

## Weekly Market Update

### Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-3.45%) lost -203.92 points and closed the week at 5,699.92 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-4.07%) lost -88.76 points and stood at 2,090.59 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-3.61%) lost -45.64 points and stood at 1,219.08 points. The large cap index CDSET (-2.45%) lost -28.48 points and closed at 1,134.06 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -8.75%, -0.16%, -10.63%, -5.72%, respectively.

**Total Turnover During the Week (DSE):** BDT 31.2 billion (USD 260 million)  
**Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV):** BDT 6.2 billion ( $\Delta$  Week: -51.3%)  
**Market P/E: 15.8x**

### Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note on Sunday (-2.12%) and continued the trend throughout the week on Monday (-0.05%), Tuesday (-1.04%), and Wednesday (-1.90%). But the market ended the week at a positive note on Thursday (+1.66%).

### Sectoral Performance

- All the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. General Insurance experienced the highest loss of -8.50% followed by Mutual Fund (-7.04%), Life Insurance (-7.03%), NBFI (-6.89%), and Bank (-0.02%).
- All the non-financial (large-cap) sectors registered negative performance this week. Telecommunication experienced the highest loss of 8.78% followed by Engineering (-5.01%), Pharmaceutical (-3.95%), Food & Allied (-3.13%), and Fuel & Power (-3.11%).

### Macroeconomic arena

Govt seeks USD 1 Bn budget support from WB. Crisis provides an opening for important reforms. NBR aims to improve tax-GDP ratio to address chronic budget deficits. Govt to prepare white paper on state of the economy. Interest payment for foreign loan jumped 162% in Jul-Mar of FY24. ICT Division asks UNDP to probe its appointments at a2i. BANK | BB appoints administrator at Nagad. RMG | BGMEA, BKMEA presidents likely to resign. TRADE | Ctg ICDs unable to shake off backlog, exporters fear order cancellation. BANK | Banks were forced to divert CSR funds to govt, AL programmes. ENERGY | Petrobangla owes Chevron USD 260 Mn in unpaid dues for gas purchase. More effective steps needed to widen tax net. China urged to cut interest, extend repayment period by 10 years. Chinese-funded projects will continue: Envoy. BANK | No special liquidity for ailing banks. ENERGY | Summit reviewing cross-border power deals after India rule change.

BANK | Cenbank allows banks to transfer 30% of capital to offshore units. Japan to continue supporting Bangladesh. Fund-sapping motivated megaprojects may be axed. BANK | S Alam group, Associates: BDT 950 Bn loans taken from 6 banks. RMG | BGMEA's opposition panel demands cancellation of existing board. BANK | BB verifying info of 5 foreign shareholders of Nagad Bank. Revenue chief slams black money whitening scheme. 3 factories in Bangabandhu Shilpa Nagar start exports. BANK | Govt to form banking commission soon. ENERGY | CPD calls for phasing out inefficient power plants. BANK | BDT 450 Bn stuck in shady loans. BANK | BB may hike policy rate again to curb inflation. BANK | How banks were forced to buy Beximco's Sukuk bond. BANK | Cash withdrawals from banks capped at BDT 0.3 Mn. BANK | BB officials demand full autonomy of the central bank. BANK | BDT 450 Bn stuck in shady loans. BANK | BB may hike policy rate again to curb inflation.

### Stock Market arena

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank finally freed from S Alam Group. DOREENPWR | Doreen Power to sell all non-current assets of its Tangail plant. EXCHANGE | BSEC forms panel to look into activities of stock exchanges. NBL | BB dissolves National Bank board for third time. EXCHANGE | BSEC freezes S Alam, allies' stakes in six banks. EXCHANGE | BSEC asks all independent director of DSE, CSE to resign. EXCHANGE | Legal reforms needed to allow bourses to sell brokers' assets. ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank sacks 8 top officials amidst internal unrest. EXCHANGE | DSE chair resigns for personal reasons. SBACBANK | Thermax Textile to exit SBAC Bank. EXCHANGE | Maqsood gets top job at BSEC. EXCHANGE | Brokers, issuers in limbo as securities regulator remains non-functional. GP, ROBI | GP, Robi get 20MHz of spectrum each to improve service.

Aug 22, 2024 (Week: Aug 18, 2024 – Aug 22, 2024)

Dhaka Stock Exchange

**DSEX ended in Red (-3.45%) in the week**

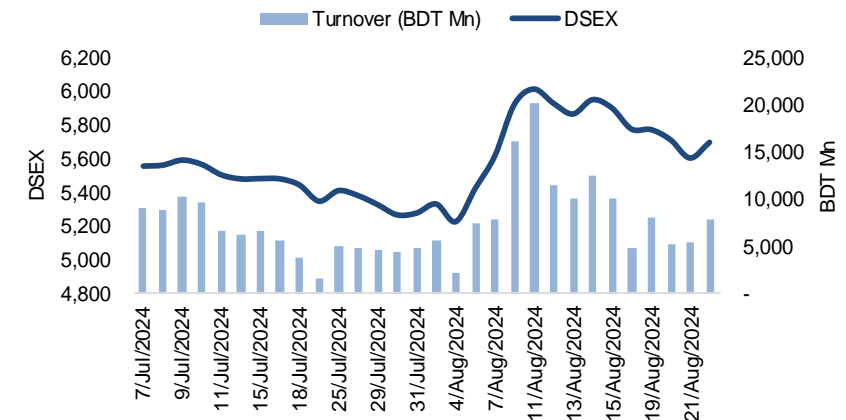
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	$\Delta$ (Pts)	28-Dec-2023	$\Delta$ % Week	$\Delta$ % YTD
DSEX	5,699.92	5,903.84	-203.92	6,246.50	-3.45%	-8.75%
DS30	2,090.59	2,179.35	-88.76	2,093.83	-4.07%	-0.16%
DSES	1,219.08	1,264.72	-45.64	1,364.13	-3.61%	-10.63%
CDSET	1,134.06	1,162.54	-28.48	1,202.82	-2.45%	-5.72%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
M cap	M n BDT	6,928,318	7,089,644	-2.3%
	M n USD	57,736	59,080	
Turnover	M n BDT	31,221	64,111	-51.3%
	M n USD	260	534	
Average Daily Turnover	M n BDT	6,244	12,822	-51.3%
	M n USD	52	107	
Volume	M n Shares	987	2,299	-57.1%

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
MIDLANDBNK	24.1	21.5	+12.1%	15,416	214.8	13.0x	1.7x
NBL	8.2	7.5	+9.3%	26,402	101.3	NM	2.1x
OLYMPIC	178.6	164.9	+8.3%	35,709	816.3	21.3x	3.4x
ISLAMIBANK	43.0	39.9	+7.8%	69,230	498.4	10.6x	0.9x
DULAMIACOT	70.7	66.7	+6.0%	534	0.7	NM	NM
STANDBANKL	7.9	7.5	+5.3%	8,815	82.5	5.6x	0.5x
AOL	23.1	22.0	+5.0%	2,536	167.5	14.8x	12x
RANFOUNDRY	164.6	157.8	+4.3%	1,646	12.5	NM	5.0x
KAY&QUE	242.3	233.9	+3.6%	1,661	56.8	94.7x	2.6x
QGBALLPEN	149.5	144.5	+3.5%	1,335	132.5	NM	1.3x

**Table 4: Top Ten Losers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
SEMLFBSLGF	5.3	6.2	-14.5%	387	2.9	NM	0.5x
ORIONINFU	365.2	424.9	-14.1%	7,435	1315	NM	24.5x
HEIDELBCEM	308.9	359.3	-14.0%	17,454	116.0	43.3x	4.3x
RUPALILIFE	131.9	153.4	-14.0%	3,959	15.2	NM	NM
KBPPWBIL	80.8	93.8	-13.9%	7,925	0.7	NM	6.8x
BXPBARMA	73.6	85.4	-13.8%	32,834	77.5	6.2x	0.7x
CRYSTALINS	63.9	74.1	-13.8%	2,812	3.0	22.2x	2.7x
PARAMOUNT	42.1	48.8	-13.7%	1,712	39.8	17.3x	1.5x
ORIONPHARM	48.8	56.5	-13.6%	11,419	267.6	11.1x	0.5x
SONALIPAPR	200.8	232.3	-13.6%	6,615	193.9	610x	1.2x

**Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
GP	346.2	377.0	-8.2%	467,474	2,799.8	13.2x	6.5x
BRACBANK	53.2	53.1	+0.2%	94,149	2,113.9	9.7x	1.3x
SQURPHARMA	230.3	234.9	-2.0%	204,150	1,383.5	10.1x	1.7x
UCB	14.0	13.7	+2.2%	21,705	1,021.2	8.4x	0.5x
BATBC	409.8	427.9	-4.2%	22,129.2	822.6	12.7x	4.2x
OLYMPIC	178.6	164.9	+8.3%	35,709	816.3	21.3x	3.4x
CITYBANK	24.0	24.1	-0.4%	32,330	704.2	4.9x	0.9x
JHRML	73.2	73.4	-0.3%	9,172	639.6	28.7x	2.2x
ROBI	30.1	33.6	-10.4%	157,662	606.0	33.8x	2.5x
ISLAMIBANK	43.0	39.9	+7.8%	69,230	498.4	10.6x	0.9x

**Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe**

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
BRACBANK	53.2	+63.5%	94,149	9.7x	1.3x
UNILEVERCL	3,019.5	+49.5%	58,199	65.6x	26.6x
ISLAMIBANK	43.0	+31.9%	69,230	10.6x	0.9x
HEIDELBCEM	308.9	+29.0%	17,454	43.3x	4.3x
CITYBANK	24.0	+23.4%	32,330	4.9x	0.9x
GP	346.2	+20.8%	467,474	13.2x	6.5x
UCB	14.0	+18.5%	21,705	8.4x	0.5x
OLYMPIC	178.6	+17.5%	35,709	21.3x	3.4x
JAMUNAOIL	189.1	+12.2%	20,881	5.2x	0.9x
SQURPHARMA	230.3	+9.5%	204,150	10.1x	1.7x

**Table 7: Sector Indices**

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1575.8	1576.1	1455.32	-0.02%	+8.28%
NBFI	1344.1	1443.6	1902.52	-6.89%	-29.35%
Mutual Fund	685.0	736.9	876.90	-7.04%	-21.88%
General Insurance	2,952.7	3,227.0	3,489.09	-8.50%	-15.37%
Life Insurance	2,167.7	2,276.7	2,637.78	-7.03%	-19.76%
Telecommunication	5,582.2	6,119.6	4,945.60	-8.78%	+12.87%
Pharmaceutical	3,190.3	3,321.4	3,732.58	-3.95%	-14.53%
Fuel & Power	1,275.6	1,316.5	1,691.80	-3.11%	-24.60%
Cement	2,421.0	2,580.5	2,523.22	-6.18%	-4.05%
Services & Real Estate	1,332.1	1,421.6	1,518.57	-6.30%	-12.28%
Engineering	3,036.0	3,196.1	4,520.40	-5.01%	-32.84%
Food & Allied	19,196.1	19,817.2	21,180.76	-3.13%	-9.37%
IT	2,466.5	2,607.4	2,894.80	-5.40%	-14.79%
Textile	1,249.1	1,341.5	1,658.23	-6.89%	-24.67%
Paper & Printing	5,743.4	6,356.2	10,093.63	-9.64%	-43.10%
Tannery	2,289.1	2,368.7	3,103.94	-3.36%	-26.25%
Jute	14,710.5	15,328.4	17,683.51	-4.03%	-16.81%
Ceramics	477.6	516.3	694.56	-7.50%	-31.24%
Miscellaneous	4,161.8	4,260.2	4,265.32	-2.31%	-2.43%

**Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix**

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	1,609.8	3,059.3	-47.38%	+26.91%	8.2x	0.8x
NBFI	183.9	545.5	-66.30%	+3.07%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	102.4	346.4	-70.45%	+1.71%	NM	0.6x
General Insurance	84.2	274.8	-69.36%	+1.41%	15.5x	1.3x
Life Insurance	109.6	428.1	-74.40%	+1.83%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	694.2	1,365.1	-49.15%	+11.60%	15.4x	4.3x
Pharmaceutical	1,056.5	1,899.7	-44.39%	+17.66%	16.2x	1.7x
Fuel & Power	174.4	349.0	-50.02%	+2.92%	22.0x	0.7x
Cement	79.8	258.1	-69.08%	+1.33%	19.5x	2.5x
Services & Real Estate	224.6	326.3	-31.16%	+3.75%	23.1x	0.5x
Engineering	281.8	664.8	-57.61%	+4.71%	14.8x	1.1x
Food & Allied	576.2	997.3	-42.22%	+9.63%	18.7x	6.0x
IT	133.8	347.4	-61.50%	+2.24%	26.8x	2.1x
Textile	412.5	1,145.9	-64.00%	+6.90%	NM	0.9x
Paper & Printing	56.2	121.7	-53.84%	+0.94%	37.0x	1.1x
Tannery	37.2	84.0	-55.74%	+0.62%	43.2x	2.4x
Jute	31.1	30.2	+2.84%	+0.52%	NM	NM
Ceramics	25.4	89.8	-71.70%	+0.42%	56.5x	1.3x
Miscellaneous	109.0	217.3	-49.84%	+1.82%	38.4x	1.7x

**Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe**

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
DOREENPWR	25.0	-59.0%	4,528	6.3x	0.5x
IPDC	24.3	-55.7%	9,468	27.0x	14x
BXPBARMA	73.6	-49.7%	32,834	6.2x	0.7x
SUMITPOWER	18.0	-47.1%	19,222	25.4x	0.4x
BBSCABLES	26.7	-46.5%	5,653	NM	0.8x
RUNNERAUTO	26.8	-44.6%	3,043	NM	0.5x
ACI	147.3	-43.4%	11,225	NM	1.5x
WALTONHIL	613.0	-41.5%	185,695	14.3x	1.7x
BSCPLC	128.5	-41.3%	21,190	110x	14x
UPGDCL	140.3	-40.0%	81,331	10.9x	2.4x

## Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

### Govt seeks USD 1 Bn budget support from WB

- Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the power, energy and mineral resources ministry, yesterday sought USD 1 Bn from the World Bank as budgetary support. "At present, the ministry owes USD 2.2 Bn to suppliers in import costs of power and energy," he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-seeks-1b-budget-support-wb-3683411>

### Crisis provides an opening for important reforms

- Bangladesh is facing several challenges, including restoring law and order and stabilising the economy in the near term. The country also needs to address structural constraints such as a lack of economic diversification, low productivity, high youth unemployment, a large informal sector, and weaknesses in governance and accountability.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/crisis-provides-opening-important-reforms-3683386>

### NBR aims to improve tax-GDP ratio to address chronic budget deficits

- The NBR is committed to implementing a tax policy that is favourable to taxpayers, businesses, and investments, to establish a robust tax culture in the country.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/nbr-aims-to-improve-tax-gdp-ratio-to-58967>

### Govt to prepare white paper on state of the economy

- The interim government has appointed Debapriya Bhattacharya, convenor of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs and a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, as the chief of a committee which would prepare the white paper.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-prepare-white-paper-state-the-economy-3683096>

### Interest payment for foreign loan jumped 162% in Jul-Mar of FY24

- According to the finance ministry's "Quarterly Debt Bulletin" released yesterday, BDT 116.02 Bn was paid as interest on foreign loans in the July-March period of FY24.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/interest-payment-foreign-loan-jumped-162-jul-mar-fy24-3683421>

### ICT Division asks UNDP to probe its appointments at a2i

- The ICT Division has urged the UNDP to conduct a thorough investigation into the allegations brought against certain consultants who were appointed for its Aspire to Innovate (a2i) programme by UNDP Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ict-division-asks-undp-probe-its-appointments-a2i-3683146>

### BANK | BB appoints administrator at Nagad

- The Bangladesh Bank yesterday appointed an administrator to Nagad after one too many allegations of irregularities in the mobile financial service provider's operations and dealings.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bb-appoints-administrator-nagad-3683176>

### RMG | BGMEA, BKMEA presidents likely to resign

- Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President SM Mannan Kochi and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) President Salim Osman have decided to step down from their positions, according to sources.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bgmea-bkmea-presidents-likely-resign-922446>

### TRADE | Ctg ICDs unable to shake off backlog, exporters fear order cancellation

- According to the Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (BICDA), the number of export containers at private depots typically ranges from 7,000 to 8,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units). However, since 6 August, this figure has remained at an elevated 14,000 to 15,000 TEUs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-icds-unable-shake-backlog-exporters-fear-order-cancellation-921576>

### BANK | Banks were forced to divert CSR funds to govt, AL programmes

- The country's banking sector has donated over BDT 30 Bn to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the last nine years, up to 2023, according to Bangladesh Bank data. During this period, banks spent BDT 70.99 Bn under CSR, 44% of which went to the PM's relief fund as donations, disregarding the CSR guideline that sets a maximum limit of 20% for this purpose.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-were-forced-divert-csr-funds-govt-al-programmes-920581>

**ENERGY | Petrobangla owes Chevron USD 260 Mn in unpaid dues for gas purchase**

- State-run Petrobangla owes Chevron Bangladesh about USD 260 Mn in unpaid dues for purchasing gas from its Bibiyana and other gas fields, official sources said, reports UNB.. The state-run company has now failed to make the payment for over five months apparently due to cash crunch.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/petrobangla-owes-chevron-260m-in-unpaid-dues-for-gas-purchase-1724259364>

**More effective steps needed to widen tax net**

- Of the roughly 10 Mn TIN holders eligible for taxation in various categories, only 3.4 Mn individuals and 34,000 corporates regularly file tax returns. A major reason for this disparity is the lack of close monitoring by the tax regulator, indicating that its steps so far are not enough to widen the tax net.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/more-effective-steps-needed-widen-tax-net-3682496>

**China urged to cut interest, extend repayment period by 10 years**

- Bangladesh has requested China to lower the interest rate on high-interest loans taken from the country, as well as to extend the repayment period by an additional 10 years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/china-urged-cut-interest-extend-repayment-period-10-years-921441>

**Chinese-funded projects will continue: Envoy**

- Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen assured that projects funded by China in Bangladesh will proceed as planned. Regarding concerns over Chinese loan interest rates, he said, "Objections raised by Bangladesh regarding the interest rates were discussed. There is an opportunity for further discussions on this matter."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/chinese-funded-projects-will-continue-envoy-921006>

**Economy seeing renewed optimism**

- Institutional reforms, aimed at improving governance and restoring business confidence, include the appointment of a new Supreme Court chief justice. The resignation of the Bangladesh Bank governor and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission chairman present further paths towards reform.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-seeing-renewed-optimism-3682516>

**BANK | No special liquidity for ailing banks**

- As of August 7, the remaining six lender's current account deficit with Bangladesh Bank stood at BDT 146.21 Bn. However, the combined shortfall is BDT 207.74 Bn if their cash reserve ratio deficit is considered, as per central bank data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-special-liquidity-ailing-banks-3682521>

**BANK | Need favourable legal framework to recover NPLs**

- A favourable legal framework for facilitating the recovery of non-performing loans (NPLs) should be formed in consultation with the attorney general and legal experts, according to Selim RF Hussain, chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/need-favourable-legal-framework-recover-npls-3682366>

**ENERGY | Summit reviewing cross-border power deals after India rule change**

- India amended its power export rules less than a week after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled Bangladesh early this month amid deadly protests, enabling Adani Power to connect its Godda coal-fired plant - the only generating station under contract to export all its output - to India's domestic grid.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/summit-reviewing-cross-border-power-deals-after-india-rule-change-1724171973>

**BANK | Cenbank allows banks to transfer 30% of capital to offshore units**

- According to the circular, "It has also been decided that Off-shore Banking Operations (OBOs) which already have excess borrowings (above 30% of regulatory capital) from Digital Banking Units (DBUs) shall adjust within 31 December 2024."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-allows-banks-transfer-30-capital-offshore-units-921416>

**BANK | BB increases foreign currency support for energy import**

- According to official sources, the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), which is responsible for petroleum fuel import, has dues of USD 220 Mn while Petrobangla has a pending bill of USD 280 Mn for paying to foreign companies including Chevron Bangladesh for gas purchase.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bb-increases-foreign-currency-support-for-energy-import-1724171986>

### Japan to continue supporting Bangladesh

- Japan has expressed happiness over Bangladesh reaching political stability recently and assured of continuing its support for the development of the country, said Finance and Commerce Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/japan-continue-supporting-bangladesh-3681661>

### Fund-sapping motivated megaprojects may be axed

- "There are irregularities in taking up projects as some are undertaken by the influence of the contractors and some are by dishonest persons," Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said while briefing journalists Monday at the Planning Commission in Dhaka.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fund-sapping-motivated-megaprojects-may-be-axed-1724091129>

### Dhaka EPZ continues to face disruptions amid protests of jobseekers

- Activities at the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) in Savar continued to face disruptions as protesters, who are campaigning for equal opportunities, hampered production at units inside the facility for a third consecutive day.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-epz-continues-face-disruptions-amid-protests-jobseekers-3681641>

### BANK | 6 banks with ties to S Alam barred from lending

- The banking regulator made the decision yesterday through a letter sent to the banks, namely Islami Bank Bangladesh, First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, and Bangladesh Commerce Bank. However, the lenders will be able to disburse agriculture loans, SME loans against deposits, and loans under incentive packages up to BDT 50 Mn, the BB letter added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/6-banks-ties-s-alam-barred-lending-3681671>

### BANK | S Alam group, Associates: BDT 950 Bn loans taken from 6 banks

- This amount is equivalent to 5.78% of the banking sector's total outstanding loans as of March. However, the total amount taken from these six banks is likely higher, according to Bangladesh Bank and bank officials with knowledge of the matter.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/s-alam-group-associates-tk-95000cr-loans-taken-6-banks-3681421>

### RMG | BGMEA's opposition panel demands cancellation of existing board

- In the last election, many fake factories, which have no trade licence and did not submit the tax file, were also allowed to give votes, the Forum said in the letter. Many individuals and factories, which are not involved in apparel export business, had also been provided with the voting rights, the Forum said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bgmeas-opposition-panel-demands-cancellation-1351>

### BANK | BB verifying info of 5 foreign shareholders of Nagad Bank

- Bangladesh Bank today asked the foreign ministry to verify several information of five foreign shareholders of Nagad Digital Bank PLC. The shareholders -- which hold a majority of the digital bank's shares -- are Blue Haven Ventures (USA), Osiris Capital Partners (USA), Zen FinTech (USA), Finclusion Ventures Pte Ltd (Singapore), and Trupay Technologies (USA).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-verifying-info-5-foreign-shareholders-nagad-1386>

### Revenue chief slams black money whitening scheme

- The revenue board chairman added abolishing the facility will require the approval of the Advisory Council, which cannot be confirmed right now. The current fiscal year's budget includes a black money whitening scheme with a 15% tax. He described such schemes as poor practices that have not yielded good returns for the public exchequer.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/revenue-chief-slams-black-money-04350>

### 3 factories in Bangabandhu Shilpa Nagar start exports

- Starting operations early this year, these manufacturing units exported products worth USD 0.3 Mn till June and created more than 1,500 employment opportunities directly, said ASM Anwar Parvez, executive director (public relations) of Bepza.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/3-factories-bangabandhu-shilpa-nagar-start-exports-3680816>

### BANK | Govt to form banking commission soon

- "A goal-specific, time-bound, transparent, unbiased, inclusive, and independent banking commission should be formed to bring transparency to the prevailing situation and identify the root causes of the manifest problems and suggest credible measures for improving the situation sustainably," said CPD.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-form-banking-commission-soon-3680836>

**ENERGY | CPD calls for phasing out inefficient power plants**

- "The government paid a total of around BDT 1050 Bn in the last 14 years as capacity payments to power plant owners up to August 2023," said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the CPD. He provided a list of 28 inefficient power plants -- which have a total capacity of 3,655 MW -- based on net electricity generation, generation cost and carbon dioxide emissions, which can be phased out after their contracts end by 2030.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/cpd-calls-phasing-out-inefficient-power-plants-3680831>

**INSURANCE | NRB Islamic Life Insurance A cautionary tale**

- The life insurer collected BDT 815.1 Mn in premiums from policyholders by the end of 2023, but its life fund showed only BDT 12 Mn, according to a report by the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) dated June 3.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nrb-islamic-life-insurance-cautionary-tale-3680841>

**TRADE | Businessmen demand resignation of CCCI management committee**

- A group of businessmen today (18 August) staged a demonstration in front of Chattogram Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCCI) office in city's Agrabad area demanding resignation of its current managing committee.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businessmen-demand-resignation-ccci-management-committee-919701>

**ADB reaffirms its commitment to Bangladesh**

- The multilateral lender said it will help in developing a comprehensive approach to climate change, including the promotion of renewable energy and green growth initiatives.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-reaffirms-its-commitment-bangladesh-3678081>

**Wage growth slows after 30 months**

- The industrial sector witnessed wage growth of 7.52%, up from 7.42%. However, the service sector saw a sharp decline in wage growth from 8.50% in June to 8.27%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/wage-growth-slows-after-30-months-3679881>

**Foreign investment inflow falls 8% in Jul-Mar FY24**

- According to data from the Bangladesh Bank, net FDI inflow in July-March of FY24 was USD 2.21 Bn, down from USD 2.41 Bn in the equivalent period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-investment-inflow-falls-8-jul-mar-fy24-917776>

**Uncertainty remains heightened in Bangladesh amid political transition: Fitch**

- Fitch downgraded Bangladesh's rating to 'B+/-Stable, from 'BB-/-Negative, in May 2024, which reflected sustained weakening of the country's external buffers, leaving the country more vulnerable to external shocks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/uncertainty-remains-heightened-bangladesh-amid06>

**40 companies fail to repatriate USD 588 Mn in export proceeds**

- Forty companies in Dhaka and Chattogram, including controversial Crescent, Bismillah and Beximco groups, have not repatriated export proceeds amounting to USD 588 Mn by engaging in irregularities and manipulation over at least 10 years, according to two central bank reports that listed the top such companies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/40-companies-fail-repatriate-588m-export-proceeds-917086>

**Expats keen to remit thru banking channel**

- In the first 10 days of this August, according to the central bank data, expatriates remitted USD 48.2 Mn home daily, while they sent USD 62 Mn on average daily in July. In August 2023, the daily outflow of remittance was USD 53.3 Mn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/expats-keen-to-remit-thru-banking-channel>

**BANK | Cash withdrawals from banks capped at BDT 0.3 Mn**

- "Due to security problems in transporting cash to bank branches, please do not allow withdrawals of more than BDT 0.3 Mn in cash during the upcoming week," the Bangladesh Bank informed banks through an SMS.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/cash-withdrawals-banks-capped-tk-3-9696>

**BANK | BB officials demand full autonomy of the central bank**

- The Bangladesh Bank Officers' Welfare Council has urged the interim government to amend the Bangladesh Bank Order 1972 to ensure complete autonomy of the central bank by establishing administrative, operational and financial independence.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-officials-demand-full-autonomy-the-central-bank-3678631>

**BANK | BDT 450 Bn stuck in shady loans**

- The combined contribution of the eight bank directors in question to the lenders' paid-up capital is BDT 24 Bn, or about 5% of the BDT 450 Bn loans they have taken from each other.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tk-45000cr-stuck-shady-loans-3679036>

**BANK | BB may hike policy rate again to curb inflation**

- "The policy rate may need to increase to a peak of 9% by the middle of FY25 to tame inflation to 7% by the end of the fiscal year and bring it close to 5.5% by the end of FY26," the IMF said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-may-hike-policy-rate-again-curb-inflation-3679886>

**BANK | How banks were forced to buy Beximco's Sukuk bond**

- Beximco used Bangladesh Bank to issue a circular allowing banks to invest in Sukuk bond from the capital market special fund which will be excluded from capital market exposure. Banks can invest 25% of their capital into stock, as per banking act.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-banks-were-forced-buy-beximcos-sukuk-bond-917981>

**RMG | 4 companies of Salman F Rahman's Beximco still owe USD 25 Mn reserve loans**

- According to central bank data, of the companies, Springful Apparels owes USD 12.26 Mn to the EDF, Pink Maker Garments owes USD 8.53 Mn, Autumn Loop Apparels owes USD 4.36 Mn, and Platinum Garments owes USD 0.28 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/4-cos-salman-f-rahmans-beximco-still-owe-25m-reserve-loans-917896>

## Important News: Stocks

### ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank finally freed from S Alam Group

- The existing board, whose chairman since June last year is S Alam group chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam's eldest son Ahsanul Alam, will be dissolved in a day or two and a new board will be formed with BB-appointed independent directors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/islami-bank-finally-freed-683186>

### DOREENPWR | Doreen Power to sell all non-current assets of its Tangail plant

- The company took the decision due to prolonged uncertainty regarding the extension of the power purchase agreement with the Bangladesh Power Development Board, Doreen said in a disclosure on the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/doreen-power-sell-all-non-current-assets-its-906>

### EXCHANGE | BSEC forms panel to look into activities of stock exchanges

- The stock market regulator formed the committee as investors' confidence in the stock exchanges was low and they believed that the stock exchange management bodies had not been playing their role properly.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsec-forms-panel-look-activities-stock-exchanges-3683406>

### NBL | BB dissolves National Bank board for third time

- In an order issued by BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur, the banking regulator said it has dissolved the bank's board for the sake of the depositors' money and public interest.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-dissolves-national-bank-board-third-time-3682076>

### EXCHANGE | BSEC freezes S Alam, allies' stakes in six banks

- The securities regulator earlier in the day was instructed by the central bank to freeze their shares at Islami Bank Bangladesh, First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Union Bank, and Bangladesh Commerce Bank so that they cannot buy, sell or transfer the shares without prior approval.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/s-alam-family-members-cant-sell-transfer-shares-6-banks-bsec-921281>

### EXCHANGE | BSEC asks all independent director of DSE, CSE to resign

- A source from the BSEC confirmed the matter to The Business Standard, stating that, "as soon as possible, all the independent directors including chairman of the CSE and all independent directors of the DSE were verbally instructed to resign."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-asks-all-independent-director-dse-cse-resign-921391>

### EXCHANGE | Legal reforms needed to allow bourses to sell brokers' assets

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has so far paid only BDT 250 Mn from the Investors' Protection Fund to the victims of fund embezzlement on a pro-rata basis. Moreover, BDT 172.38 Mn was collected from Tamha, Crest and Banco securities for refunds.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/legal-reforms-needed-to-allow-bourses-to-sell-brokers-assets-1724172130>

### ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank sacks 8 top officials amidst internal unrest

- According to the protesters, most of the sacked officials served the interests of S Alam Group and allegedly provided loans beyond the permissible limits of Islami Bank to the group and fictitious firms.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/islami-bank-sacks-8-top-officials-amidst-internal-unrest-3681191>

### BEXIMCO | How Beximco bondholders' fears turn into reality

- Beximco issued the country's largest and first-ever asset-backed securities in 2021 from Bangladesh's private sector to finance two solar power plants and for expansion of its textile division. No banks and institutional investors were keen on subscribing to the bonds.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/how-beximco-bondholders-fears-turn-090119>

### EXCHANGE | DSE chair resigns for personal reasons

- Chairman of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Hafiz Md Hasan Babu resigned on Monday from the board of the premier bourse, showing personal reasons.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dse-chair-resigns-for-personal-090143>

### SBACBANK | Thermax Textile to exit SBAC Bank

- As per the bank's disclosure, Thermax Textile will sell 34.8 Mn of its 35.1 Mn shares of the lender at the prevailing price in the block market through the DSE within the next 30 days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/thermax-textile-exit-sbac-bank-919831>



**MIDLANDBNK | Midland Bank's subsidiary receives asset manager licence from BSEC**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has granted a licence to Midland Bank Asset Management to act as an asset manager.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/midland-banks-subsidiary-receives-asset-manager-119816>

**ALARABANK | Al-Arafah Islami Bank elects Alhaji Salim Rahman as chairman**

- Rahman is currently holding the position of Managing Director at KDS Group, which consists of KDS Garments Industries Ltd., KDS Accessories Ltd., KDS Apparels Ltd., KDS Logistics Ltd., KDS IDR Ltd., KDS Textiles Ltd., KYCR Coil Industries Ltd., Steel Accessories Ltd., and KDS Poly Industries Ltd.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/al-arafah-islami-bank-elects-alhaji-2607>

**EXCHANGE | Maqsood gets top job at BSEC**

- The post has been vacant since former chairman Shibli Rubayat-UI Islam resigned on August 11 after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government. Maqsood has been working for the International Finance Corporation as an adviser for strategy and business development.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/maqsood-gets-top-job-bsec-3680826>

**EXCHANGE | Brokers, issuers in limbo as securities regulator remains non-functional**

- The securities regulator has been unable to function for nearly two weeks in the absence of three key members -- two commissioners and a chairman - keeping issuers and other stakeholders in limbo. Orders on issues that require approval of the commission will remain suspended until it gets at least three members. The commission comprises four commissioners led by its chairman.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/brokers-issuers-in-limbo-as-securities-regulator-remains-non-functional-1724002519>

**GP, ROBI | GP, Robi get 20MHz of spectrum each to improve service**

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) recently approved the operators' request in this regard, deciding they will pay BDT 11.6 Bn under a 15-year contract.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gp-robi-get-20mhz-spectrum-each-improve-service-3678626>

**ISLAMIBANK | How S Alam Group took advantage of Islami Bank to take out BDT 450 Bn loan**

- Silver Food Industries Limited, a struggling flour mill that Masud acquired for BDT 180 Mn in mid-2022. On 6 April 2023, Islami Bank's Anderkilla branch approved a loan of BDT 8.5 Bn for this mill, which has now ballooned to over BDT 10 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-s-alam-group-took-advantage-islami-bank-take-out-tk45000cr-loan-917091>

**NBL | Loans from Janata, NBL: S Alam, Nassa got BDT 25.44 Bn waiver in breach of rules**

- The ailing National Bank waived BDT 22.83 Bn as interest on the loans of eight companies of S Alam Group. As a result, S Alam Group ended up repaying the principal amount of BDT 49.28 Bn and no interest, according to central bank documents.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/loans-janata-nbl-s-alam-nassa-got-tk-2544cr-waiver-breach-rules-3678331>

**EXCHANGE | Capital market shows optimism as change in govt boosts investor confidence**

- Stock market analyst Professor Abu Ahmed emphasised the critical role of investor perception in driving market performance, noting that psychological factors have a significant impact on the market's movements, reports UNB. The depression among investors before August 5 was largely due to the declining economic indicators, Professor Ahmed said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/capital-market-shows-optimism-as-change-in-govt-boosts-investor-confidence-1723912225>

**EXCHANGE | Masrur declines to join BSEC**

- "I feel that at this critical juncture for the nation, I will be best able to serve in my current role as an economist to promote necessary policy analysis and dialogue," he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/masrur-declines-join-bsec-3679876>

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