

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+1.26%) gained 88.46 points and closed the week at 7,105.69 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.73%) gained 19.08 points and stood at 2,635.38 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.45%) gained 6.69 points and stood at 1,508.40 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.85%) gained 11.95 points and closed at 1,419.08 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +5.17%, +4.06%, +5.40%, +4.41%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 82.4 billion (USD 961 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 16.5 billion ($\Delta\%$ Week: +5.2%)

Market P/E: 17.7x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

Market performed five sessions during this week. The week started positively on Sunday (+0.03%) and then subsequently gaining (+0.51%), (+0.01%), (+0.48%) on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday respectively. The week ended on a positive note on Thursday gaining (+0.23%).

Sectoral Performance

- Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Life Insurance booked the highest gain of 1.90% followed by Bank (+0.27%), and General Insurance (+0.01%). NBF1 experienced the highest loss of 1.15% followed by Mutual Fund (-0.59%).

- Non-financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Pharmaceutical booked the highest gain of 1.65% followed by Food & Allied (+0.32%). Telecommunication experienced the highest loss of 1.77% followed by Engineering (-1.69%), and Fuel & Power (-1.45%).

Macroeconomic arena

- Inflation hits 13-month high. Monthly import bill hits record USD 6.0b. Savings certificate: Govt's net debt on the decrease. Strengthen capacity for global trade negotiations: ICAB. Rising REER cuts BD's trade competitiveness'

- Govt moves to reopen textile mills thru PPP. RMG exports increases by 24% in non-traditional market. Central fund provided export garment workers BDT 18 crore in 6 months. BGMEA for removing legal bar on back-to-back LCs for non-bonded exports. Garment, accessory makers form joint panel to boost apparel export. BGMEA now seeks devaluation of currency for 'competitive edge'

- Micro-enterprises to get receivable financing easily. Banks moving towards digital nano lending. Lending thru agent banking reaches BDT 588cr in Nov. Central bank tightens single borrower exposure limit. Financial institutions asked to hold special meetings on irregularities

- BB simplifies procedure of export cash incentive for freelancers. Record tea production in country's history. High import duty hinders furniture export. Ice cream market sees good growth

Stock Market arena

- Trading of T-bonds likely to begin on DSE in February. LankaBangla, City Brokerage to change online trading experience. NBR examines scope for tax rebate on sukuk income. DSE eyes listing on LSE.

- Prime Islami Life Insurance shares soar in eight days. SS Steel shares fly on quarterly earnings growth. Fortune Shoes' share keeps rising sans PSI.

- BSEC panel auditor to look into Samin Food's financials for merger. SC gives all-clear to operate Delta Life by administrator. Special auditor to look into Sonali Paper assets

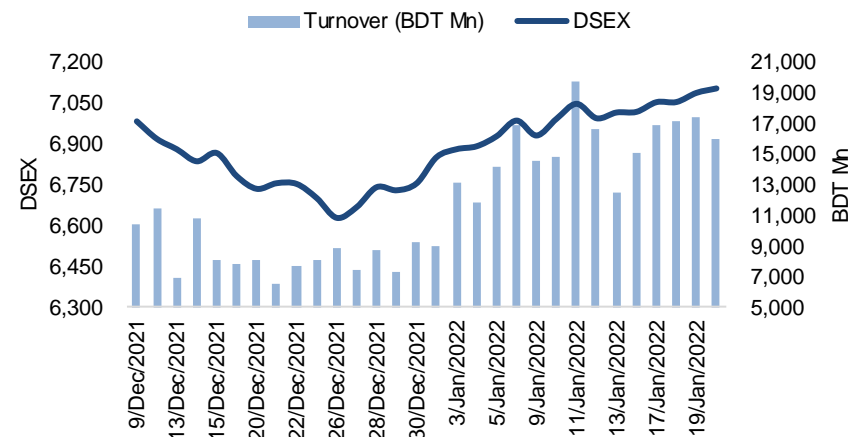
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ (Pts)	30-Dec-2020	$\Delta\%$ Week	$\Delta\%$ YTD
DSEX	7,105.69	7,017.23	+88.46	6,756.66	+1.26%	+5.17%
DS30	2,635.38	2,616.30	+19.08	2,532.58	+0.73%	+4.06%
DSES	1,508.40	1,501.71	+6.69	1,431.12	+0.45%	+5.40%
CDSET	1,419.08	1,407.13	+11.95	1,359.13	+0.85%	+4.41%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
M cap	M n BDT	5,652,352	5,649,970	+0.0%
	M n USD	65,878	65,850	+0.0%
Turnover	M n BDT	82,432	78,324	+5.2%
	M n USD	961	913	+5.2%
Average Daily Turnover	M n BDT	16,486	15,665	+5.2%
	M n USD	192	183	+5.2%
Volume	M n Shares	1670	1,634	+2.2%

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
UNIONINS	16.0	10.0	+60.0%	774	0.0	12.5x	1.0x
PHARMAID	791.0	626.0	+26.4%	2,468	713.9	45.9x	8.0x
FUWANGFOOD	218	17.6	+23.9%	2,416	1,130.6	NM	1.9x
GHCL	40.3	32.6	+23.6%	2,902	23.2	NM	0.7x
SAMORITA	118.2	96.7	+22.2%	2,231	442.8	39.8x	2.2x
DSHGARME	192.1	157.7	+21.8%	1,447	210.1	NM	9.5x
PAPERPROC	260.7	216.6	+20.4%	2,724	181.4	NM	25.4x
PRIMELIFE	80.5	67.2	+19.8%	2,457	390.4	NM	NM
YPL	14.3	12.2	+17.2%	1,054	45.1	NM	1.3x
MONNOFABR	25.4	21.8	+16.5%	2,921	71.2	NM	0.9x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
TALLUSPIN	10.7	12.7	-15.7%	956	134.0	NM	0.4x
LOVELLO	45.8	51.8	-11.6%	3,893	904.5	29.2x	3.5x
TITASGAS	44.4	49.6	-10.5%	43,921	1,050.5	12.8x	0.6x
BEXGSUKUK	90.5	101.0	-10.4%	27,150	187.0	NM	NM
ECABLES	135.9	150.7	-9.8%	3,588	21.8	NM	14.4x
BPML	61.4	67.7	-9.3%	10,671	472.4	25.0x	1.3x
POWERGRID	70.5	75.4	-6.5%	50,247	2,180.7	15.1x	0.6x
NFTLTUBES	91.2	96.9	-5.9%	3,176	93.3	NM	0.6x
IFADAUTOS	50.2	53.1	-5.5%	12,698	104.6	26.4x	1.2x
BSCCL	219.8	231.9	-5.2%	36,246	605.3	17.2x	3.9x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
BEXIMCO	160.4	149.0	+7.7%	140,562	6,962.4	13.9x	1.9x
BSC	139.0	125.9	+10.4%	21,202	3,876.5	16.4x	2.2x
FORTUNE	124.6	121.7	+2.4%	20,252	3,699.6	53.5x	8.4x
SAIFPOWER	45.3	41.4	+9.4%	17,184	3,165.5	25.3x	2.7x
GPHISPAT	59.9	59.1	+1.4%	26,165	2,307.2	14.3x	2.1x
POWERGRID	70.5	75.4	-6.5%	50,247	2,180.7	15.1x	0.6x
PTL	103.9	102.5	+1.4%	16,918	1,987.4	25.0x	3.8x
RKRCERAMIC	53.4	55.7	-4.1%	22,854	1,983.8	26.6x	3.2x
FAREASTLIF	105.2	98.3	+7.0%	7,863	1,879.7	NM	NM
ORIONPHARM	102.8	97.0	+6.0%	24,055	1,682.7	29.4x	1.3x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
TITASGAS	44.4	+22.3%	43,921	12.8x	0.6x
SQUARETEXT	63.0	+20.7%	12,427	11.5x	1.5x
POWERGRID	70.5	+18.3%	50,247	15.1x	0.6x
LINDEBD	1,864.4	+18.0%	28,373	22.7x	5.0x
GHAIL	19.3	+17.0%	4,166	NM	1.4x
ACTIVEFINE	29.7	+16.0%	7,126	76.2x	1.3x
UNIQUEHRL	57.6	+14.7%	16,957	NM	0.7x
ACI	327.4	+14.7%	23,762	47.7x	2.3x
SHASHADNIM	27.8	+13.5%	3,921	20.7x	0.7x
ROBI	39.2	+13.3%	205,327	89.4x	3.1x

*BDT
**BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,620.4	1,616.1	1,589.69	+0.27%	+1.93%
NBFI	2,374.6	2,402.2	2,327.63	-1.15%	+2.02%
Mutual Fund	912.3	917.8	882.99	-0.59%	+3.32%
General Insurance	4,437.3	4,436.9	4,698.62	+0.01%	-5.56%
Life Insurance	2,894.2	2,840.3	2,687.55	+1.90%	+7.69%
Telecommunication	6,105.9	6,216.1	5,800.37	-1.77%	+5.27%
Pharmaceutical	4,020.2	3,954.8	3,866.63	+1.65%	+3.97%
Fuel & Power	1,950.9	1,979.6	1,792.97	-1.45%	+8.81%
Cement	2,709.1	2,783.9	2,534.76	-2.69%	+6.88%
Services & Real Estate	1,515.3	1,389.7	1,309.43	+9.03%	+15.72%
Engineering	4,738.1	4,819.5	4,727.46	-1.69%	+0.23%
Food & Allied	25,929.6	25,847.9	25,222.81	+0.32%	+2.80%
IT	3,219.0	3,279.0	3,274.61	-1.83%	-1.70%
Textile	1,620.5	1,537.2	1,470.60	+5.42%	+10.19%
Paper & Printing	9,340.9	9,485.2	9,680.03	-1.52%	-3.50%
Tannery	3,744.3	3,649.7	3,236.76	+2.59%	+15.68%
Jute	8,687.6	8,657.3	8,747.84	+0.35%	-0.69%
Ceramics	782.0	799.4	675.88	-2.19%	+15.70%
Miscellaneous	5,057.5	4,827.1	4,625.39	+4.77%	+9.34%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	791.8	979.0	-19.12%	+4.93%	8.2x	0.9x
NBFI	565.3	803.8	-29.67%	+3.52%	NM	4.2x
Mutual Fund	80.2	119.6	-32.96%	+0.50%	NM	0.8x
General Insurance	591.7	586.6	+0.87%	+3.69%	20.1x	2.2x
Life Insurance	961.6	1,075.9	-10.62%	+5.99%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	271.6	634.3	-57.19%	+1.69%	17.8x	6.2x
Pharmaceutical	1,705.5	1,224.0	+39.35%	+10.63%	19.6x	2.7x
Fuel & Power	1,379.4	2,101.7	-34.37%	+8.59%	12.7x	1.3x
Cement	238.3	435.1	-45.22%	+1.49%	18.9x	2.8x
Services & Real Estate	1,008.6	527.8	+91.09%	+6.28%	NM	1.2x
Engineering	1,519.0	1,486.7	+2.17%	+9.46%	19.4x	2.1x
Food & Allied	945.1	723.2	+30.69%	+5.89%	31.3x	9.2x
IT	276.2	228.9	+20.68%	+1.72%	35.3x	2.9x
Textile	1,763.4	1,062.6	+65.95%	+10.99%	37.8x	1.1x
Paper & Printing	264.6	294.7	-10.23%	+1.65%	NM	2.4x
Tannery	826.9	590.0	+40.16%	+5.15%	NM	4.0x
Jute	12.2	10.7	+14.13%	+0.08%	NM	20.5x
Ceramics	503.3	356.8	+41.03%	+3.14%	36.3x	2.3x
Miscellaneous	2,344.3	1,858.4	+26.15%	+14.61%	18.0x	2.4x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
BATASHOE	907.4	-6.2%	1,413	NM	3.6x
BANKASIA	20.5	-6.0%	23,901	9.6x	0.9x
PIONEERINS	110.1	-5.8%	8,475	14.4x	2.2x
WALTONHIL	1,090.8	-5.0%	330,434	22.9x	3.5x
MTB	19.3	-1.5%	1,681	27.3x	0.9x
DUTCHBANGL	77.5	-0.8%	49,019	8.4x	1.4x
RENATA	1,311.8	-0.0%	140,616	27.0x	5.2x
ENVOYTEX	48.9	-	8,202	76.4x	1.3x
CONFIDCEM	122.0	+0.1%	9,545	8.4x	1.6x
EBL	38.6	+0.3%	36,819	6.8x	1.2x

Important News: Business & Economy

Ctg customs revenue continues to grow on high imports

- Chattogram Customs House posted 26% growth in revenue receipts year-on-year in 1HFY22. The higher earnings over the last several months are a result of an increase in imports and a gradual normalisation of supply chains around the world, according to sources at the customs house. Chattogram customs collected a record BDT 51,577 crore in revenue in the 2020-21 financial year, posting 23.23% year-on-year growth despite the pandemic.
- The customs house has set a target of collecting BDT 64,075 crore in revenue in the current financial year, while the target for the July-December period of the year was set at BDT 31,570 crore. According to official data, Chattogram port posted 13.19% growth in container handling, 14.06% growth in cargo handling, and 12.63% growth in ship handling in 2021 when compared with the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/ctg-customs-revenue-continues-grow-high-imports-359710>

Govt moves to reopen textile mills thru PPP

- The government has called for open international tenders for four out of 16 textile mills through public-private partnerships (PPP). The tenure of the partnership may be up to 30 years but could be renewed further. The four mills are: RR Textile Mills, Dost Textile Mills, Rajshahi Textile Mills and Magura Textile Mill.
- As a partner, the government will only issue the land for building infrastructure. The private parties will implement the project, maintain the mills and market the textile products produced, the official said.
- However, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), criticised the PPP system, citing the PPP project in such case is not a long-term solution. He added that the government has imposed a complex structure and no 'real' or renowned institutions have come forward to invest here.
- Earlier in the first phase, the first two mills - Ahmed Bawany Textile and Quaderia Textiles - signed deals with Tanzina Fashion Ltd and Orion Consortium respectively.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-moves-reopen-textile-mills-thru-ppp-2943101>

Record tea production in country's history

- Tea production in the country surged to a historic high of 9.6 crore kg in 2021 amid the Covid-19 pandemic, state-run Bangladesh Tea Board said. This is also the highest annual tea

production in the region's 167-year history of commercial tea cultivation. Officials and tea garden owners described expansion of tea cultivation, increasing investment, use of new technologies and government initiatives as key reasons behind the rise in production. Previously, Bangladesh posted a record high tea production of 9.607 crore kg in 2019, but production fell to 8.639 crores kg the following year.

- Tea estate owners said that tea cultivation has expanded in the Northern region, including Panchagar, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Chattogram districts in recent years. Although production has surged, tea consumption has decreased by half amid the pandemic. The annual tea consumption in the country during the pre-pandemic period was estimated to be 9.5 crore kg.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/record-tea-production-countrys-history-359692>

Bangabandhu Shilpa Nagar to have its first operational factory in March

- The country's largest industrial city, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN) is going to witness the operation of its very first factory – Asian Paints – in March this year. The authorities informed that the construction of several factories are about to be completed, some 6,000 acres of land in the portion have already been filled with soil, and currently roads, bridges and other infrastructure are being constructed. The authorities are installing gas and electricity lines and solar systems have been set up for roads inside the industrial city.
- Apart from Asian Paints and MacDonald Steel, Healthcare Pharma was seen developing its facility on 40 acres of land, Bangladesh Auto Industries on 100 acres, SQ Cable on 40 acres, Jingyuan on 10 acres, Modern Syntex on 20 acres, Nippon and others on 100 acres, and Berger Paints on 30 acres. According to the BEZA, a total of 153 companies have so far been awarded 6,500 acres of land for setting up factories there.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bangabandhu-shilpa-nagar-have-its-first-operational-factory-march-359419>

Reprioritise spending, bring financial reforms

- The government should reprioritise spending, take steps to reduce corruption and initiate financial sector reforms for better use of public money with a view to overcoming challenges brought on by the pandemic, suggests the International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to the IMF, near-term policy measures should make room for health and social spending while enhancing fiscal transparency and governance. Managing risks amid large-scale uncertainties will require continued support for the economy, close monitoring of the financial sector and gradual rebuilding of buffers for policy manoeuvres as the recovery gets entrenched, it said.

- The IMF cautioned that under such an adverse scenario, public finances would be impaired by lower revenue, higher health, social and energy subsidy spending, and contingent liability materialising from explicit and implicit state guarantees provided to state-owned enterprises. The IMF recommends that the government phase out interest caps on lending and borrowing to strengthen market competitiveness and gradually shift away from the financial policy adopted for the pandemic to lessen the build-up of financial sector vulnerabilities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fbcci-opposes-proposal-raise-gas-price-2943136>

Businesses oppose gas price hikes to maintain competitiveness

- Country's businessmen on Wednesday opposed the initiative for increasing the gas price, saying the utility price hike will shoot up the cost of production, cut industries' competitiveness and disrupt the economic revival amid the pandemic. An FBCCI Director said the country's growing dependence on imports of energy is not safe for the future. It is important to harness domestic resources to ensure long-term energy security and sustain industrialisation.
- He also said the government should drill at least 100 more wells to explore oil and gas and the management of the distribution companies should be left to the private sector to bring order. The members of the committee demanded a one-stop solution to increase solar power generation, installation of solar panels in uncultivated lands of chars, government initiatives for research and development activities, and undertaking power generation projects from waste and rice husks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businesses-oppose-gas-price-hikes-maintain-competitiveness-359701>

RMG exports increases by 24% in non-traditional market

- Apparel sector is steadily expanding its exports in the non-traditional market as the shipment of clothes to such destinations has increased by 24.26 % in the first six months of the current fiscal year 2021-22. In the first six months (July-December) of FY22, Bangladesh fetched USD306 crore by exporting garment products in the non-traditional market, according to the latest statistics of the Export Promotion Bureau. During the same period of the previous (FY21), apparel items worth USD246.19 crore were shipped to non-traditional market.
- The United States, Canada and European countries are generally known as the traditional markets for garment exports. But now Chile, China, Japan, India, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Turkey, South Africa and Russia are being considered as new markets for garment exports. Cash incentives and duty-free market facilities are also playing a significant role in boosting RMG exports to the new markets.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/160418/rmg-exports-increases-by-24pc-in-non-traditional-market>

Central fund provided export garment workers BDT 18 crore in 6 months

- The central fund has provided over BDT 18.07 crore in the last six months to garments workers for treating "incurable diseases", injuries and providing higher education to their children. Since its formation, the central fund -- used for workers' welfare -- has provided about BDT 125.21 crore to about 9,500 workers and their families. Of these, the families of 5,623 dead workers have been provided BDT 112.01 crore as financial assistance.
- Another BDT9.25 crore has been provided to 3,047 sick workers as medical assistance and BDT1.52 crore as education assistance to 763 workers for their children's education. Since July 2017, 0.03% of the total export value of garment factories have been directly deposited to the central fund through the Bangladesh Bank. Its current cash balance with FDRs in various banks stands at around BDT214 crore.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/central-fund-provided-export-garment-workers-tk18-crore-6-months-359629>

DCs asked to help collect VAT from rural shops

- Deputy commissioners, who are playing roles of executive heads of districts, have been urged to help the National Board of Revenue collect value-added tax from different shops in the rural area, by installing electronic fiscal devices (EFD). The NBR is working to set up the devices in different outlets.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dcs-asked-help-collect-vat-rural-shops-359233>

Inflation hits 13-month high

- The point-to-point inflation in December 2021 hit 13-months high at 6.05 % as the raise in diesel and kerosene prices continued to push up the prices of non-food items, officials said on Tuesday. In October 2020, the general inflation was recorded 6.44 % by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. In November 2021, the government increased the prices of kerosene and diesel by BDT 15 per litre amid criticisms that the move would ultimately lead to high inflation and increase in prices of food and non-food items.
- Former Bangladesh Bank governor Salehuddin Ahmed said on Monday that checking inflation would be difficult for the government in the coming months. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic, the price hike of non-food items that have overtaken the price hike of food items since October 2021 crossed 7 % in December 2021. The rate of overall inflation in October 2021 was 5.4 % and the food inflation was 5.3 %. Such inflation benefitted a number of market players amid lax monitoring by the government agencies.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/160361/inflation-hits-13-month-high>

Micro-enterprises to get receivable financing easily

- The Bangladesh Bank asked all banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) to ensure micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) receivable financing through the digital trading platform. The central bank issued the instructions in a circular in line with the "Guidelines for Local Factoring/Receivable Financing through Digital Platform-Pilot Phase" on Monday. According to the Bangladesh Bank, from now on ThinkBig Solutions Ltd will operate the pilot-phased trading platform for the digital intervention in receivable financing.
- The Bangladesh Bank guideline says a majority of these MSMEs do not have access to sufficient credit and liquidity required for their daily working capital needs. One of the pressing issues has been the reluctance of the formal sector to lend to MSMEs due to high perceived risks and higher operational cost since the loan size is very small and requires intensive monitoring and supervision, it added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/micro-enterprises-get-receivable-financing-easily-359239>

Central bank likely to approve Shakib's directorship at People's Bank on Thursday

- People's Bank failed to qualify for the final license even three years after issuing consent from Bangladesh Bank, reports UNB. At the meeting of the board of governors on Thursday, the central bank is expected to raise an application for further extension of People's Bank's LOI (letter of intent).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/central-bank-likely-to-approve-shakibs-directorship-at-peoples-bank-on-thursday-1642513089>

BGMEA for removing legal bar on back-to-back LCs for non-bonded exports

- The BGMEA has demanded speedy amendment to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) rules to approve raw material purchases under back-to-back LCs of readymade garment exporters who are not covered by bonds. Under the current provisions, institutions without bond licences cannot purchase raw material on credit through back-to-back LCs for export purposes.
- The revenue board in a letter on 31 August last year requested the Bangladesh Bank not to allow non-bonded apparel factories the facility as it contradicts the central bank's guidelines. On November 30, a committee formed by the commerce ministry made five recommendations, including an amendment to the VAT Act, to repeal the condition of having a bond licence for back-to-back LCs. However, the rules have not been amended so far. A letter has also been sent to Bangladesh Bank on behalf of BKMEA to take initiative to solve this.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bgmea-removing-legal-bar-back-back-lcs-non-bonded-exports-359236>

Garment, accessory makers form joint panel to boost apparel export

- The manufacturers of garment and its accessories formed a joint committee to expedite export of apparel items. The 11-member committee headed by BGMEA Vice President will act as a bridge between the manufacturers of garments and accessories and packaging to strengthen business relationship through collaboration. The committee will deal with trade related issues and settle disputes that arise among garments manufacturers and accessories-packaging suppliers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/news/exporters-enjoying-us-sales-bonanza-2942231>

Monthly import bill hits record USD 6.0b

- The single-month import payments hit an all-time high of USD 6.0 billion in December 2021 following higher purchase of textile items from the global market to build a satisfactory stock of the capital goods. Rise in import of capital machinery also pushed up the import payment obligations during the period under review, officials said. The settlement of letters of credit (LCs), generally known as actual import, in terms of value, rose by 8.32% to about USD 6.0 billion in December 2021 from USD 5.54 billion in the previous month, according to the central bank's latest statistics.
- It was USD 5.27 billion in October 2021. Imports of textile products under back-to-back LC settlement jumped more than 23 % to USD 758.33 million in December from USD 616.19 million in November, the BB data showed. Imports of textile products under back-to-back LC settlement came down to USD 616.19 million in November 2021 from USD 622.64 million a month before. Imports of capital machinery or industrial equipment used for production increased by more than 67 % to USD 606.21 million in December 2021 against USD 361.59 million a month ago. Actual imports for fuel-oils dropped significantly by over 37 % to USD 357.27 million in December 2021 from USD 568.52 million in the previous month.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/monthly-import-bill-hits-record-60b-1642440842>

High import duty hinders furniture export

- High import duties on raw materials are dampening price competitiveness of Bangladesh's furniture industry, a major drawback to tapping into international markets. Though manufacturers have been into exporting furniture for the past decade or so, the annual sales figure is yet to cross USD 100 million, a scenario warranting consideration since the government is already trying to diversify the export basket.

- Bangladesh earned USD 79.47 million from furniture exports in FY21 and USD 90 million in FY20, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). According to the EPB, Bangladesh's furniture exports have increased by about 267% in the last decade. The government provides a 15 % cash incentive on furniture export, but unless export duty reductions and bonded warehouse facilities came about, it can come to little effect in increasing shipments.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/news/high-import-duty-hinders-furniture-export-2941476>

TINs of firms surge, but return filing sluggish

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has seen a massive surge in registrations for Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TIN) by companies, mainly due to its increased monitoring and efforts to bring all registered firms under the tax net. The number of companies with TINs stood at 1.67 lakh by the end of the FY21, up 115% from 77,820 the previous year, showed NBR data. But only 29,785 companies furnished tax returns in FY21, up 18% from the year before.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/tins-firms-surge-return-filing-sluggish-2941406>

Banks moving towards digital nano lending

- Complementing an already diversified set of services and products, the country's banking industry is now moving towards product dynamism with nano-lending, which is loaning small amounts without the need for any collateral. The move is in sync with the government's aims to promote financial inclusion and provide loans to marginal people to accelerate financial inclusion and a speedy economic recovery.
- Recently, the City Bank introduced the Digital Nano Loan, targeting small borrowers like cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs), and even for personal use and also allow bKash users to receive instant loans ranging from BDT500 to BDT20,000 through the mobile app. The Dhaka Bank is going to offer eRin and Prime Bank has moved to set up a digital loan disbursement system for industry workers. Besides, the banking industry is also going to offer the Nano Deposit Pension Scheme (DPS) to customers, according to officials from the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-moving-towards-digital-nano-lending-358441>

Lending thru agent banking reaches BDT 588cr in Nov

- Lending of the banks through agent banking reached a record high in November 2021 amid a number of banks' move to explore the scope for low-cost lending in the remote areas. The latest Bangladesh Bank data showed that the banks' lending through the agent banking channel reached BDT 587.9 crore in November 2021. The lending was BDT 250.7 crore in

the same month of the previous year. The year-on-year lending grew by 134.5 % or BDT 337.2 crore in November 2021. Month-on-month growth was 55.61 % or BDT 210.1 crore in November based on the BDT 377.8 crore in lending in October of the year. On December 15, 2021 bKash and The City Bank launched nano lending for bKash customers at the rate of 9 % interest.

- Of the 29 banks which operate agent banking, BRAC Bank's lending was the highest, BDT 2,568 crore, till September 2021, followed by BDT 682 crore in lending of Bank Asia through agent banking, BDT 437 crore of The City Bank, BDT 142 crore of Al-Arafah Islami Bank and BDT 133 crore of Dutch-Bangla Bank. On the other hand, the banks have so far mobilised BDT 23,324.8 crore in deposit from the banking channel. Of the banks, Dutch-Bangla Bank collected highest BDT 3,303.03 crore in deposits through the channel, followed by BDT 3,062 crore of Al-Arafah Islami Bank and BDT 2,893 crore of Bank Asia.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/160262/lending-thru-agent-banking-reaches-tk-588cr-in-nov>

Savings certificate: Govt's net debt on the decrease

- According to Bangladesh Bank data, the government's net debt in savings certificates amounted to BDT3,628 crore in August of the current fiscal year. In a month's gap, the net debt decreased to BDT2,825 crore in September. The downtrend continued through the next two months, massively reducing the net debt to BDT701 crore in November. Meanwhile, despite the net debt falling continuously, the sale of savings certificates has not decreased in staggering numbers. A total of BDT8,941 crore worth of savings certificates were sold last November through banks, savings bureaus and post offices, an increase of BDT229 crore compared to the previous month.
- However, sales were much higher in September, a total of BDT2,404 crore more than the November sales. The government cut the interest rate on all savings certificates by around 1% for investments above BDT15 lakh in September. The government has set a target of selling BDT1,24,647 crore worth of savings certificates for the current financial year to meet the budget deficit of the fiscal year. Of this, the target for taking a net loan, after repaying due principal and interest, is BDT32,000 crore.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/savings-certificate-govts-net-debt-decrease-358807>

Ctg customs foil bid to launder BDT 1.6cr

- Chattogram Customs House has seized a consignment on charges of laundering BDT 1.6 crore by exporting 22 times more goods than the declaration. The consignment of RM Sourcing Bangladesh, a Dhaka-based buying house, was seized just before leaving from Chattogram port to Venezuela on Monday, customs officials said. According to the documents, the company has opened a letter of credit (LC) of USD 7,486 with IFIC Bank for

the purpose of exporting 6,086 pieces of T-shirt, short set and short pants to Royal Drone International Trading OPC of Venezuela.

- In the bank documents, the US dollar's exchange rate against the Bangladeshi taka has been shown at 96.7. Customs authority physically examined the consignment at the KDS inland container depot and found 137,116 pieces of T-shirts in the consignment, which is 22 times or 131,030 pieces more than the announcement. Customs authority suspected that the company has tried to launder USD 161,166 or BDT 1.6 crore in the name of exporting goods.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/ports-and-shipping/news/ctg-customs-foil-bid-launder-tk-16cr-2941471>

Strengthen capacity for global trade negotiations: ICAB

- Strengthening capacity is a must to participate more effectively in multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations, bankers, chartered accountants and industry leaders said at a webinar. They also emphasized the export payment in freely convertible currencies and revision of the current tariff policy.
- ICAB President Shahadat Hossain FCA said Bangladesh has been pursuing some Regional Trade Agreement (RTA) negotiations like BIMSTEC, APTA, and a few bilateral FTAs also. In these negotiations Bangladesh is always stressing creating better market access for goods, particularly duty-free and quota-free market access, preferential market access in services where Bangladesh has many potentials, elimination of non-tariff barriers (NTBs), etc.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/strengthen-capacity-global-trade-negotiations-icab-358420>

Rising REER cuts BD's trade competitiveness

- Real effective exchange rate (REER) of Bangladesh's currency against a basket of currencies of global trading partners soared to its highest peak in many years, weakening country's competitive edge. The REER as an index was recorded at 114.9 in September 2021 compared to 110.55 in June in the past year.
- A REER reading below 100 is supportive of countries like Bangladesh whose trade-and current- account deficits have widened to challenging levels in recent months. Such gaping deficits are causing a reduction in the country's foreign-exchange reserves. The forex reserves stood over USD44.9 billion during the second week of January.
- Dr Ahsan H. Mansur, executive director at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), told the FE that Bangladesh's rate of inflation remained higher than its peer countries, leading

to rise in the REER. He says the country's export receipt has been on the rise amid the high REER and "the export would have been much higher if the REER became supportive".

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/rising-reer-cuts-bds-trade-competitiveness-1642354905>

Central bank tightens single borrower exposure limit

- The Bangladesh Bank has reduced the limit of loan provided by any bank to a single person or organisation to 25% of its total regulatory capital – reduced from the previous 35%.
- From now on, no bank will be allowed to provide more than 15% funded and more than 10% non-funded loans to a person or an organisation, as per a circular of the central bank's Banking Regulation and Policy Department published on Sunday. However, in the case of the power sector, the banks will be allowed to provide funded and non-funded loans worth 50% of total capital.
- The central bank issued the circular with a view to strengthening credit risk management of banks by limiting concentrated exposures and thereby further improving the stability of the banking sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/central-bank-tightens-single-borrower-exposure-limit-358405>

BB simplifies procedure of export cash incentive for freelancers

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has simplified the procedure of cash incentive for freelancers, who are working with software and IT-related services on different international marketplaces for global clients, against their foreign currency earnings up to USD5,000.
- The Foreign Exchange Policy Department of the central bank on Sunday issued a circular in this regard, with which it lifted the existing requirement of having "telegraphic-transfer messages" from the clients (importers) mentioning the details of the trade, for the stimulus incentive.
- The government has been providing a 4% cash incentive to the freelancers against their earnings by exporting services since September last year (2021) to patronise the online workers and lure more youths into the sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-simplifies-procedure-export-cash-incentive-freelancers-358417>

Financial institutions asked to hold special meetings on irregularities

- The Bangladesh Bank has asked all non-bank financial institutions, also known as FIs, to

hold special meetings on a regular basis over reported irregularities, so that all board members of the respective institutions remain well-informed about the issues.

- The Financial Institutions Inspection Department of the central bank monitors the activities of these institutions and reports their irregularities regularly. In different cases, it found that board directors were not aware of the reported issues, and they did not take necessary steps accordingly. To minimise the irregularities by raising awareness, the central bank made such meetings mandatory, issuing a circular in this regard on Sunday.
- According to the circular, respective financial firms must arrange these special meetings within two months after the report release and inform the Bangladesh Bank 10 days prior to the meetings. A Bangladesh Bank team, comprised of officials from its Department of Financial Institutions and Markets and the Financial Institution Inspection Department would be present at the meetings.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/financial-institutions-asked-to-hold-special-meetings-irregularities-358396>

BGMEA now seeks devaluation of currency for 'competitive edge'

- With nearly a dozen more demands yet to be resolved, the RMG sector is now seeking devaluation of the currency for a competitive edge in export. In a letter to the commerce ministry on 13 January, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) shared the data and analysis of the recent exchange rate movement of some currencies in major apparel exporting countries.
- "Our unit price of garment is not increasing while considering the hike in production cost particularly due to the rise in prices of raw materials, freight, fuel and so on. On the other hand, competitor currencies have gained higher than us," he added.
- Finance ministry officials are not in favour of devaluing the currency to keep inflation in check. They say a devaluation of the currency would push up the price of imported goods and create a cost of push inflation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bgmea-now-seeks-devaluation-currency-competitive-edge-358426>

Ice cream market sees good growth

- Ice cream manufacturers are enjoying robust sales after launching awareness campaigns on how consuming the sweetened frozen food does not increase the risk of contracting a serious case of Covid-19. The market size for ice cream reached at least BDT 1,410 crore in 2021, up by about 93% year-on-year from BDT 730 crore. Considering the current rising trend, the industry's market value could reach as much as BDT 2,600 crore by 2025.

- The market is also growing since consumption increased in recent years in line with the peoples' growing spending capacity, urbanisation, and access to the power grid in rural areas.
- Seven companies, namely Igloo, Polar, Lovello, Kquality, Za n Zee, Bloop, and Savoy are available in the market, catering to a domestic demand of about six crore litres per year. Igloo is the market leader with a 38% share followed by Polar with 27%, Lovello with 14%, and Kquality 9%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ice-cream-market-sees-good-growth-2940736>

More leeway for private ICDs

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has formulated the country's first-ever comprehensive policy for private inland container depots (ICDs) in order to facilitate their operations and expand Bangladesh's foreign trade. Owners of the private ICDs hailed the move, calling the policy comprehensive as it will help the sector get rid of the inconsistencies created by existing guidelines.
- The Private Inland Container Depot (ICD) and Container Freight Station (CFS) Policy-2021, which was published by the NBR last week, has set clear guidelines on establishing private ICDs. The policy has eliminated inconsistencies in the existing rules, made setting up scanners optional for ICDs, and given them power to fix tariffs on their own – changes that will attract investment to the sector.
- More than 90% of the total export-oriented goods are stuffed onto containers at the ICDs before they are shipped through Chattogram port. Around 25% of import load containers are sent from the port to the ICDs from where goods are delivered to importers after carrying out customs procedures. Currently, 38 types of imported goods are delivered by the ICDs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/more-leeway-private-icds-2940046>

Country's first green economic zone awaits local, foreign investment

- With an easy location, enough manpower and world class facilities, Sirajganj Economic Zone, the largest and 100% green private economic zone in the country, is waiting for investments from local and foreign companies. Around 60% of the land development work of the 1,041-acre economic zone located beside the River Jamuna has already been completed. So far, 14 local companies have been allotted 110 acres of land.
- However, the Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (Beza), which is constructing the economic zone, is preferring investors from Saudi Arabia, Japan, China, the United States,

South Korea, Australia, India, Norway and other countries.

- The economic zone authorities say that green environmental standards would be maintained at all levels of the construction work including infrastructure, production, transportation, education, treatment and accommodation of the people concerned etc. The economic zone is giving special importance to the agro-based companies to include the agricultural products of the northern part of the country in the processing industry.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/countrys-first-green-economic-zone-awaits-local-foreign-investment-357616>

Bangladesh's apparel exports rise 28%

- Bangladesh exported readymade garments (RMG) worth USD 19.9 billion in the first half of the current fiscal, a 28 % growth year-on-year. As per the latest figures released by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the US was the largest export market for Bangladesh between July and December 2021.
- The volume of exports to the US grew 46% growth during this period compared to the same in the last financial year. The figures exhibited a robust external demand for this country's RMG items abroad, reports UNB. Exports to the European Union (EU) and Canada also witnessed a growth of 23.83% and 23.78%, respectively, according to the EPB figures.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladeshs-apparel-exports-rise-28pc-1642240318>

VAT benefit for mobile makers in economic zones, hi-tech parks

- Mobile phone manufacturing or assembly plants in hi-tech parks and economic zones will get VAT benefits, according to a recent notification from the National Board of Revenue (NBR). The companies have to obtain registration as manufacturers from the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority in order to avail the value-added tax benefits.
- The NBR offered VAT exemption to facilitate domestic manufacturing of mobile handsets in 2019. At the time, it said manufacturers would require to be registered with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to get the privilege. To get full VAT exemption, manufacturers have to attain the capacity of manufacturing printed circuit boards, chargers, batteries, housings and casings of mobile sets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/vat-benefit-mobile-makers-economic-zones-hi-tech-parks-2939971>

BTRC issues guidelines on granting VSAT licences

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has issued guidelines on granting licences to operate VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) for providing internet connectivity by using satellite, a very expensive technology used for the internet connectivity. As per the guidelines, the commission would issue only two types of licences - VSAT HUB operator licence and VSAT user licence - fixing separate fees and charges for the operators.
- The existing VSAT User or VSAT Provider or VSAT Provider with Hub operators will apply to the Commission for conversion for their respective existing VSAT licenses within one year from the date of issuance of the guidelines. The existing VSAT providers, VSAT providers with HUB and new applicants, excluding Cellular Mobile Phone Operators and BWA operators licensed from the Commission, are eligible to apply to the Commission to obtain VSAT HUB operator licence and VSAT user licence.
- For VSAT HUB operators, the licence fees would be BDT 650,000 for 10 years along with BDT 150,000 as annual licence fee. The licence renewal fees for five years at a time after the initial tenure of 10 years would be BDT 400,000. The VSAT operators would have to share 2% of their gross revenue with the government, according to the guidelines. Licence acquisition, annual licence and renewal fees for the VSAT user licences would be BDT 200,000 each without the mandatory provision of revenue sharing.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/btrc-issues-guidelines-on-granting-vsats-licences-1642267815>

As pandemic bites, old flat sales surge

- Government property registration offices logged BDT8,000 crore sales deals for old apartments and flats – a record in recent years – thanks to Covid-hit owners moving out and new people with deep pockets filling in. This is a hallmark case offering an insight to the surge of old apartment sales in major Bangladesh cities in 2021. Many sold their apartments thanks to the pandemic-led income crunch, while non-resident Bangladeshis snapped up the comparatively cheap homes.
- There are few more factors fueling this fire sale such as the dwindling number of flats ready to move in, rising prices of construction raw materials and a real estate market set to charge buyers double in upcoming months, making those looking for real estate investment to scramble for older flats instead of brand new ones.
- Naimul Hassan, director of the Real Estate & Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB), told TBS that the expatriates have bought most of the old flats in the last two years. Economist Ahsan H Mansur said Bangladesh received larger-than-expected remittances in

2020 and 2021. The country got more than USD22 billion remittances last year, which was more than 4.50% compared to the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/pandemic-bites-old-flat-sales-surge-357952>

10 Minute School raises USD2m seed funding

- Online educational platform 10 Minute School has raised USD2 million in seed funding from Surge, Sequoia Capital India's rapid scale-up programme, to increase investment in product and technology. The EdTech company is the first in Bangladesh to secure funding from Surge. Sequoia Capital India is a venture capital firm which backs early-stage startups focusing on technology, healthcare and other sectors.
- The past year marked a significant year of growth for 10 Minute School, with more than 9 million new learners joining the platform, 8 million learning hours delivered and over 17,000 new videos added to its learning ecosystem. The app (10ms.app) has recently surpassed 3 million users, making it the largest learning app in the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/10-minute-school-raises-2m-seed-funding-2940041>

Important News: Capital Market

Prime Bank to offer nano loans

- The global trend of loan availability at one's fingertips is gaining grounds in Bangladesh, this time with Prime Bank preparing to launch PrimeAgrim app, an AI-based instant digital nano loan platform. Customers whose salaries are of a specific range can avail up to 30 % of that as a loan within a few seconds through the app, which makes use of machine learning and alternative credit scoring. This service is available 24/7, the bank said in a statement. A pilot project has already been run since November 8, 2021 with garment maker Ananta through which over 1,000 loans have been disbursed among garment workers. Prime Bank plans to expand the services for workers of other sectors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/prime-bank-offer-nano-loans-2943106>

Trading of T-bonds likely to begin on DSE in February

- Trading of all listed government treasury bonds is likely to begin in February when the Dhaka Stock Exchange completes formation of new yield-based debt board. DSE chief operating officer told that the bourse expected that it could run trading activities of treasury bonds in February. The vendor is working to prepare a specialised debt board which would have some unique features necessary for debt securities, he said.

- On October 14, 2021, the DSE successfully experimented the first trading of treasury bonds after 16 years using its trading system. At present, there are 221 treasury bonds with tenure ranging from 5-20 years listed on the DSE. Stocks investors will not need to open the BP ID as they would be allowed to trade through their BO accounts. Investors can also trade treasury bonds through current Market Infrastructure (MI) Module of the central bank.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/160434/trading-of-t-bonds-likely-to-begin-on-dse-in-february>

Two life insurers' shares keep surging sans PSI

- Shares prices of two life insurers-- Fareast Islami Life Insurance and Prime Islami Life Insurance--are soaring abnormally despite no undisclosed price sensitive information (PSI). Within a month, the Fareast Islami Life Insurance share price jumped over 134% while share price of Prime Islami Life Insurance soared by 57% riding on speculation. The scam-hit Fareast Life Insurance is witnessing an unprecedented price hike and increase in volume of shares in recent weeks without any valid reason.
- An audit was commissioned by the stock market regulator after receiving allegations that the life insurer has failed to meet customers' claims and matured policyholders' payments. On the other hand, share price of Prime Islami Life Insurance also rose more than 57% or BDT 32 each in a month to close at BDT 89.20 on Tuesday. Even after being served show-cause notice, the company's share price has not stopped rising and soared 9.85 % further on Tuesday. Some influential investors by disseminating rumours are trying to manipulate the prices of shares of many companies, said a stockbroker.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/two-life-insurers-shares-keep-surging-sans-psi-1642566228>

BSEC panel auditor to look into Samin Food's financials for merger

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has instructed RN Spinning Mills, a concern of FAR Group, to have the financials of Samin Food and Beverage Industries and Textile Mills audited by someone from the BSEC panel of auditors. Besides, the company has also been asked to submit an audited report along with the draft scheme of its proposed merger with Samin Food.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-panel-auditor-look-samin-foods-financials-merger-359680>

Mozaffar Hossain Spinning to allow associate company to mortgage assets for loans

- Mozaffar Hossain Spinning wants to provide an associate company with an opportunity to mortgage its assets for availing loans and for this the spinning mill will add a new clause to the Memorandum of Association. The listed company will now require approval from its

shareholders, and will hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on 5 March. The company had earlier sought approval from the High Court in accordance with the Companies Act to add a new clause to the Memorandum of Association. Mozaffar Hossain Spinning Mills Limited is a concern of SIM Group. Under this group, there are five more companies that will be able to use the assets of the spinning mill as a mortgage for loans.

- Mozaffar Hossain Spinning disclosed its financial statement for the first half of fiscal 2021-2022 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website on Wednesday. According to the statement, its earnings per share (EPS) jumped 23 times to BDT0.73 in the October-December quarter. At the end of the first half, the EPS stood at BDT 0.97, which was BDT 0.39 negative a year ago.
- The company disclosed that the effect of production and sales from the new ring spinning unit and full capacity utilisation at rotor unit, as well as the current price hike of yarn, helped the company report such a jump. According to sources, the company's current annual production capacity is about 13,000 tonnes, which was 5,500 tonnes earlier.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mozaffar-hossain-spinning-allow-associate-company-mortgage-assets-loans-359665>

Prime Islami Life Insurance shares soar in eight days

- The share price of Prime Islami Life Insurance — a third-generation Islamic insurer – has climbed 43% in the last eight trading days. According to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), the shares rose to BDT89.2 each on Tuesday, from BDT62.4 each on 6 January. Following such a sharp rise in its share prices, the country's premier bourse sent a query to the company on 17 January.
- In reply, the company said that there is no undisclosed price sensitive information (PSI) for the recent unusual price hike. Also, in mid last year, its share price shot up sharply. Each share soared to BDT 93.1 on 13 June, the highest in that year. Later, the share price declined to BDT 57 each in December. Again, its share price increased amid financial upgrading.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/prime-islami-life-insurance-shares-soar-eight-days-359185>

SS Steel shares fly on quarterly earnings growth

- SS Steel Limited's share price soared 9.63% on Tuesday as investors turned to the stock following the disclosure of the quarterly earnings growth by the MS Rod manufacturer. At the end of the day's trading, their share rose to BDT20.50 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). According to the company's unaudited financial statement for the first quarter of fiscal 2021-2022, its revenue increased 12% to BDT 143.85 crore and net profit grew 9% to BDT22.36 crore from a year earlier. At the end of the July-September quarter, its consolidated earnings

per share stood at BDT0.73 and the revalued net asset value per share was at BDT 24.32.

- The company also signed an agreement with the City Bank to arrange financing of BDT 200 crore as a term loan and BDT 100 crore as working capital from a consortium of banks and non-banking financial institutions for acquiring the ceramic plant.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ss-steel-shares-fly-quarterly-earnings-growth-359191>

Anlima Yarn shares face correction after quarterly disclosure

- Anlima Yarn Dyeing Ltd faced the highest scrip-wise price correction on Tuesday at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) after disclosing its financials for the October to December quarter of the current 2021-22 fiscal year. Its stock price fell 6.1% to BDT 38.5 per share compared to the previous session. According to the company's disclosure on the DSE website on Tuesday, the net loss per share of the company stood at BDT 0.08 for the second quarter of the current fiscal. As per the company's unaudited financial statements, from October to December 2021, Anlima Yarn's net loss reduced 44% to BDT 15 lakh from BDT 27 lakh in the July to September quarter. Despite the decrease in losses, its share price faced massive correction.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/anlima-yarn-shares-face-correction-after-quarterly-disclosure-359206>

Yeakin Polymer out of production for 2 years but investors in the dark

- Yeakin Polymer has gone out of production for more than two years but the plastic bag manufacturer did not disclose it, keeping its shareholders in the dark about its latest status. The company allegedly stopped production three years after it was listed on the capital market in 2016 owing to a decrease in demand for plastic bags in the market and a shortage in its working capital.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) believes general shareholders have been misguided by the audit reports, an official at the commission told The Business Standard. The company did not even inform the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) about the production shutdown. Since June last year, institutional investors have been selling shares of the company regularly. Institutional investors held a 14.01% stake in the company in June and it dropped to 11.30% in December.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/yeakin-polymer-out-production-2-years-investors-dark-359197>

Fortune Shoes' share keeps rising sans PSI

- Fortune Shoes, a listed footwear manufacturer, is witnessing an unprecedented price hike and increase in volume of shares despite no undisclosed price sensitive information (PSI).

Within two weeks, the shoe maker's share price jumped over 40 % to close at BDT 129.30 on Monday at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Its share price also soared 570 % or BDT 110 each in the last one year since January 18, 2021, according to statistics from the DSE.

- Following the recent 'abnormal' price hike, the DSE served show-cause notice on the company on Monday. The company, however in a knee-jerk response, informed the DSE that there is no undisclosed price sensitive information of the company for recent unusual price hike and increase in volume of shares. The company has reported earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 1.29 for July-September 2021 as against BDT 0.43 for July-September 2020. The company disbursed 10 % cash and 5.0 % stock dividend for the year ended on June 30, 2021.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/fortune-shoes-share-keeps-rising-sans-psi-1642431127>

LankaBangla, City Brokerage to change online trading experience

- The problems in direct stock trading from smartphones are set to go as two of the leading stockbrokers have launched alternatives to the bourses' mobile trading apps and they have well addressed the problems. Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) nowadays is allowing interested brokers direct access to its core trading system, technically called the matching engine, from the brokers' order management system (OMS), bypassing that of the bourse.
- Both brokers' OMSs will get their modern back-office system integrated that would ensure buy-sell risk management. For example, clients can only execute their legitimate buy and sell orders and no orders beyond that would be accepted by the system. Like the rest of the world, investors can stop loss-orders which will sell their matured securities only if the market price breaks down below the price point pre-set to match their allowed limit of loss tolerance. The online services will be free of charge, both the brokers confirmed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/how-lankabangla-city-brokerage-change-online-trading-experience-358759>

Special auditors to look into financials of 4 firms

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to appoint special auditors for four listed companies – Alhaj Textile Mills, Bangladesh Welding Electrodes, Fu-Wang Foods, and Safko Spinning Mills – to probe into their financial statements. The securities regulator will send quotations in this regard to the panel of auditors this week.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/special-auditors-look-financials-4-firms-358771>

SC gives all-clear to operate Delta Life by administrator

- The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) on Sunday upheld till January 23 its chamber judge's order that stayed the proceedings of a High Court verdict declaring the appointment of an administrator to operate Delta Life Insurance Company illegal.
- There will be no bar on Md Quddus Khan, former secretary, to operate Delta Life Insurance as the administrator following the stay order granted by the apex court, said additional attorney general Sk Md Morshed.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/sc-gives-all-clear-to-operate-delta-life-by-administrator-1642354412>

NBR examines scope for tax rebate on sukuk income

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is examining the scope for giving tax rebate on the income of individuals who are investing in the shariah-based sukuk bond, said a senior official of the tax authority. It was recommended by the Finance Division, which cited that such a benefit was already in place for treasury bonds.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/nbr-examines-scope-tax-rebate-sukuk-income-2940716>

Each general investor gets 792 shares of Union Bank

- Each general investor will get a minimum 792 IPO shares of Union Bank Ltd, while non-resident Bangladeshi investors will get 537 shares against application of BDT 10,000 each. The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Sunday formally allocated the initial public offering (IPO) shares of the bank, under the newly introduced pro-rata basis, which allows every applicant to get shares, DSE said in a statement on Sunday.
- Union Bank, which received the regulatory approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on September 5 last year, raised BDT 4.28 billion by issuing 428 million ordinary shares at an offer price of BDT 10 each under the fixed price method.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/each-general-investor-gets-792-shares-of-union-bank-1642336474>

JMI Hospital Requisite's cut-off price set at BDT 25 each

- The cut-off price of shares of JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing has been fixed at BDT 25 each through electronic bidding by eligible investors. The eligible investors took part in the price discovery of the company's shares by bidding for 72 hours -January 9 to January 12 -- a requirement for going public under the book-building method.

- During the period, 385 eligible investors offered different prices. Among them, 379 bidders offered BDT 25 each to buy the company's shares, according to the data from the electronic subscription system (ESS).
- JMI Hospital Requisite received regulatory approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on November 16, 2021 for raising BDT 750 million by issuing IPO shares under the book-building method. The company will issue IPO shares to general investors at 20% discount on the cut-off price, meaning the general investor will get IPO shares at BDT 20 each, as per the BSEC approval. The company will utilise the IPO fund for the purpose of purchasing machinery, constructing building, land development, repaying bank loans and bearing IPO expenses.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/jmi-hospital-requisites-cut-off-price-set-at-tk-25-each-1642350323>

Special auditor to look into Sonali Paper assets

- The stock market regulator has decided to appoint a special auditor for Sonali Paper and Board Mills, a concern of Younus Group of Industries, to look into its assets that were revalued in 2016. BSEC Commissioner Dr Sheikh Shamsuddin Ahmed said a special auditor will try to review the fact of asset revaluation of the company. If any irregularity is found, the commission will take legal action against the company, he added.
- The company has focused on the capital market instead of the manufacturing business. Its principal activities are manufacturing and marketing of media, liner, simplex, duplex paperboard, and quality papers such as newsprint.
- From July to September 2021, its operating income increased by 23%, compared to the same period of the previous year. The company has invested BDT55.55 crore in the capital market, but its inventories are only BDT22.68 crore. A big portion of revenue has been generated through capital market investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/special-auditor-look-sonali-paper-assets-358366>

DSE eyes listing on LSE

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange has initiated a move to be listed on the London Stock Exchange, one of the oldest stock exchanges in the world, with the aim of improving the image of the Dhaka bourse on the global platform and elevating it to the international standards. The DSE may offload 5-10% of its shares on the LSE, DSE officials said.
- The bourse would offload the shares from the 40% of the shares credited to the DSE members' accounts after the demutualisation. As per rules, the 40% shares remain blocked,

and the listing of another 35% of the DSE shares kept reserved for the local listing would enable 250 DSE members to sell any share for the blocked amount, they said. The officials said that it would not be wise to offload more than that on the LSE as the offloading of more share could risk the ownership of the country's stock exchange as the bourse had already sold 25% of its shares to the foreign investors.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/160054/dse-eyes-listing-on-lse>

Ceramics sector sees highest price appreciation

- The ceramics sector saw the highest price appreciation during the last week's trading at Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Following the price appreciation, the sector witnessed 15.10% capital gain in five sessions of the last week. On the other hand, the Paper & Printing sector saw the second highest price appreciation and the sector saw 7.0% gain in the last week.
- According to market insiders, lower number of listed companies under Ceramics and Paper & Printing sectors attracted the investors to buy the shares of these two sectors. There are only 5 companies under Ceramics and 6 companies under Paper & Printing sectors. Of the companies of both the sectors, RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) and Bashundhara Paper Mills were in the chart of weekly top 10 gainers of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ceramics-sector-sees-highest-price-appreciation-1642259739>

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