

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+0.47%) gained 29.00 points and closed the week at 6,256.83 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.22%) gained 4.90 points and stood at 2,208.48 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.83%) gained 11.35 points and stood at 1,372.96 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.18%) gained 2.21 points and closed at 1,220.35 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -7.40%, -12.80%, -4.06%, -10.21%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 24.6 billion (USD 239 million)
Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 4.9 billion (Δ% Week: +59.7%)
Market P/E: 17.2x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a positive note (+0.19%) on Sunday. It remained positive on both Monday (+0.44%) and Tuesday (+0.07%). However, it turned negative on Wednesday (-0.17%). In addition, the market also ended on a negative note (-0.06%) on Thursday.

Sectoral Performance

• Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Bank booked the highest gain of 0.09% followed by Life Insurance (+0.02%), and NBF1 (+0.01%). General Insurance experienced the highest loss of 0.05% followed by Mutual Fund (0.00%).

• All the non-financial sectors posted positive performance this week. Pharmaceutical booked the highest gain of 0.90% followed by Food & Allied (+0.18%), Engineering (+0.17%), Fuel & Power (+0.00%), and Telecommunication (0.00%).

Macroeconomic arena

• Govt aims to increase money supply to 16.5% in next two fiscals. Foreign currency transactions through card rise 172% YoY in Jan-Oct. Need to diversify products, markets: MCCI. Bepza moves to stop use of fake import permits. Bangladesh e-commerce market size to reach BDT 1.5 Tn by 2026. BJMC gets better response for leasing jute mills. Bangladesh to set country-specific minimum salaries for migrant workers. ADP slowdown annoys govt, faster pace ordered. TCB to procure 27.5 Mn litres of soybean oil for OMS programme. Making packaging materials: Akij Group's BDT 10 Bn investment at risk. Moody's to review 7 Bangladeshi banks for downgrade amid reassessment of Bangladesh rating. Short-term foreign loans allowed for import. Deposits in no-frill accounts up by BDT 8.64 Bn YoY. Long-term finance key to affordable housing. Italy takes up USD 3 Mn project for BD workers' migration management. 4 on schedule, others may miss deadline. High cost of living takes a toll on bank deposits. TCB hikes prices of sugar, pulse. BB decides to appoint observers at the two Islamic banks. BSTI certification made mandatory for 10 new products. Textile millers urge central bank to raise EDF loan ceiling, refund period.

• BB to return to biannual monetary policy. Banks asked to relax LC margin rate for Ramadan items. ERD, FAO sign 4 technical assistance project agreements. Deadline extended for rice purchase agreements. Non-leather footwear exports can reach USD 1 Bn by 2025. 'Hydrogen-based power generation to help reduce carbon emission'. PM seeks robust Japanese investment in Bangladesh. Subsidy pressure triples to BDT 1,600 Bn as imports remain costly. Falling exports hit jute growers. IT firms grapple with unskilled labour force. Loans from banks become costlier. Moody's places Bangladesh's Ba3 ratings under review for downgrade. Export of headgears, caps: BD bags USD 193.43 Mn, posts 50% growth in Jul-Nov. China offers USD 11 Bn JV project. Bangladesh mandates ADB to advise on USD 400 Mn expressway connecting 10 economic zones. PPP investment far lower than required. Rooppur NPP: Unit-1 gets ready for commissioning. IMF lauds Bangladesh's progress as outstanding: Finance minister. Germany commits fresh 191 Mn Euro grant for Bangladesh. Urea stock rises as imports normalize. RJSC extends MoA and AoA facilities for all types of companies. Wage growth below inflation for 10th month.

Stock Market arena

• MITHUNKNIT | Is Mithun Knitting moving towards delisting?. WALTONHIL | Another director to offload 0.1 Mn Walton shares. BANKASIA | Bank Asia sues Western Marine Shipyard to recover BDT 5.05 Bn. GHCL | Global Heavy Chemicals' losses widen. BSRMLTD | BSRM firms nosedive to losses in Sept quarter. AAMRANET | Why Aamra Networks is selling data centre. YPL | Yeakin Polymer's loss extends in FY22. PHARMAID | Pharma Aids installs new oven to reduce wastage. INDEXAGRO | Index Agro to invest BDT 140 Mn to increase storage. ADNTEL | ADN gets extended time, permission from shareholders to use IPO fund. ENVOYTEX | Envoy Textiles, ADB ink EUR 10.8 Mn deal to install green factory. RUPALIBANK | Credit rating with govt support in view hides Rupali Bank's failings.

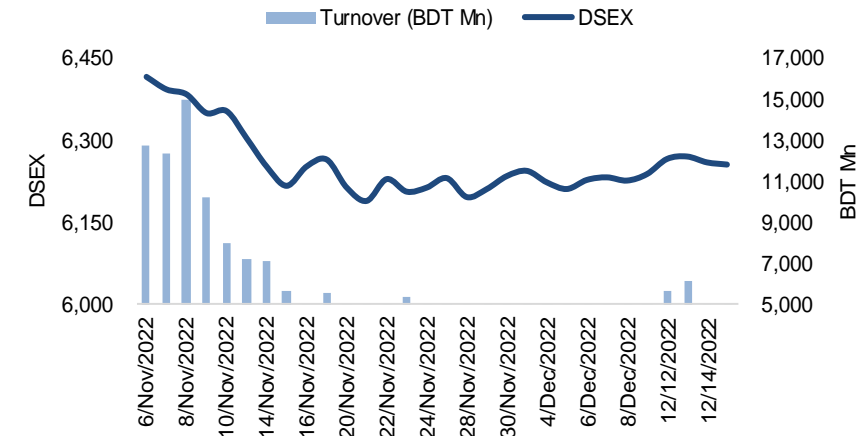
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2021	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	6,256.83	6,227.82	+29.00	6,756.66	+0.47%	-7.40%
DS30	2,208.48	2,203.58	+4.90	2,532.58	+0.22%	-12.80%
DSES	1,372.96	1,361.62	+11.35	1,431.12	+0.83%	-4.06%
CDSET	1,220.35	1,218.14	+2.21	1,359.13	+0.18%	-10.21%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
M cap	Mn BDT	7,637,279	7,627,129	+0.1%
	Mn USD	74,390	74,291	
Turnover	Mn BDT	24,556	15,375	+59.7%
	Mn USD	239	150	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	4,911	3,075	+59.7%
	Mn USD	48	30	
Volume	Mn Shares	368	231	+59.2%

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
KOHINOOR	515.4	387.7	+32.9%	15,790	112.8	47.5x	9.4x
JUTESPINN	309.8	237.2	+30.6%	527	35.6	NM	NM
SONALIANSH	526.0	434.0	+21.2%	2,853	233.8	NM	4.6x
MONNOCERA	138.3	116.6	+18.6%	5,217	985.7	NM	1.7x
NORTHERN	267.3	227.0	+17.8%	573	31.9	NM	3.3x
MONOSPOOL	332.2	283.7	+17.1%	3,119	309.5	49.6x	7.2x
INTRACO	45.6	40.0	+14.0%	4,479	1,416.0	36.9x	3.6x
KAY&QUE	303.7	272.4	+11.5%	1,563	63.3	NM	4.1x
PAPERPROC	229.0	205.5	+11.4%	2,393	249.3	48.6x	7.1x
APEXFOODS	309.7	281.2	+10.1%	1,766	262.6	47.9x	2.4x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
EASTRNLUUB	1687.5	1856.3	-9.1%	2,013	36.0	NM	9.0x
KDSALTD	77.0	83.3	-7.6%	5,481	266.3	310x	2.9x
MEGHNALIFE	63.5	65.5	-3.1%	2,693	60.9	NM	NM
MPETROLEUM	198.6	204.1	-2.7%	21,492	15.0	6.3x	1.1x
BATASHOE	930.0	950.2	-2.1%	12,722	0.8	35.9x	3.4x
TB20Y0642	97.7	0.0	-2.1%	43,133	0.0	0.0x	0.0x
METROSPIN	43.7	44.6	-2.0%	2,831	69.7	46.8x	2.2x
TB20Y0342	89.7	0.0	-1.9%	30,056	0.0	0.0x	0.0x
ONEBANKLTD	110	112	-1.8%	10,788	18.1	26.0x	0.6x
TB20Y0641	75.3	0.0	-1.3%	33,136	0.0	0.0x	0.0x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
SALVOCHEM	618	618	-	4,013	1,754.6	87.0x	4.1x
INTRACO	45.6	40.0	+14.0%	4,479	1,416.0	36.9x	3.6x
MONNOCERA	138.3	116.6	+18.6%	5,217	985.7	NM	1.7x
BPML	79.6	75.1	+6.0%	13,834	868.0	213x	1.1x
GENEXIL	88.8	88.6	+0.2%	10,083	767.2	25.7x	4.9x
AAMRANET	57.4	56.0	+2.5%	3,558	749.7	25.1x	1.6x
BSC	117.0	115.7	+1.1%	17,847	739.2	8.1x	1.5x
ORIONPHARM	86.3	85.2	+1.3%	20,194	725.0	214x	0.9x
MONNOAGML	836.8	767.3	+9.1%	2,286	578.5	NM	4.8x
EHL	84.0	80.5	+4.3%	7,841	494.9	13.6x	1.1x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ADNTEL	110.5	+110.9%	7,144	37.2x	3.9x
IPDC	57.6	+49.2%	21,375	24.4x	3.3x
SQUARETEXT	67.5	+29.3%	13,315	7.1x	14x
CROWNCEMNT	74.4	+19.6%	11,048	NM	15x
UNIQUEHRL	58.6	+16.7%	17,252	15.7x	0.7x
EGEN	55.4	+16.6%	4,155	38.5x	2.5x
TRUSTBANK	34.9	+15.3%	27,166	110x	1.3x
TITASGAS	40.9	+12.7%	40,459	14.2x	0.5x
SHASHADNIM	27.0	+10.2%	3,808	NM	0.7x
GHALI	17.5	+6.1%	3,777	NM	1.3x

*BDT
**BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1429.2	1427.9	1589.69	+0.09%	-10.10%
NBFI	1921.3	1921.1	2,327.63	+0.01%	-17.45%
Mutual Fund	853.8	853.8	882.99	-	-3.31%
General Insurance	3,190.0	3,191.7	4,698.62	-0.05%	-32.11%
Life Insurance	2,488.7	2,488.3	2,687.55	+0.02%	-7.40%
Telecommunication	4,945.6	4,945.6	5,800.37	-	-14.74%
Pharmaceutical	3,811.4	3,777.4	3,866.63	+0.90%	-1.43%
Fuel & Power	1,700.0	1,699.9	1,792.97	+0.00%	-5.19%
Cement	2,320.6	2,320.6	2,534.76	-	-8.45%
Services & Real Estate	1,760.8	1,746.6	1,309.43	+0.82%	+34.47%
Engineering	4,507.4	4,499.8	4,727.46	+0.17%	-4.65%
Food & Allied	21,347.9	21,310.2	25,222.81	+0.18%	-15.36%
IT	3,145.9	3,102.9	3,274.61	+1.39%	-3.93%
Textile	1,633.7	1,631.1	1,470.60	+0.16%	+11.09%
Paper & Printing	10,753.6	10,393.5	9,680.03	+3.46%	+11.09%
Tannery	3,090.3	3,099.0	3,236.76	-0.28%	-4.52%
Jute	16,156.0	13,258.8	8,747.84	+21.85%	+84.69%
Ceramics	718.2	700.5	675.88	+2.53%	+6.26%
Miscellaneous	4,078.6	4,086.9	4,625.39	-0.20%	-11.82%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	37.1	64.8	-42.80%	+0.90%	7.7x	0.7x
NBFI	17.2	2.7	+539.39%	+0.42%	NM	4.5x
Mutual Fund	0.9	13	-27.34%	+0.02%	NM	0.8x
General Insurance	77.3	91.2	-15.26%	+1.87%	15.6x	1.5x
Life Insurance	217.7	214.9	+1.30%	+5.27%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	12	0.9	+39.28%	+0.03%	15.4x	4.9x
Pharmaceutical	936.7	337.5	+177.57%	+22.69%	18.8x	2.4x
Fuel & Power	358.5	102.8	+248.58%	+8.68%	14.4x	1.1x
Cement	46.3	63.6	-27.22%	+1.12%	33.5x	2.5x
Services & Real Estate	233.8	204.6	+14.24%	+5.66%	39.4x	0.9x
Engineering	308.0	151.1	+103.91%	+7.46%	35.4x	1.8x
Food & Allied	331.7	263.4	+25.91%	+8.03%	21.6x	7.4x
IT	634.6	594.2	+6.80%	+15.37%	29.2x	2.8x
Textile	39.8	15.0	+165.50%	+0.96%	31.2x	1.0x
Paper & Printing	353.5	242.7	+45.62%	+8.56%	46.6x	2.1x
Tannery	16.5	16.1	+2.27%	+0.40%	40.4x	3.1x
Jute	60.3	35.1	+71.70%	+1.46%	NM	139.4x
Ceramics	198.1	75.8	+161.42%	+4.80%	34.7x	2.0x
Miscellaneous	258.8	143.5	+80.36%	+6.27%	12.5x	1.8x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
HEIDELCEM	179.1	-34.3%	10,120	NM	3.0x
PIONEERINS	71.5	-32.7%	6,054	11.6x	1.5x
LANKABAFIN	26.0	-30.3%	14,010	16.6x	1.3x
BRACBANK	38.5	-25.2%	57,619	10.9x	1.0x
ACTIVIFINE	19.3	-24.6%	4,631	NM	0.9x
CONFIDCEM	89.0	-23.3%	7,311	NM	1.3x
BXPBARMA	148.7	-22.8%	66,337	13.0x	1.6x
OLYMPIC	127.7	-20.5%	25,532	20.3x	2.6x
IDLC	46.5	-19.0%	19,330	10.6x	1.1x
BATBC	518.7	-18.4%	280,098	16.8x	6.7x

Important News: Business & Economy

Govt aims to increase money supply to 16.5% in next two fiscals

- The government has fixed a target to increase the money supply to 16.5% from the existing 15.6% in the next two fiscals. As per a government document, in 2022-23 fiscal, the rate of the money supply is at 15.6%. For the next 2023-24 fiscal, the government has projected to increase the rate to 16% and for 2024-25 fiscal it will be 16.5%.
- Academically, the enhancement of the money supply might increase inflation. This kind of target of 'broad money' growth would further invite inflation in the country, reports UNB. "Broad money" – or M2 – is a calculation of the money supply that includes all components of "narrow money", such as cash and checking deposits, and also "near money" such as savings deposits, money market securities, and other time-related deposits.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/govt-aims-to-increase-money-supply-to-165pc-in-next-two-fiscals-1671012721>

Foreign currency transactions through card rise 172% YoY in Jan-Oct

- Foreign currency transactions through cards maintained an upward trend in January-October this year, surging 172% year-on-year to BDT 39.08 Bn, amid a crunch of cash dollars. Cardholders transacted a record BDT 6.05 Bn in October, according to central bank data released Tuesday, up from BDT 5.86 Bn in September.
- In the first ten months last year, foreign currency transactions through cards stood at BDT 14.34 Bn, according to the Bangladesh Bank. This means, the cash dollar crunch drove up such transactions by BDT 24.71 Bn in January-October this year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-currency-transactions-through-card-rise-172-yoy-jan-oct-551242>

Need to diversify products, markets: MCCI

- Bangladesh needs to diversify its export basket and seek out new markets in order to prevent potential losses after graduating from the list of least developed countries (LDC), according to Saiful Islam, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).
- With Bangladesh set to graduate from an LDC in 2026, the country will have to overcome the challenges that come with the loss of preferential access to most export markets, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/need-diversify-products-markets-mcci-3196576>

Bepza moves to stop use of fake import permits

- Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) has taken a number of steps, including connecting to customs management software, to prevent the use of fake import permits following the detection of such malpractices this year.
- Import permits are issued by Bepza against every import of listed export-oriented companies for the lifting of duties. Earlier, customs officials had to log in to the Bepza website every time they had to check the authenticity of an import permit.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bepza-moves-stop-use-fake-import-permits-3196631>

Bangladesh e-commerce market size to reach BDT 1.5 Tn by 2026

- Speakers at a discussion have said that proper regulatory measures could help boost the e-commerce business in Bangladesh by creating a sustainable image of the sector already been wounded by some bad examples of fraud in the recent past. Citing some research work, they say the business-to-customer e-commerce market in Bangladesh is expected to grow by 17.61% on an annual basis, aimed at reaching BDT 659.66 Bn in 2022.
- The e-commerce market size in 2021 was about BDT 568.70 Bn and will be around BDT 1.5 Tn by 2026, they said adding that the sector is gaining momentum through the country's registered e-commerce companies, non-registered online platforms and social media-based trading pages where mostly young people are engaged as entrepreneurs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-e-commerce-market-size-to-reach-BDT-15t-by-2026-1671020606>

BJMC gets better response for leasing jute mills

- The jute ministry has received a total of 37 proposals from the private sector for leasing 13 state-owned mills after it said textiles could be produced at the mills apart from jute goods, officials said yesterday.
- The Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMC), which controls state-owned mills, released the revised terms of reference for leasing 11 jute and two non-jute mills at the end of October, shifting from its initial position that only jute goods can be produced in the 25 factories that were closed in July 2020.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bjmc-gets-better-response-leasing-jute-mills-3196621>

Bangladesh to set country-specific minimum salaries for migrant workers

- The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment is working on preparing a demand letter detailing the lowest salaries for each migrant destination country for Bangladeshi workers. "The ministry is doing its assessment," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad told journalists yesterday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/migration/bangladesh-set-country-specific-minimum-salaries-migrant-workers-551334>

ADP slowdown annoys govt, faster pace ordered

- Annual Development Programme (ADP) slowdown annoys the government and prompts it to direct top ministries to expedite project execution, officials said Tuesday. During the July-October period of the current FY2023, the ministries and agencies implemented merely 12.64% of the BDT 2.56 Tn development recipe, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) data show.

- In the same period last fiscal year (FY2022)-though rather slow then, too-the government agencies executed 13.06% of the BDT 2.25 Tn ADP.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/adp-slowdown-annoys-govt-faster-pace-ordered-1670986400>

TCB to procure 27.5 Mn litres of soybean oil for OMS programme

- State-owned Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) will procure 27.5 Mn litres of Soybean oil from local suppliers for its Open Market Sale (OMS) programme. Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) approved three separate proposals placed by the commerce ministry in this regard in a virtual meeting on Wednesday, according to UNB.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/tcb-to-procure-275-Mn-litres-of-soybean-oil-for-oms-programme-1671023275>

Making packaging materials: Akij Group's BDT 10 Bn investment at risk

- With the aim of catering to the growing local market and diversifying the country's export basket, Akij Group invested more than BDT 10 Bn in setting up a plant to produce films for packages. But the conglomerate has landed in hot water as it is incurring losses due to what SK Bashir Uddin, managing director of Akij Group said the misuse of the bonded warehouse facility and a lack of tax protection.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/making-packaging-materials-akij-groups-tk-1000cr-investment-risk-3196596>

Moody's to review 7 Bangladeshi banks for downgrade amid reassessment of Bangladesh rating

- Credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service has placed the long-term ratings for seven Bangladeshi banks on review for downgrade following its decision to review Bangladesh's long-term rating, bdnews24.com reports. The seven banks are BRAC Bank, The City Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Eastern Bank Limited, NCC Bank, The Premier Bank and Mercantile Bank.
- The decision to place the ratings and assessments of the banks under review is driven by Moody's placement of Bangladesh's Ba3 sovereign rating under reassessment on Dec 9, the agency said in a statement on Tuesday. Moody's also downgraded Social Islami Bank's long-term foreign currency deposit ratings from B2 to B3 and the bank's Baseline Credit Assessment to caa1 from b3. The rating outlooks were also changed to stable from negative.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/moodys-to-review-7-bangladeshi-banks-for-downgrade-amid-reassessment-of-bangladesh-rating-1670921452>

Short-term foreign loans allowed for import

- Businesses will be able to import eight essential items centring upcoming Ramadan by taking short-term loans from foreign sources, said Bangladesh Bank yesterday. This facility for edible oil, chickpea, pulse, pea, onion, spices, sugar and date will remain applicable till March 2023, according to a central bank notice.
- Importers will have to settle the letters of credit (LCs) within 90 days under supplier's and buyer's credit. Buyer's credit refers to finance for payment of imports arranged by the importer or buyer from a bank or financial institution outside of Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/short-term-foreign-loans-allowed-import-3195421>

Deposits in no-frill accounts up by BDT 8.64 Bn YoY

- The amount of deposits in no-frill bank accounts has gone up by BDT 8.64 Bn in a span of one year despite rising commodity prices. The no-frill account, which is a savings account that does not need any minimum balance month after month, is increasingly becoming popular in the country.
- According to the quarterly data (July-September) from the Bangladesh Bank, these NFA accounts have a total of BDT 34.36 Bn in deposits at the end of September, which stood at BDT 25.72 Bn at the same time of the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/deposits-no-frill-accounts-tk864-crore-yoy-551062>

Long-term finance key to affordable housing

- Availability of long-term finance, collaboration among policymakers and proper databases are key to ensuring affordable housing for all, said experts at a seminar yesterday. Land is very costly in Bangladesh while there are no proper ecosystems to deliver low-cost housing, making providing affordable housing a challenge, they said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/long-term-finance-key-affordable-housing-3195351>

Italy takes up USD 3 Mn project for BD workers' migration management

- Italy has adopted a cooperation project to extend supports to strengthen migration management for Bangladeshi migrant workers. The contribution amounting to USD 3.0 Mn will focus on ensuring safe migration through information dissemination, reintegration assistance for those who return to Bangladesh under the EU-supported Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme, and climate change affected communities by addressing their socio-economic needs, said Enrico Nunziata, Italian Ambassador in Dhaka.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/italy-takes-up-3m-project-for-bd-workers-migration-management-1670900057>

4 on schedule, others may miss deadline

- The eight fast track projects being implemented by the government are seeing mixed progress with four having made significant progress as of November this year while the rest may not see timely completion.
- The much talked about Padma Bridge was opened for vehicular movement earlier in June with only 4.5% of the physical work now remaining. The government had approved the Padma Multipurpose Bridge project on August 20, 2007, to connect Bangladesh's southwestern region with Dhaka via road and rail.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/4-schedule-others-may-miss-deadline-3194586>

Bangladesh seeks Saudi support to meet energy demand

- State Minister for foreign affairs Md Shahriar Alam has said Bangladesh needs "brotherly support" from Saudi Arabia to fulfil its energy demands amid the global oil crisis due to the Russia-Ukraine war. He made the remark while Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Bangladesh Essa Yousef Essa Al Duhaian paid a courtesy call on him at the foreign ministry here on Monday, a foreign ministry press release said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-seeks-saudi-support-to-meet-energy-demand-1670928235>

NBR specialised unit to boost revenue, curb trade frauds

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has drafted a revenue strategy up to 2032, aiming at broadening the tax base and making the tax admin more efficient as revenue collection is under stress. The draft includes setting up a specialised unit to curb trade frauds and mis-invoicing reported to syphon off billions annually, according to officials.
- The action plan, titled "Medium & Long-Term Revenue Strategy", also seeks an improved fiscal management, and more transparency and accountability to improve public perception of the tax system. The draft categorises the to-do list in three slabs – short, medium and long term.
- The NBR puts tasks like addressing the trust gap between the taxmen and the taxpayers, developing voluntary compliance to reduce collection costs and pre-budget talks between the policymakers and top taxpayers in the short-term – which is by 2024, according to the plan.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbr-specialised-unit-boost-revenue-curb-trade-frauds-551086>

More tax amid existing crises deepens cement makers' worry

- The Bangladesh cement industry, already fighting a price war amid overcapacity, soaring dollar, energy disruptions, higher transportation costs and letter of credit issues, now has a new problem to deal with – the newly added 30% supplementary duty on limestone imports and increased advance income tax.
- "Only proper government steps will solve these issues in the cement sector. Otherwise, it may have an adverse effect on the price of cement, which may hamper the infrastructural development of the country," the Bangladesh Cement Manufacturers Association (BCMA) leaders said at a press conference in the capital on Tuesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/more-tax-amid-existing-crises-deepens-cement-makers-worry-551050>

Excess liquidity at Islamic banks halves

- Excess liquidity at Islamic banks in Bangladesh fell nearly 50% year-on-year to BDT 175.25 Bn in July-September quarter this year as deposits growth slowed, central bank data showed. In July-September, overall deposits in Islamic banks, including the conventional banks that have shariah-based windows and branches, grew 11.9% year-on-year to BDT 4,213.75 Bn, the lowest growth in three years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/excess-liquidity-islamic-banks-halves-3195426>

IFC offers USD 32.5 Mn to Agrocorp

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is providing a USD 32.5 Mn loan to Agrocorp International Pte Ltd, a Singapore-based company that supplies wheat and pulses to Bangladesh, in order to improve food security in the South Asian country.
- The World Bank Group's arm is giving an eight-year financing package consisting of a senior secured loan of up to USD 18 Mn as well as a concessional loan of USD 14.5 Mn from the International Development Association's Private Sector Window Blended Finance Facility, it said in a press release yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ifc-offers-325m-agrocorp-3195361>

Adani's coal power will add pressure to hike power tariff in Bangladesh:

IEEFA

- The Adani Godda coal-fired power plant, set to start commercial generation on 16 December, will supply very expensive power to Bangladesh and add pressure to hike power tariff, finds a new report by the Institute of Energy and Economic Financial Analysis (IEEFA).
- The tariff for power sold from the Godda plant to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) will be almost double the initial expectation, reads the report of the Australian think tank released on Tuesday.
- Initially, the cost per kilowatt-hour (or a unit) of electricity from the Godda plant was estimated at BDT 8.71, but was revised up to BDT 15 due to the high cost of coal in the international market and high capacity charges, said a source at the Power Division.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adanis-coal-power-will-add-pressure-hike-power-tariff-bangladesh-ieefa-551034>

Industrial, corporate lending rate cap to stay: Central bank

- The 9% lending rate cap on corporate and industrial loans will not be lifted, the central bank said on Monday at a meeting with the country's leading business owners.
- Traders sought dollar support from the reserve for their import payment at the meeting, but the Bangladesh Bank high-ups did not provide any assurance on the request. But the central bank said it will provide assistance from the central bank reserve for urgent needs including government LC payments.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/industrial-corporate-lending-rate-cap-stay-central-bank-550410>

High cost of living takes a toll on bank deposits

- The deposit growth in banks of Bangladesh has slowed as many people saw their capacity to save dwindle amid the higher cost of living. The deposit situation has aggravated further as a section of savers preferred to invest in alternative areas, namely property after they became frustrated by a very low-interest rate offered by banks and the withdrawal of savings by a section of people to cope with elevated inflation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/high-cost-living-takes-toll-bank-deposits-3195441>

TCB hikes prices of sugar, pulse

- The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) has hiked the price of daily essentials sold at subsidised rates by BDT 5 due to an increase in prices of the commodities, putting more pressure on the country's low-income groups. As such, the price of sugar has gone up to BDT 60 per kilogramme (kg) while pulses will now cost BDT 70 per kg starting today, according to a press release from the TCB.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tcb-hikes-prices-sugar-pulse-3195431>

BB decides to appoint observers at the two Islamic banks

- Bangladesh Bank has decided to appoint observers at the Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd (IBBL) and First Security Islami Bank (FSIBL), said a top official of the central bank. The decision comes amid reports of allegations of irregularities in the disbursement of a large amount of loans in violation of banking rules in recent times.
- Chattogram-based business entity S Alam Group has stakes in these two shariah-based banks and has representation on the boards. The central bank usually appoints its high officials as observers at a bank when the financial health of the lender deteriorates due to financial scams. It has so far appointed observers at nine banks, along with the latest two, in order to restore corporate governance in the financial sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-decides-appoint-observers-the-two-islamic-banks-3194356>

BSTI certification made mandatory for 10 new products

- Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) has included 10 new products in the list which now need mandatory certification from the national standards body. The new products are: disposable diapers, facewash, petroleum jelly, flatbread/tortilla, shaving foam or gel, eye care, hair dye liquid, aerosol, shoe polishing and geysers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsti-certification-made-mandatory-10-new-products-3194171>

Textile millers urge central bank to raise EDF loan ceiling, refund period

- The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) has requested the Bangladesh Bank to increase the limit of the Export Development Fund (EDF) loan to USD 30 Mn and its repayment duration up to 270 days.
- The textile millers also sought foreign currency support saying export-oriented manufacturing sectors, especially textile and garment exporters, need greater support to import raw materials including raw cotton, synthetic fibre, dyes and chemicals.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/textile-millers-urge-central-bank-raise-edf-loan-ceiling-refund-period-550434>

FBCCI for increasing manpower export to Romania

- The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) is looking for opportunities to increase the export of manpower as well as readymade garments, textile, leather, plastic, and pharmaceutical to Romania. The Romanian ambassador Daniela Sezonov Tane, during a courtesy call on FBCCI President Md. Jashim Uddin this morning, highlighted the potentials and opportunities of Bangladesh in Romania.
- The ambassador said Romania has progressed a lot in the fields of chemical products, machinery, energy, clean energy and solar power production. Mentioning that Romania will conduct gas exploration in the sea by 2026, Daniela called upon the business representatives of Bangladesh to visit Romania to strengthen the business relations between the two countries.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/fbcci-for-increasing-manpower-export-to-romania-1670855130>

11 banks suffer capital shortfall

- Eleven banks in Bangladesh collectively faced a capital shortfall of BDT 326.06 Bn in September, which highlighted their fragile health caused by years of irregularities. The banks are Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Agrani Bank, Rupali, Janata, Sonali, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, BASIC Bank, National Bank, ICB Islamic Bank, Bangladesh Commerce Bank, and Padma Bank.
- Corruption perpetrated at the banks is mainly responsible for the large capital shortfall. As of September, Bangladesh Krishi Bank had the highest amount of shortfall of BDT 134.91 Bn among the 11 lenders, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/11-banks-suffer-capital-shortfall-3194621>

UAE keen to increase engagement with Bangladesh

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has sought cooperation from the Bangladesh government for the operation of Abu Dhabi-based Wizz Air flights between Abu Dhabi and Dhaka/Chittagong as a low-cost airline. Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Bangladesh Abdullah Ali Al Hamoudi met Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday and discussed issues of mutual interest.
- Foreign Minister Momen has said the relationship between Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is becoming stronger day by day, reports UNB. He listened to the envoy and assured of full cooperation. Momen further stressed strengthening cooperation on food security, energy security and climate change issues between Bangladesh and the UAE.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/uae-keen-to-increase-engagement-with-bangladesh-1670838154>

BB to return to biannual monetary policy

- The central bank is set to return to its semiannual monetary policy stance after three years as per a suggestion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but local economists say the move would not bring about any change amid the lending rate cap and multiple exchange rates.
- In the fiscal year of 2019-2020, the central bank moved away from a twice-a-year policy statement to an annual statement that was practised for the previous two decades. Thus, it began coming up with the policy in July alone.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-return-biannual-monetary-policy-3193741>

Banks asked to relax LC margin rate for Ramadan items

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has directed all commercial banks to relax the cash margin rate against the opening of import letters of credit (LC) for eight food items at the minimum level to keep their prices at a tolerable level and supply adequate during the forthcoming Ramadan.
- The food items are edible oil, sugar, chickpeas, pulses, beans, onions, dates and spices. The central bank fixed the opening margin rate for LC settlement at 75% to 100% in a bid to limit imports to save the depleting foreign currency reserves in the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-directs-banks-relax-lc-margin-rate-ramadan-items-549542>

ERD, FAO sign 4 technical assistance project agreements

- Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has signed four technical assistance project agreements Sunday (11 December).
- The projects are Support to establish crop-based nutrition smart village and promotion of nutrition information campaign; Support to the development of Jackfruit value chain through post-harvest loss reduction and promotion of value-added products; Piloting Light Detection and Ranging technology (LiDAR) for fast-tracking agricultural transformation and sustainable development; and (iv) Green Cities Initiatives (GCI): Building Back Better for Climate and Resilient Sustainable Transitions (Global Project).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/erd-fao-sign-4-technical-assistance-project-agreements-549634>

Deadline extended for rice purchase agreements

- The food ministry has extended the deadline to sign contract with rice millers regarding the purchase of the grain by a week to December 15 this year, said a notification. The announcement comes as the responses from millers to supply the cereal to the state warehouses are low because of high prices in the local market.
- The food directorate targets to buy 500,000 tonnes of rice from the ongoing harvest of Aman crops from millers at BDT 42 per kilogramme. As of yesterday, it has signed the contract for the supply of around 267,000 tonnes with millers, said Md Raihanul Kabir, director of procurement at the Directorate General of Food.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/deadline-extended-rice-purchase-agreements-3193721>

Non-leather footwear exports can reach USD 1 Bn by 2025

- Exports and domestic sales of Bangladesh's synthetic and athletic footwear sector have been witnessing some of the highest growths among those of other sectors, according to a market assessment of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida).
- Exports have been increasing at an average annual rate of about 20% over the last six years thanks to increased demand from global brands, said insiders of the industry and Export Promotion Bureau.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/non-leather-footwear-exports-can-reach-1b-2025-3192876>

'Hydrogen-based power generation to help reduce carbon emission'

- Bangladesh has started hydrogen-based power generation, which will play an important role in reducing carbon emissions, Bangladesh Power Development Board Chairman Mahbubur Rahman said today. He spoke at a two-day event at InterContinental Dhaka that was organised by Mitsubishi Power to discuss the latest solutions and services in the power generation industry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/hydrogen-based-power-generation-help-reduce-carbon-emission-3193536>

PM seeks robust Japanese investment in Bangladesh

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the Japanese businessmen to make larger investment in Bangladesh. "Bangladesh is a lucrative place for investment. Japanese private companies can invest in Bangladesh on larger scale," she said.
- The prime minister said this while outgoing Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh ITO Naoki paid a courtesy call on her at Gono Bhaban in Dhaka. The Japanese envoy highly appreciated the socio-economic advancement of Bangladesh under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Sheikh Hasina, hoping that the development would be continued in the days ahead.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/investments/news/pm-seeks-robust-japanese-investment-bangladesh-foreign-direct-investment-fdi-3193271>

Subsidy pressure triples to BDT 1,600 Bn as imports remain costly

- Fuel, fertiliser, and food subsidies are set to jump to a whopping BDT 1,613.70 Bn this fiscal year – almost three times as high as this year's subsidy allocation for these sectors – because of higher international prices, according to finance ministry estimates based on demands from the ministries and divisions concerned. The original subsidy allocation for the year was over BDT 560 Bn.
- The projected amount of subsidies is about 24% of the national budget for the current fiscal 2022-23. If the BDT 250 Bn allocated in the budget for export incentives and cash loans is added to the subsidies, the total requirement for the "subsidies, incentives, and cash loans" sector reaches BDT 1,865.95 Bn or about 29% of the total budget.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/subsidy-pressure-triples-BDT16-lakh-crore-imports-remain-costly-549838>

Falling exports hit jute growers

- Jute prices in Bangladesh are currently lower than what they were at the same time last year due to declining exports of twine and yarn made from the natural fibre, according to growers and traders. Prices of raw jute have fallen by roughly 26% year-on-year to as low as BDT 2,000 to BDT 2,600 per maund (37 kilogrammes) in Faridpur, one of the country's main growing districts, compared to BDT 2,600 to BDT 3,200 for the same quantity in December last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/falling-exports-hit-jute-growers-3192926>

IT firms grapple with unskilled labour force

- IT firms are struggling to find skilled tech talents and professionals despite higher demand for information technology services from local and global clients, a situation that threatens their expansion and could shatter Bangladesh's export ambition for the sector. A mass exodus of talented workers and promising students, remote work opportunities and a mismatch between supply and demand have aggravated the situation recently.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/it-firms-grapple-unskilled-labour-force-3191381>

Loans from banks become costlier

- The Bangladesh Bank has raised the lending rate cap on consumer loans to 12% after two and a half years of setting the interest rate ceiling at 9% for all types of loans. At the same time, the central bank has lifted the floor on deposit rates that was capped above inflation in August last year to protect depositors' interest.
- The decisions were made with a view to taming inflation by reining in demand, according to Bangladesh Bank sources. The central bank has not yet issued any circular to this effect, but all banks were verbally instructed to start implementing the new rates this November.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/loans-banks-become-costlier-548058>

Moody's places Bangladesh's Ba3 ratings under review for downgrade

- Moody's Investors Service on Friday placed Bangladesh's long-term issuer and senior unsecured ratings at Ba3 on review for downgrade. The short-term issuer ratings are affirmed at "Not Prime" and the outlook was stable before being placed under review. The decision to place the ratings on review for downgrade is driven by Moody's assessment that Bangladesh's deteriorating external position raises external vulnerability and government liquidity risks in a way that may not be consistent with its current rating.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/moodys-places-bangladeshs-ba3-ratings-under-review-downgrade-548574>

Export of headgears, caps: BD bags USD 193.43 Mn, posts 50% growth in Jul-Nov

- Bangladesh has emerged as one of the key suppliers of hats and caps in the global market. Its shipment of these products reached USUSD 193.43 Mn in the first five months of the current fiscal year (FY), 2022-23, analysts said on Friday. The country has secured seventh position in the global export market worth USD 12.4 Bn, the FE analysis found.
- Even during the ongoing global economic crunch, Bangladesh's export of headgears and caps has posted a 50% growth during the July-November period of FY 23. In the same period (July-Nov) of last FY, the country's exporters made shipments of products worth USD 129.25 Mn, the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data showed.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/export-of-headgears-caps-bd-bags-19343m-posts-50pc-growth-in-jul-nov-1670640314>

China offers USD 11 Bn JV project

- A Chinese company has offered to build tracks and operate high-speed train on Bangladesh's prime Dhaka-Chattogram corridor with an investment of over USD 11 Bn, officials say. The Chinese firm has proposed to form a joint-venture company with the governments of Bangladesh and China for the big-venture modern train communications.
- The firm-China Railway Design Corporation (CRDC)--submitted the proposal to the Ministry of Railway (MoR), dated November 12, showing 20:80 share for the governments of Bangladesh and China respectively under Bangladesh High Speed Railway Limited company.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/china-offers-11b-jv-project-1670640164>

Bangladesh mandates ADB to advise on USD 400 Mn expressway connecting 10 economic zones

- The Asian Development Bank's Office of Public-Private Partnership (OPPP) has been mandated to provide transaction advice on Joydebpur-Mymensingh Road PPP project to be built along one of the country's busiest economic corridors.
- The project, being implemented with an estimated budget of USD 400 Mn, is expected to usher the possibility of door to create jobs and skills, as well as cutting road congestion and improving road safety, the lending agency said in a media release.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-mandates-adb-to-advise-on-400m-expressway-connecting-10-economic-zones-1670497139>

PPP investment far lower than required

- Despite having a strong emerging regulatory framework and a relatively mature market, public-private partnership (PPP) projects in Bangladesh have attracted far lower investments than requirements owing to implementation challenges, lack of long-term financing, and dated laws. So far, USD 6.74 Bn has been invested in PPP projects against the requirement of USD 384 Bn by 2030, according to a publication of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ppp-investment-far-lower-required-3191386>

Rooppur NPP: Unit-1 gets ready for commissioning

- The experts started flushing of systems with the open reactor at Unit-1 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) as part of pre-commission on 8 December. This will be followed by a special Post-installation Cleaning (PIC). At this stage, chemically dematerialised water is supplied to the reactor vessel through the connection pipeline and primary circuit pipelines to remove impurities left after the installation of the equipment and the pipelines.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/rooppur-npp-unit-1-gets-ready-commissioning-549170>

IMF lauds Bangladesh's progress as outstanding: Finance minister

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) praised Bangladesh's "outstanding achievement" during its visit to Dhaka in late October, said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.
- The IMF team said the progress and achievement of Bangladesh is extraordinary, the minister said while addressing the award giving ceremony of highest vat payers at Hotel Intercontinental in the capital Saturday (10 December).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-lauds-bangladeshs-progress-outstanding-finance-minister-549030>

Germany commits fresh 191 Mn Euro grant for Bangladesh

- Germany has made commitments of extending another 191 Mn Euro in grant to Bangladesh at the latest round of Bangladesh-German Development Cooperation Negotiations 2022. With the new commitment, the amount now stands at 275.1 Mn Euro or around BDT 29.16 Bn since the last government to government negotiations, the German embassy said in a statement today.
- Since 1972, the overall amount reaches more than 3.2 Bn Euro, according to the statement. The two-day bilateral negotiations on development cooperation started on December 7.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/germany-commits-fresh-191-Mn-euro-grant-bangladesh-3190986>

Urea stock rises as imports normalize

- The complication in urea fertiliser imports due to the dollar crisis has been dispelled, according to the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).
- The normalisation of imports has augmented supply against demand in the local market and boosted the government's urea stock compared to the previous year, said sources at the BCIC – the agency responsible for the import and production of urea.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/urea-stock-rises-imports-normalise-548370>

RJSC extends MoA and AoA facilities for all types of companies

- The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC) – the regulatory body that manages business registration – will provide automated standardised Memorandum of Association (MoA) and Articles of Association (AoA) facilities for all types of companies in Bangladesh.
- The initiative will enable companies to accept and use model articles that are universal and in full compliance with the law, instead of drafting articles of association for their companies, said a press release.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rjsc-extends-moa-and-aoa-facilities-all-types-companies-548998>

Salman F Rahman urges UK entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh

- Private Industry and Investment Adviser to Prime Minister Salman F Rahman has urged UK entrepreneurs to invest more in Bangladesh's environment-friendly sector including the recycling industry.
- "UK businessmen can benefit from the favourable environment that Bangladesh has created for investment," said Salman F Rahman at a high-level round table meeting on "Trade, Growth and Partnership" organised by Bangladesh High Commission, London on Wednesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/salman-f-rahman-urges-uk-entrepreneurs-invest-bangladesh-548826>

Bangladesh's cotton import to drop: USDA

- Bangladesh's cotton import may drop to 8 Mn bales in marketing year 2022-23 which began in August, said the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) at the end of last week. This will be resulting from high international raw cotton prices, reduced garment production due to a domestic power shortage and a slowdown in the world economy, it said. The latest projection is about 10% below its previous one of April this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladeshs-cotton-import-drop-usda-3192931>

Wage growth below inflation for 10th month

- For the 10th consecutive month, monthly wage growth of workers has remained below inflation, a trend that indicates a worsening poverty situation as many people are being compelled to cut consumption amid falling real income.
- In November this year, wages of low and unskilled workers grew 6.98%, which was 1.87 percentage points below the average inflation rate of 8.85% in the same month. In October, wages of workers in 44 occupations in agriculture, industry and services grew 6.91% against a consumer price hike of 8.91%, showed data of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/wage-growth-below-inflation-10th-month-3192966>

Important News: Capital Market

MITHUNKNIT | Is Mithun Knitting moving towards delisting?

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) sees no option but to delist Mithun Knitting and Dyeing, which has been closed for years, from the stock market. The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) sold all the assets, including machinery, of the company in an auction this year to clear some of its debts, including the arrears of workers' wages.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mithun-knitting-moving-towards-delisting-551678>

WALTONHIL | Another director to offload 0.1 Mn Walton shares

- To comply with the regulator's directive, another sponsor-director of Walton Hi-Tech Industries will sell 0.1 Mn shares as part of a move to increase its free float shares to 10% in the secondary market. As per disclosure at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Wednesday, SM Mahbul Alam, who holds 54 Mn shares of the company, wants to offload the shares at the prevailing market price within the next 30 working days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/another-director-offload-1-lakh-walton-shares-551666>

BANKASIA | Bank Asia sues Western Marine Shipyard to recover BDT 5.05 Bn

- Bank Asia has filed a case against Western Marine Shipyard Limited to recover a classified loan amounting to BDT 5.0590 Bn. Artha Rin Adalat has already summoned 11 directors of the Chattogram-based shipbuilding company, including the managing director, to appear in court on 6 February next year.
- Seeking anonymity, a senior official at the private sector lender said that the company has not been paying the loan instalments for a long time despite regular reminders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bank-asia-sues-western-marine-shipyard-recover-tk505cr-550406>

GHCL | Global Heavy Chemicals' losses widen

- Global Heavy Chemicals Limited's losses more than doubled to BDT 33.1 Mn in the first quarter of the current financial year compared to a year earlier. The chemical manufacturer and exporter suffered a loss of BDT 15.1 Mn in July-September of 2021. Thus, the earnings per share were BDT 0.46 negative for July-September against BDT 0.21 negative in the same quarter last year, according to the unaudited financial statements of the company.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/global-heavy-chemicals-losses-widen-3194196>

BSRMLTD | BSRM firms nosedive to losses in Sept quarter

- In a year of posting record sales and profits, both the listed firms of the steel market leader Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills (BSRM) fell into losses in the July-September quarter. The soaring prices of raw materials and the disrupted power supply did not let BSRM Steels and BSRM Ltd enjoy their continuous sales growth, according to the stock exchange filings of both firms.
- The mother entity — BSRM Ltd — registered a sales growth to over BDT 20.75 Bn in the July-September quarter of FY23, from BDT 15.39 Bn a year ago. Despite impressive sales, the company incurred a loss of BDT 1.64 Bn in the quarter, while in the same quarter last year it posted BDT 1.28 Bn in after-tax profits.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bsrm-firms-nosedive-losses-sept-quarter-551070>

AAMRANET | Why Aamra Networks is selling data centre

- Aamra Networks – an IT communication solutions provider whose prime business is data connectivity – has decided to sell its data centre owing to dissatisfactory revenue generation. The company will sell the data centre at BDT 115 Mn and invest the fund in a new business, and in developing its existing business lines, according to its officials.
- It will invest BDT 30 Mn in the Internet Protocol Telephony Service Provider—a new product line—subject to the approval of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission. It will also invest BDT 7 Mn in the infrastructure development of its existing multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) business line, which is now profitable and has a promising future.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/why-aamra-networks-selling-data-centre-548014>

YPL | Yeakin Polymer's loss extends in FY22

- Yeakin Polymer Limited suffered a loss of BDT 52.3 Mn in the financial year that ended on June 30. The loss stood at BDT 40.5 Mn a year earlier. Thus, the manufacturer of PP woven bags, garments accessories and household plastic products reported earnings per share of BDT 0.71 in negative for FY22 against a negative BDT 0.55 in FY21.
- "The EPS decreased due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, the shortage of working capital, drop in sales and increase in raw material costs," said Yeakin Polymer in a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/yeakin-polymers-loss-extends-fy22-3191326>

PHARMAID | Pharma Aids installs new oven to reduce wastage

- Pharma Aids, the pioneer ampoule manufacturer in Bangladesh, has installed a new annealing electrical oven as a replacement for an old oven to reduce wastage and improve ampoule quality. As per a stock exchange disclosure, the company installed the brand-new oven on 1 December at BDT 1.85 Mn. It decided to purchase the oven in October last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/pharma-aids-installs-new-oven-reduce-wastage-550382>

INDEXAGRO | Index Agro to invest BDT 140 Mn to increase storage

- In a way to curb its cost of purchasing raw materials, Index Agro Industries – a poultry and fish feed producer – is going to invest around BDT 140 Mn to expand the capacity of storing the raw materials by 16,000 tonnes.
- According to its stock exchange filing on Monday, the company will install two silos – each having a capacity of 8,000 tonnes – with automatic loading and unloading facilities at the feed mill division in Bhaluka, Mymensingh.
- A silo is a tall tower or pit on a farm used to store grains. Index Agro already has five automatic storage facilities with a total capacity of 26,000 tonnes, an official of the company said on condition of anonymity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/index-agro-invest-tk14cr-increase-storage-550398>

ADNTEL | ADN gets extended time, permission from shareholders to use IPO fund

- ADN Telecom received approval from shareholders to utilize the unused IPO funds by the end of next year. The shareholders of the company in its 19th annual general meeting held Wednesday approved rearranging the unutilized IPO proceeds allocated for balancing, modernization, rehabilitation and expansion (BMRE), said the company in a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange.
- The amount has been revised down to BDT 84.96 Mn from BDT 184.96 Mn. Half of the remaining BDT 100 Mn will be invested in the Hi-Tech Park for developing manufacturing facilities and the other half for purchasing land and land development within the deadline, according to the filing.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/adn-gets-extended-time-permission-from-shareholders-to-use-ipo-fund-1670473078>

ENVOYTEX | Envoy Textiles, ADB ink EUR 10.8 Mn deal to install green factory

- Envoy Textiles Limited entered into an EUR 10.8 Mn (USD 11.2 Mn) loan facility agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support and finance the purchase and installation of energy-efficient spinning machinery and other equipment to expand sustainable textile production and create local jobs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/envoy-textiles-adb-ink-eu108m-deal-install-green-factory-549742>

RUPALIBANK | Credit rating with govt support in view hides Rupali Bank's failings

- Despite capital and provision shortfalls, state-owned Rupali Bank's credit rating with the government's backing into consideration paints a rosy picture. Emerging Credit Rating Limited gave the lender the highest "AAA" rating, keeping in view the government's support, according to a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/credit-rating-govt-support-view-hides-rupali-banks-failings-549750>

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