3	NM	NM

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ORIONINFU	422.4	527.4	-19.9%	8,600	719.2	NM	28.5x
DSHGARME	125.3	143.3	-12.6%	944	16	NM	6.4x
MONOSPOOL	250.9	286.2	-12.3%	2,356	135.3	37.4x	5.4x
ANWARGALV	213.3	236.2	-9.7%	6,439	290.4	48.7x	17.9x
KOHINOOR	436.9	469.3	-6.9%	13,385	37.9	40.3x	8.0x
QUEENSOUTH	23.3	24.7	-5.7%	3,354	0.6	14.1x	1.4x
BDTHAIFOOD	47.3	49.9	-5.2%	3,855	125.6	NM	3.3x
MONNOCERA	116.4	122.7	-5.1%	4,391	443.1	NM	1.4x
GEMINISEA	347.4	365.9	-5.1%	2,121	135.2	25.3x	18.9x
EASTRNLUB	1526.6	1605.0	-4.9%	1,821	14	NM	8.1x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ORIONINFU	422.4	527.4	-19.9%	8,600	719.2	NM	28.5x
INTRACO	39.9	40.5	-1.5%	3,919	625.8	32.3x	3.1x
SEAPPEARL	212.2	186.7	+13.7%	25,623	584.4	78.6x	16.3x
BPML	77.6	75.6	+2.6%	13,486	529.7	20.8x	10x
MONNOCERA	116.4	122.7	-5.1%	4,391	443.1	NM	1.4x
ORIONPHARM	81.1	82.7	-1.9%	18,977	433.4	20.1x	0.9x
GENEXIL	79.7	81.0	-1.6%	9,050	398.1	23.0x	4.4x
BSC	111.8	115.3	-3.0%	17,053	302.2	7.7x	15x
ANWARGALV	213.3	236.2	-9.7%	6,439	290.4	48.7x	17.9x
AAMRANET	50.4	51.4	-1.9%	3,124	288.7	22.0x	1.4x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
OLYMPIC	126.1	+1.7%	25,212	20.0x	2.6x
SHAHJABANK	19.0	+1.1%	20,530	5.6x	0.9x
PRIMEBANK	19.4	+1.0%	21,966	6.3x	0.7x
BATASHOE	961.0	+0.9%	13,146	37.1x	3.6x
MTB	16.8	+0.6%	15,015	3.5x	0.7x
BERGERPBL	1,730.0	+0.4%	80,234	26.0x	7.0x
ADNTEL	114.4	+0.3%	7,396	38.5x	4.0x
RECKITTBEN	4,762.3	+0.0%	22,502	30.5x	35.0x
IDLC	46.5	-	19,330	10.6x	1.1x
DBH	57.8	-	11,270	11.1x	15x

*BDT
**BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,429.9	1,427.1	1,427.09	+0.20%	+0.20%
NBFI	1,926.5	1,927.2	1,927.24	-0.04%	-0.04%
Mutual Fund	850.9	852.1	852.07	-0.14%	-0.14%
General Insurance	3,173.4	3,177.87	3,177.87	-0.14%	-0.14%
Life Insurance	2,554.8	2,492.9	2,492.91	+2.48%	+2.48%
Telecommunication	4,945.6	4,945.6	4,945.60	-	-
Pharmaceutical	3,728.2	3,754.5	3,754.5	-0.70%	-0.70%
Fuel & Power	1,693.4	1,694.3	1,694.29	-0.05%	-0.05%
Cement	2,319.6	2,319.7	2,319.67	-0.00%	-0.00%
Services & Real Estate	1,852.1	1,782.2	1,782.23	+3.92%	+3.92%
Engineering	4,491.0	4,503.4	4,503.40	-0.28%	-0.28%
Food & Allied	21,225.1	21,247.8	21,247.80	-0.11%	-0.11%
IT	2,965.5	3,004.3	3,004.33	-1.29%	-1.29%
Textile	1,609.6	1,621.9	1,621.87	-0.76%	-0.76%
Paper & Printing	10,364.2	10,388.1	10,388.08	-0.23%	-0.23%
Tannery	3,088.6	3,093.4	3,093.43	-0.16%	-0.16%
Jute	14,135.6	14,850.2	14,850.17	-4.81%	-4.81%
Ceramics	699.3	704.7	704.74	-0.77%	-0.77%
Miscellaneous	4,060.4	4,071.5	4,071.46	-0.27%	-0.27%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	52.4	38.7	+35.17%	+2.74%	7.8x	0.7x
NBFI	1.8	16.1	-88.98%	+0.09%	NM	4.5x
Mutual Fund	2.5	14	+75.63%	+0.13%	NM	0.8x
General Insurance	67.2	68.5	-1.82%	+3.52%	15.5x	15x
Life Insurance	187.0	131.3	+42.44%	+9.79%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	2.3	16	+46.90%	+0.12%	15.4x	4.9x
Pharmaceutical	391.6	381.2	+2.74%	+20.51%	18.5x	2.4x
Fuel & Power	147.4	148.4	-0.67%	+7.72%	14.4x	1.1x
Cement	3.4	4.2	-19.08%	+0.18%	33.5x	2.5x
Services & Real Estate	203.4	155.6	+30.70%	+10.65%	41.4x	10x
Engineering	173.1	112.6	+53.78%	+9.06%	38.6x	1.8x
Food & Allied	91.0	102.7	-11.39%	+4.77%	21.4x	7.4x
IT	245.2	235.9	+3.96%	+12.84%	27.6x	2.6x
Textile	112	16.3	-31.03%	+0.59%	30.8x	10x
Paper & Printing	149.3	131.8	+13.25%	+7.82%	44.9x	2.0x
Tannery	9.5	6.5	+46.55%	+0.50%	39.6x	3.0x
Jute	6.3	21.5	-70.81%	+0.33%	NM	122.0x
Ceramics	90.2	111.6	-19.21%	+4.72%	33.8x	1.9x
Miscellaneous	74.6	82.2	-9.17%	+3.91%	12.2x	1.8x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
EGEN	50.7	-2.7%	3,803	35.2x	2.3x
UNIQUEHRL	57.5	-0.3%	16,928	15.4x	0.7x
ISLAMIBANK	32.9	-0.3%	52,969	10.8x	0.8x
IDLC	46.5	-	19,330	10.6x	1.1x
DBH	57.8	-	11,270	11.1x	15x
IPDC	57.6	-	21,375	24.4x	3.3x
LANKABAFIN	26.0	-	14,010	16.6x	1.3x
ACI	260.2	-	19,829	NM	2.0x
LINDEBD	1,397.7	-	21,271	20.0x	3.6x
UPGDCL	233.7	-	135,475	13.6x	3.8x

Important News: Business & Economy

Time extended for banks to collect funds from offshore units till June

- The central bank has extended the deadline for the commercial banks to collect funds from their offshore banking operations to settle import payments for capital machinery, industrial raw materials and other imports by the government till June this year.
- As per the policy, banks can collect an amount equivalent to 25% of their regulatory capital from offshore banking units. The policy introduced in June last year was in effect till 31 December 2022 before the new extension, said the Bangladesh Bank in a circular yesterday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/time-extended-banks-collect-funds-offshore-units-till-june-562930>

Defying looming recession, RMG-textile readies for USD 4 Bn in new investment

- The readymade garments sector in Bangladesh is looking towards making huge investments in increasing capacity even when businesses worldwide are scaling back their operations as financial pundits and economists predict slowed growth worldwide and even global inflation.
- According to sources at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), an investment of USD 4 Bn is in the pipeline for this sector as it gears up for higher capacity in 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/defying-looming-recession-rmg-textile-readies-4b-new-investment-562974>

India assures Bangladesh of providing energy support, says Nasrul

- State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has said Indian power and petroleum ministers assured of providing support to Bangladesh's energy and power sector.
- "We have conducted two separate meetings successfully, as the two ministers assured of extending their cooperation to Bangladesh's power and energy sector," he told journalists on Wednesday after the meetings at the Bangladesh High Commission conference room in New Delhi.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/india-assures-bangladesh-of-providing-energy-support-says-nasrul-1672848061>

Bangladesh recycles only 36% plastic waste: experts

- Only 36% of the 0.825 Mn tonnes of plastic waste Bangladesh produced in 2019 were recycled whereas the amount was 51% in 2006, a matter of big concern for the country, an expert said today.
- "But it is also worth mentioning that the volume of plastic recycled in 2019 was higher than that of 2006 thanks to a huge rise in plastic use in Bangladesh," said Professor Ijaz Hossain, former dean of the engineering faculty at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-recycles-only-36-plastic-waste-experts-3212711>

Six ICDs top export, import handlers' list for seventh year

- Six out of the 19 private inland container depots (ICDs) have once again come up as the major handler of export and import cargoes in the port city. The six jointly handled around 62.4% of the total and they have retained the top six positions for the past seven years.
- There are 19 privately-owned ICDs in and around Chattogram facilitating quick clearance of containers, be it empty or containing goods, easing congestion at the country's premier sea port in the city. They handled 9,83,452 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of import and export-laden containers in 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/six-icds-top-export-import-handlers-list-seventh-year-3212671>

Only two export items fared well in first half of FY23

- Only two major exports, namely apparel and leather and leather goods, performed well in the first half of the current fiscal year as global demand for non-garment items has fallen in the face of high inflation stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war.
- As such, the export earnings of other goods that showed growth over the past few years started shrinking due to lower demand abroad. For instance, home textile was an emerging product in fiscal 2021-22, when it earned USD 1.62 Bn in export receipts to register growth of 43.28% year-on-year. Earnings from the sector then declined by 16.02% to USD 601.26 Mn in the July-December of fiscal 2022-23, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/only-two-export-items-fared-well-first-half-fy23-3212091>

New guidelines on filling up top posts at state banks, NBFIs

- The Financial Institutions Division issued new guidelines on Tuesday on the appointment, promotion, and posting of managing directors, deputy managing directors, and general managers of state-owned commercial banks, specialised banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs).
- From now on, the managing directors and chief executive officers (CEOs) of state-owned commercial banks will be appointed through selection from among the managing directors working in state-owned commercial banks, specialised banks, and financial institutions or through promotion from among the deputy managing directors.
- A selection committee has been formed with the finance minister as the chairman for these contractual appointments for a maximum period of three years. The selection committee will recommend the persons concerned after considering various factors, including seniority and experience.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/new-guidelines-filling-top-posts-state-banks-nbfis-562946>

China to fund potential Mongla port project

- A major development it is being billed as China finally agrees to fund a USD 400 Mn project for upgrading the Mongla seaport that holds potential to promote sub-regional cooperation.
- Officials say in a letter sent to the Bangladesh government recently the Chinese side said in response to Bangladesh's request, they decided to fund the 'Expansion and Modernisation of Mongla Port Facilities' through government concessional loan (GCL) as their feasibility study found the project "crucial to development of Bangladesh"

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/china-to-fund-potential-mongla-port-project-1672800136>

Monthly profit payout proposed for Pensioner Savings Certificates

- The National Savings Directorate has proposed a monthly profit payout of Pensioner Savings Certificates instead of the current quarterly basis. The directorate recently sent a letter to the finance ministry in this regard.
- Pensioners who hold savings certificates often use the profits they earn to cover their daily household expenses. In the face of increasing inflationary pressure, they have repeatedly requested the directorate that the profits be paid out on a monthly rather than quarterly basis.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/monthly-profit-payout-proposed-pensioner-savings-certificates-562446>

Local players eye bigger slice as cloud computing gains foothold

- Cloud storage is becoming more popular in Bangladesh as a way of safely and affordably storing and managing data and websites. The shift from traditional storage systems to cloud storage promises a variety of sectors, including finance, corporate, education, and e-commerce better data loss prevention, maximum efficiency at a minimum cost and uninterrupted IT solutions to businesses.
- The market size of the domestic cloud storage is currently around USD 20 Mn and is expected to reach USD 46.3 Mn by 2025, according to industry stakeholders. Though international vendors such as Amazon, Google, Huawei and Oracle currently dominate the business with around 90% of the market share, local players now look to grab a bigger slice of the pie.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/local-players-eye-bigger-slice-cloud-computing-gains-foothold-562130>

Cenbank goes for printing money to support budget

- The interest rate on long-term government bonds shot up to 8.95% in the last auction called by the Bangladesh Bank on 28 December – at a time when the lending rate cap was 9%. The question then arises why banks would lend at 9% to the private sector when they can instead get the same rate by investing in government bonds.
- The climbing rate on government bonds is symptomatic of a liquidity crisis, a source at the central bank told The Business Standard. Normally, the government borrows money from commercial banks, but in this situation, the Bangladesh Bank has started to print taka to supply money to the government.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-goes-printing-money-support-budget-562466>

Motorcycle sales drop slightly in 2022

- Motorcycle sales in Bangladesh did not show any growth but rather shrunk in 2022 as the ongoing economic crises, such as rising inflationary pressure, contributed to an overall decrease in local demand, according to industry insiders.
- As per market data, a total of 587,689 motorcycles were sold last year while 587,925 units were sold in 2021. However, the fall in sales was mostly limited to the second half of the year. A total of 241,264 motorcycles were sold from July to December in 2022, down by 18% compared to 294,815 units in 2021, the data shows.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/motorcycle-sales-drop-slightly-2022-3211246>

Reduced VAT on edible oil until April 30

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has extended a VAT reduction of 5% on edible oil for four more months till April 30 so that consumers do not feel the burden of the indirect tax on prices, according to a notification yesterday. The move comes as the value-added tax (VAT) reduction on soybean and palm oil ceased to come into effect on December 31.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/reduced-vat-edible-oil-until-april-30-3212001>

Bangladesh's growth to slow, unlikely to face recession

- Bangladesh is unlikely to fall into any recession but its economic growth may slow down in 2023 because of high inflation, dollar crisis and problems in the banking sector, said economists yesterday. And these challenges, particularly the dollar crisis and problems in the banking sector, are not going to dissipate soon. Rather, those are going to be a drag on the economy, they said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladeshs-growth-slow-unlikely-face-recession-3212101>

BB raises dollar rate to BDT 100

- The Bangladesh Bank has increased the dollar selling rate from the forex reserve by BDT 1 to BDT 100, according to officials – the 11th hike since July of the current fiscal year. On Tuesday, the central bank sold USD 78 Mn to state-owned banks at the new rate. The rate was increased from BDT 98 to BDT 99 last on 5 December 2022. In November, the rate was raised to BDT 98, following multiple rises in September and October last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-raises-dollar-rate-tk100-562442>

Bagerhat shrimp farmers in hot water

- A drop in prices coupled with a rise in feed costs have put shrimp and prawn farmers of Bagerhat in a tight spot. Exports have fallen for weak demand in the European Union and US amidst apprehensions of a recession as a pandemic fallout and for the Russia-Ukraine war.
- The problems are intensified by repeated natural disasters and diseases. Shrimp have an average size of about 4 cm to 8 cm while larger individuals are often called prawns. Every kilogramme (kg) has been selling for BDT 300 to BDT 800 depending on the size in the last couple of days, according to multiple farmers. In 2021, it was around BDT 400 to BDT 1,400.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bagerhat-shrimp-farmers-hot-water-3211186>

Area-wise wage gap 60% among female RMG workers

- The country's female garment workers have a wage gap of around 51% to 60% depending on the area and living wage benchmark in five major industrial areas in Bangladesh, including Dhaka city, a survey finds. However, the wage gap for male workers remains at 45% to 54%, according to the survey of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem).
- The Sanem has been conducting the survey in collaboration with Microfinance Opportunities (MFO), a USA-based non-profit organisation, on 1,300 selected garment workers in Dhaka city, Chittagong, Gazipur, Narayanganj, and Savar every week since April 2020.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/area-wise-wage-gap-60-among-female-rmg-workers-3211221>

Vegetable cultivation shows promise in Pabna

- Vegetable cultivation is gaining popularity in Pabna as growing profits have spurred local farmers to expand their activities over the past few years, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in the district.
- "We once cultivated only mustard and other winter crops but now, we are cultivating carrot and tomato as well," said Md Rojob Ali, a farmer of Varoimari village in Ishwardi upazila. "One bigha of carrot can easily earn BDT 25,000 while the mustard will bring a profit of as much as BDT 15,000," he added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/vegetable-cultivation-shows-promise-pabna-3212016>

Inflation declines for fourth month, but still 8.71%

- Inflation eased for the fourth consecutive month as it hit 8.71% in December thanks to the steady prices of most of the food items. The overall inflation was 8.85% in November, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).
- In August, inflation surged to a 10-year high of 9.52%. In December, food inflation declined to 7.91%, which was 8.14% the previous month. However, the consumers had to spend higher to buy non-food items. The non-food inflation dropped 2 basis points to 9.96% in December from 9.98% the previous month.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-declines-fourth-month-still-871-3211001>

Imports of key essentials drop for dollar crunch

- The import of essentials such as edible oil, chickpeas, dried peas and sugar fell in July-November as traders face difficulties in opening letters of credit (LCs) to purchase the items from international markets amid the US dollar shortage.
- This led traders and importers to warn that there might be a shortage of the items during Ramadan when their demand usually surges. The dollar shortage is at the heart of the lower imports of edible oil, chickpeas, dried peas, dates, and sugar.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/imports-key-essentials-drop-dollar-crunch-3212111>

Internet subscriber base shrinks for fourth month

- The internet subscriber base in Bangladesh has been on a downward curve for four months till November last year due to a sharp drop in the number of mobile internet users. The number of internet users dropped to 125 Mn in November, down 1.1 Mn from the previous month, according to data from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/internet-subscriber-base-shrinks-fourth-month-3212106>

Ctg customs' revenue grew 10.61% in Jul-Dec

- Chattogram Customs House has logged a 10.61% year-on-year growth in its revenue collection in the first six months of the current fiscal year. Revenue collection at the country's main customs station has exceeded BDT 300 Bn, which is BDT 28.9576 Bn more than the amount collected in the July-December period of fiscal 2021-22.
- Customs officials see the growth in revenue despite a slowdown in global trade as positive. They expect the collection to exceed BDT 650 Bn at the end of the current financial year. Traders say that due to an increase in the dollar rate, the price of goods has also increased and they have to pay more tax than before.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-customs-revenue-grew-1061-jul-dec-562006>

Trade gap reduced in July-November

- The country's goods trade deficit with the rest of the world reduced slightly in the first five months of the current fiscal year (FY23). The latest balance of payments (BoP) statistics, released by the central bank on Monday, showed that the trade deficit in goods was USD 11.80 Bn in the July-November period of FY23, compared to USD 12.60 Bn in the same period of FY22.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/trade-gap-reduced-in-july-november-1672665234>

New monetary policy to facilitate liquidity supply, minimise gap in dollar rates

- The Bangladesh Bank is formulating the monetary policy for the second half of FY23 with an emphasis on liquidity supply to the manufacturing and agricultural sectors and reducing the gap in dollar rates for export proceeds and remittance so that the country can tame inflation and have a stable foreign exchange market.
- To this end, the central bank held its second meeting on the half-yearly monetary policy, scheduled to be announced on 15 January, at its headquarters in the capital yesterday and discussed the issues, several meeting participants told The Business Standard.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/new-monetary-policy-facilitate-liquidity-supply-minimise-gap-dollar-rates-561598>

Dec exports all-time high

- Manufactured garments carried Bangladesh to another export income record in December, breaking the previous highest in November. In December, exports grew by slightly over 9%, reaching USD 5.37 Bn, the highest in a single month.
- According to sources in the apparel sector, higher raw material prices, higher export orders compared to previous months, export of high-value garments and a shift from China by major buyers, among other competitors, played a significant role behind the record exports in December. Additional orders from traditional and new markets outside Europe and America contributed to the overall increase in exports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-sees-record-single-month-exports-december-561702>

Four more Islamic banks take BB emergency loans

- Four more shariah-based banks have been found to have taken emergency funds, which are usually taken during extraordinary circumstances, in an attempt at dressing up their balance sheet for last year. Named "lender of the last resort", the facility has allowed the banks to borrow from Bangladesh Bank (BB) at 8.75% interest.
- The four -- First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank and Global Islami Bank -- took BDT 67.9 Bn on December 29. Earlier, information could be availed of Islamic Bank Bangladesh, the country's top largest private lender in terms of deposit and credit, having taken BDT 80 Bn under the arrangement on the same day.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/four-more-islamic-banks-take-bb-emergency-loans-3211286>

RMG labour rights body want 175% hike in monthly wage

- The Bangladesh Garments Workers Unity Council (BGWUC) today demanded that the monthly minimum wage of the garment workers to be hiked by 175% to BDT 22,000 from the existing BDT 8,000. The rise in the minimum wage for the garment workers is needed because of abnormal rise in the cost of living fuelled by the spiralling inflation and house rents, said Md Towhidur Rahman, chairman of the BGWUC.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rmg-labour-rights-body-want-175-hike-monthly-wage-3210866>

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation seeks to pull out of joint venture with Saudi Arabia over anomalies

- After raising allegations of financial irregularities, cost escalation even before beginning of the main project work and tender anomalies, state-owned Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation calls for pulling out of a Saudi-Bangladesh joint venture under which a cement factory is to be built in Sylhet's Chhatak upazila, show documents.
- According to the primary estimation, the USD 321 Mn joint venture – officially named as Saudi Bangla Integrated Cement Company Limited – will incorporate 40% Bangladeshi and 60% Saudi investment. A deal for the joint venture between the two countries was signed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Saudi Arabia visit in 2018.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-chemical-industries-corporation-seeks-pull-out-joint-venture-saudi-arabia-over>

Remittance inflow increases by 4.23% in December

- Expatriate Bangladeshis sent USD 1.7 Bn through the banking channel in December last year, which was 4.23% higher than the corresponding month of the previous year, according to Bangladesh Bank data released on Sunday. The country received USD 1.63 Bn from overseas workers in December 2021, reports BSS.
- Besides, a 2.48% year-on-year growth in remittance earnings was reported in the first six months of the current fiscal. The country received USD 10.49 Bn from July to December against USD 10.24 Bn for the same period of the previous fiscal.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/remittance-inflow-increases-by-423pc-in-december-1672580787>

BDT 102 per dollar for exporters

- From Monday, businessmen will receive BDT 102 per dollar for export proceeds, following a decision during a joint meeting of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB) and the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (Bafeda) on Sunday.
- Managing directors of both public and private banks joined the meeting which finalised the new rate for exporters. However, the dollar rate for remittances has been left unchanged at BDT 107. "Banks will encash export proceeds at BDT 102 from Monday," Selim RF Hussain, ABB chairman and also the managing director of Brac Bank, told The Business Standard.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/tk102-dollar-exporters-561486>

Jute millers seek low-cost fund

- Jute millers have urged the government to speed up the formation of a low-cost fund for the jute sector to allow entrepreneurs to modernise machineries of their dilapidated mills and increase productivity. The view was shared at an annual general meeting of Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) on Saturday.
- At the meeting, BJMA Chairman Abul Hossain said the Ministry of Textiles and Jute requested the finance ministry to create an initial low-cost fund of BDT 5 Bn out of its proposed Jute Sector Development Fund of BDT 100 Bn. "We hope this fund will be developed within a short time," he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/jute-millers-seek-low-cost-fund-3210531>

Commerce ministry for 10% cash incentive on export

- The commerce ministry will again write to the finance ministry to provide a 10% cash incentive to garment exporters making goods out of man-made fibres to offset the pandemic's fallouts and challenges of Bangladesh's country status graduation.
- A previous letter did not result in any allocation for the purpose in the national budget, Senior Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh told The Daily Star over the phone. Garment exporters demanded the incentive citing the severe fallouts of the pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war and possible challenges once Bangladesh graduates from an underdeveloped to a developing country in 2026, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/commerce-ministry-10-cash-incentive-export-3210546>

Fervent Multiboard Industries to invest USD 93 Mn in Jamalpur Economic Zone

- Fervent Multiboard Industries Limited is going to set up a wood and other boards manufacturing industry in the Jamalpur Economic Zone in Jamalpur with an investment of USD 93 Mn. Fervent will produce wood and jutex particle boards, melamine-faced chipboard, and veneered boards in the factory complex on 60 acres of land, where some 1,000 workers are expected to be employed, according to the release.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fervent-multiboard-industries-invest-93m-jamalpur-economic-zone-561390>

Ensure stable energy prices for economic recovery

- The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) today urged the government to focus on ensuring uninterrupted and affordable energy for both local and export-oriented manufacturing units to further accelerate Bangladesh's economic recovery in 2023.
- Also, emphasis should be placed on improving the ease of doing business and developing an infrastructural environment that is conducive for attracting local and foreign investment, according to a press release from the trade body.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ensure-stable-energy-prices-economic-recovery-3210341>

Reduced VAT on edible oil to continue for a while

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) may retain a VAT reduction of 5% on edible oil for four more months to April 30 so that consumers do not feel the burden of the indirect tax on prices, said a senior official yesterday. "We are working to keep the VAT rate for edible oil low during the month of Ramadan in order to contain the prices. We expect to issue a notification in this regard soon," said the official.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/reduced-vat-edible-oil-continue-while-3210556>

Card, diary, calendar business dull as New Year dawns

- Sales of New Year calendars, diaries and greetings cards have halved compared to last year, traders said, due to the surging prices of paper and various austerity measures taken by seasonal buyers. According to traders, paper prices have doubled in the past year. At the same time, there is a shortage of good quality paper in the market due to low imports of pulps stemming from the dollar crisis.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/card-diary-calendar-business-dull-new-year-dawns-561234>

No smooth sailing this year

- Doing business in Bangladesh may not be all smooth sailing this year as the global economy will continue struggling with sanctions centring the Russia-Ukraine war and ripple effects of Covid-19, according to businesspeople. However, some businesses expect to do better in 2023 than they did last year as certain issues, such as inflated fuel prices, could be resolved.
- Still, a full economic recovery will not take place overnight and with the country set to hold general elections in January 2024, apprehensive investors will be cautious about making any moves at this time. As a result, export earnings and the inflow of remittance may decrease while food prices increase, they said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/no-smooth-sailing-year-3209901>

Pvt sector foreign debt sees first fall since 2020

- For the first time since December 2020, private sector borrowing from external sources declined as the appetite among firms eroded for increased borrowing costs. Firms' total external debt dropped 2% to USD 25.4 Bn at the end of September 2022 from USD 25.95 Bn in June. At the same time, external debt in the public sector decreased as well.
- Meanwhile, the private sector's foreign debt grew 29% year-on-year from USD 19.68 Bn in September 2021, showed Bangladesh Bank data. However, analysts say the pressure of repaying loans will not ease soon, which is needed to cut the demand for US dollar and bring stability in the foreign exchange market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/pvt-sector-foreign-debt-sees-first-fall-2020-3210571>

Targets for export, import, reserve also slashed, inflation hiked

- In the face of an unforeseen global recession, the government has doubled down on economic trend revisions, significantly cutting export income and remittance targets along with GDP growth, while revising up consumer price inflation by two percentage points to 7.5%.
- Export growth target has been cut down to 6% from the actual 20% while import growth now has a new target of negative 4%, according to a presentation at a meeting of the Economic Coordination Council on Fiscal, Currency and Exchange Rate on 20 December. The meeting also cut the GDP growth target by 1 percentage point to 6.5% in the revised budget at the end of the current financial year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/targets-export-import-reserve-also-slashed-inflation-hiked-561518>

BDT 100 Bn fund formed amid talks of contracting EDF

- Amid talks of contracting the existing USD 7 Bn Export Development Fund (EDF), the government has created a new BDT 100 Bn fund for exporters.
- Exporters fear huge financial losses if taking loans from the EDF are made difficult and they have to buy dollars to pay off import bills by borrowing money in taka from the newly formed Export Facilitation Fund (EFF). They also fear a "disaster" in some exporting sectors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tk10000cr-fund-formed-amid-talks-contracting-edf-561522>

RMG workers earn less than half living wage: Sanem

- The country's readymade garment industry workers earn less than half what they need to fulfil their basic needs such as food, housing and healthcare, according to a South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem) report revealed on Sunday (1 January).
- On average, a worker earned BDT 9,984 per month in the April-June quarter of 2022, while their living wage – the required money to afford a decent standard of living – ranged from BDT 19,200 to BDT 26,000 depending on the areas they live, which means a gap of 51-60% between the actual income and the minimum need.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-workers-earn-less-half-living-wage-sanem-561398>

Local IT firms eye USD 5 Bn export by 2025

- With growing demand for information technology-enabled services and industry automation, Bangladesh IT firms have expanded their global footprint, fetching the country USD 1.4 Bn annually by exporting software and other services.
- More than 350 local firms are now exporting the IT products to around 80 countries including the US and the European Union countries, according to the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS). "We are aiming to reach the USD 5 Bn export-mark by 2025 and USD 20 Bn by 2031," Russell T Ahmed, president of Basis.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/local-it-firms-eye-5b-export-2025-560974>

Banks see operating profit

- A number of state-owned and private banks have registered operating profit in 2022 thanks to Bangladesh Bank's relaxed policy that allowed the lenders to show unrealised interests as profits and a credit growth in the private sector. An analysis of available operating profit figures of 11 banks shows that 10 banks registered a 10-25% year-on-year increase.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-see-operating-profit-560950>

First half was promising for apparel

- The first and second quarters of the outgoing year were fine for the garment exporters as the international retailers and brands were coming up with quite a lot of work orders with the recovery of the global supply chain from the severe fallouts of the Covid-19.
- However, the inflow of work orders from the international retailers and brands started declining since October in the outgoing year. The placement of work orders between October and December till date this year has declined by more than 20% compared with the corresponding period of last year because of the Russia-Ukraine war.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/first-half-was-promising-apparel-3209436>

Land info to be available in AI-based govt portal

- The government is set to launch an artificial intelligence-based web portal to impart land-related knowledge among the masses and deliver all kinds of information on land. This AI-based portal will have a chatbot, which one can use for free by opening a profile. The chatbot is equipped with both Bangla and English voice recognition systems.
- Apart from land-related laws and regulations, the portal will have digital versions of books related to land and land laws that can be read online. Software company Dream71 Bangladesh will develop the portal titled "Intelligence Land Knowledge Management System" by March this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/land-info-be-available-ai-based-govt-portal-3209556>

Financial sector most talked about issue

- The most talked-about sector of the economy in 2022 was the financial sector which is already burdened with an increasing amount of non-performing loans. The performance of the financial sector could have been better if a market based foreign exchange rate and interest rate were adopted.
- Reduction of import through some restrictions has yielded good results temporarily but will have an effect in the coming months on the GDP growth. The interest rate cap on deposits for the non-bank financial institution sector was imposed at a time when inflation and non-performing loans in the entire financial sector were rising.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/financial-sector-most-talked-about-issue-3209441>

Revenue collection grows 14%

- Domestic revenue mobilisation posted more than 14% growth in the outgoing year 2022 amid inflation-fuelled economic slowdown and erosion of real income. Despite disrupted supply chain for the Russia-Ukraine war, costly dollar and high commodity prices globally, the government's revenue-collection efforts paid off.
- However, the revenue board faced challenges like dollar crisis, higher import margin, regulatory duty to restrict import of non-essential products, discouraging import of luxuries and tax reduction in essential goods like petroleum products, sugar and rice.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/revenue-collection-grows-14pc-1672455516>

Local company to invest USD 4.8 Mn in Mongla EPZ

- ASM Packall Export Industry has signed an agreement with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (Bepza) to invest USD 4.8 Mn to establish a garment accessories plant in the Mongla Export Processing Zone (Mongla EPZ).
- Ali Reza Mazid, member (investment promotion) of Bepza, and Md Ashraful Alam, managing director of ASM Packall Export Industry, inked the deal to this effect at Bepza Complex in Dhaka, said a press release. The investment will create an employment opportunity for 400 Bangladeshi nationals.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/local-company-invest-48m-mongla-epz-3208516>

After quick success, Chinese medicalwear co invests USD 10 Mn for new factory

- Chinese company Jiehong Medical Products (BD) Co Ltd started operation in Chattogram Export Processing Zone in September 2019 – just a few months before the first Covid-19 outbreak was reported.
- The company expanded its operation to keep up with the increased demand for medical products amid the raging pandemic and now it is setting up a new factory in the Bepza Economic Zone of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar in Mirsarai, Chattogram with an investment of USD 10 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/after-quick-success-chinese-medicalwear-co-invests-10m-new-factory-559698>

82% of foreign debt in 2041 to be market-based

- The share of foreign loans at floating rates in Bangladesh's total external debt will climb to over 82% in 2041 from 26% in 2020, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the General Economic Division (GED) forecast. According to an ERD report, the loss of concessional elements in financial support received from official donors will also lead to increased debt servicing costs.
- However, Bangladesh's scope for obtaining foreign loans will increase significantly in the coming years, thanks to a continuous increase in per capita income, the report presented by ERD Additional Secretary Md Mostafizur Rahman in a workshop last week said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/82-foreign-debt-2041-be-market-based-559998>

Ctg port ends year at 3m TEU club despite fall in container handling

- Chattogram port, the prime seaport of the country, has managed to end the year 2022 in the three-million-TEU (Twenty Foot Equivalent) club despite a fall of inbound-outbound cargo due to import curbs on luxury goods and global trade disruptions.
- While the port handled some 74,500 fewer TEUs in 2022 than in the previous year, ship handling increased by 3.10% – 4,344 inbound ships from 4,209 ships in 2021.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-port-ends-year-3m-teu-club-despite-fall-container-handling-560970>

USD 67 Bn export earning target will be achieved despite global crisis: Tipu Munshi

- Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said the country will achieve the export earning target of USD 67 Bn in 2022-23FY despite the ongoing global economic crisis.
- "The government set an export revenue target of USD 67 Bn this fiscal and achieved a 10% growth till November," he said during a press briefing organised ahead of the Dhaka International Trade Fair at Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre on Saturday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/67b-export-earning-target-will-be-achieved-despite-global-crisis-tipu-munshi-560774>

Important News: Capital Market

EXCHANGE | Dhaka bourse's ATB begins trading with two companies

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has launched an alternative trading board (ATB) to facilitate share transactions of non-listed firms. The platform formally started its journey on Wednesday during a time when the country's stock market is going through a massive liquidity crunch amid a lack of investor confidence.
- The ATB started offloading shares with two companies – Lanka Bangla Securities Limited, and Pran Agro Limited. A launching event was held in this regard at the DSE Tower in Nikunjo, Dhaka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-bourses-atb-begins-trading-two-companies-562642>

IFADAUTOS | BDT 3 Bn bond of IFAD Autos gets go-ahead

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) today approved the non-convertible bond of IFAD Autos worth BDT 3 Bn. However, the BSEC has attached a condition with the approval -- the bond should be get listed at the alternative trading board.
- The bond is fully redeemable and will have floating coupon rate, whose lowest coupon rate would be 6%. The face value of each unit of the bond is BDT 10 Mn and it would be issued to financial institutions, institutional investors, and high-net-worth individuals through private placement.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tk-300-crore-bond-ifad-autos-gets-go-ahead-3212751>

EXCHANGE | DSE, trading technology provider NASDAQ extend partnership

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and its trading technology provider Nasdaq Technology AB have agreed to extend and strengthen their ties further. Both parties have agreed to extend their existing agreement for another period of three years, which was set to end in December 2024, according to a DSE statement.
- Nasdaq Technology AB will provide its support to DSE to facilitate the Go-live of the new Data Center at DSE Tower in Nikunja, Dhaka, through the upgradation of the matching engine of the country's premier exchange to the new set of technological infrastructure, said the DSE.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-trading-technology-provider-nasdaq-extend-partnership-562454>

ESQUIRENIT | Esquire Knit plans to issue preference shares worth BDT 1 Bn

- Esquire Knit Composite Ltd intends to issue preference shares worth BDT 1 Bn in order to expand production capacity and cut financial costs. The export-oriented company will purchase machinery for BDT 650 Mn and repay the loan of BDT 350 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/esquire-knit-plans-issue-preference-shares-worth-tk100cr-562890>

METROSPIN | Metro Spinning's stock dividend rejected again

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has denied Metro Spinning Limited permission to issue a stock dividend back-to-back for two fiscal years. The company had recommended a 5% stock dividend for the fiscal 2020-21. But after the dividend got rejected, on 30 October 2022, it again recommended the same dividend for the 2021-22 fiscal year.
- After more than two months of recommending the dividend, the company said in a stock exchange filing on Wednesday that the BSEC rejected its stock dividend for FY22. The yarn manufacturer wanted to issue the stock dividends to raise its paid-up capital.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/metro-spinnings-stock-dividend-rejected-again-562898>

GP | Sales ban on GP SIM withdrawn

- The government has withdrawn the ban on Grameenphone SIM card sales, which it imposed on June 2022. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission made the move on Monday. Grameenphone chief executive officer Yasir Azman in a statement said that they received the notification from the BTRC on the withdrawal of the SIM sales ban.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/190732/sales-ban-on-gp-sim-withdrawn>

QUEENSOUTH | Wise Star Textile keen to take over Ring Shine

- Wise Star Textile Mills Ltd – a private company run by Queen South Textile's Managing Director Wong Jammy Kwok Chan – is interested in taking over the struggling Ring Shine Textiles Ltd. Recently, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has allowed the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) to transfer the sponsor-director shares of Ring Shine to a suitable buyer.
- An official of the Bepza said already a few meetings have been arranged with Wise Star Textiles in this regard. He declined to comment further on this matter.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/wise-star-textile-keen-take-over-ring-shine-562430>

VFSTDL | BSEC cancels VFS Thread Dyeing's stock dividend

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has not approved VFS Thread Dyeing to issue stock dividends as the company failed to comply with the guidelines to this end. In a recent board meeting, the 100% export-oriented sewing thread products manufacturer recommended a 5% stock dividend for its shareholders for fiscal 2021-22.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-cancels-vfs-thread-dyeings-stock-dividend-562414>

EXCHANGE | Dhaka bourse to launch alternative trading board amid liquidity crunch

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) will launch an alternative trading board (ATB) to facilitate share transactions of non-listed firms at a time when the country's stock market is going through a massive liquidity crunch amid a lack of investor confidence.
- Professor Shibli Rubayat-Ul-Islam, chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), will inaugurate the trading board on 4 January at the country's premier bourse. A DSE official said trading on ATB will start by offloading shares of LankaBangla Securities. The BSEC chairman said the brokerage firm has to offload at least 10% of its stake within the first 30 days of its trading debut.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-bourse-launch-alternative-trading-board-amid-liquidity-crunch-561978>

BEXIMCO | 28% of the eligible Sukuk converted into Beximco shares

- Investors have converted Beximco Green Sukuk worth around BDT 1.7 Bn – against an option of around BDT 6 Bn – into common shares of the company in the first year. In a public disclosure on the Dhaka and Chattogram bourses on Monday, the company said that it has credited over 19.6 Mn new shares to the beneficiary accounts of 325 Sukuk investors who applied for the conversion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/28-eligible-sukuk-converted-beximco-shares-561942>

NCCBANK | NCC Bank inks deal with Millennium Information

- NCC Bank recently signed an agreement with Millennium Information Solution for the supply and implementation of "NCC Islamic Banking Solutions" software. Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, managing director of NCC Bank, and Mahmud Hossain, managing director of Millennium Information Solution, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka, a press release said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ncc-bank-inks-deal-millennium-information-3211196>

AMBEEPHA | Ambee Pharma restrained from paying stock dividends

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has restrained Ambee Pharmaceuticals from paying stock dividends until it fulfils necessary conditions. The drugmaker had announced 10% cash dividends and 20% stock dividends for fiscal 2021-22.
- But the market regulator has cancelled the stock dividend as the company's past dividend record was not satisfactory and it failed to comply with conditions related to stock dividend.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ambee-pharma-restrained-paying-stock-dividends-561458>

BRACBANK | Brac Bank Tara, Go DESHi to serve women entrepreneurs

- Brac Bank signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with online platform Go DESHi to jointly work for developing women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. Syed Abdul Momen, deputy managing director of the bank, and Sabera Anwar, founder of Go DESHi, signed the MoU at the former's head office in Dhaka recently, said a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/brac-bank-tara-go-deshi-serve-women-entrepreneurs-3208496>

SILVAPHL | Shareholders allow Silva Pharma till Dec 2023 to use IPO fund

- The shareholders of Silva Pharmaceuticals Limited have approved the company's proposal to extend its time to utilise the initial public offering (IPO) fund till 31 December 2023. According to its initial plan, the company was supposed to use the IPO fund by 10 April 2020. The company secured its general shareholders' approval at its annual general meeting on Thursday. But it still needs the approval of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to extend the deadline.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/shareholders-allow-silva-pharma-till-dec-2023-use-ipo-fund-559986>

EXCHANGE | 6 SME firms listed in 2022, five more in queue for 2023

- In a year when the main market of the Dhaka bourse saw the least number of initial public offerings (IPOs) in five years, the small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) platform bagged six companies which raised BDT 610 Mn in total.
- Among them, Nialco Alloys raised BDT 75 Mn, Mamun Agro Products BDT 100 Mn, Krishibid Seed BDT 116 Mn, Star Adhesives BDT 50 Mn, BD Paints BDT 120 Mn, and Achia Sea Foods raised BDT 150 Mn. Besides, five companies applied to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to raise BDT 500 Mn in total.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/6-sme-firms-listed-2022-five-more-queue-2023-560942>

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