

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-1.14%) lost -60.43 points and closed the week at 5,251.96 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-1.72%) lost -32.86 points and stood at 1,874.84 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-1.37%) lost -15.84 points and stood at 1,143.70 points. The large cap index CDSET (-0.22%) lost -2.23 points and closed at 1,008.71 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -15.92%, -10.46%, -16.16%, -16.14%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 19.5 billion (USD 166 million)
Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 3.9 billion (Δ % Week: -24.6%)
Market P/E: 13.6x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note (-1.16%) on Sunday and turned positive on Monday (1.14%) then again ended negative on Tuesday (-0.60%) and Wednesday (-0.95%) before turning around again and ending with a positive note on Thursday (+0.45%).

Sectoral Performance

• Most of the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. NBF1 experienced the highest loss of -4.10% followed by General Insurance (-3.39%), Life Insurance (-2.66%), Bank (-0.87%), and Mutual Fund (+0.39%).

• Most of the non-financial (large-cap) sectors registered negative performance this week. Engineering experienced the highest loss of 2.83% followed by Pharmaceutical (-1.70%), Food & Allied (-0.34%), Telecommunication (-0.32%), and Fuel & Power (+0.22%).

Macroeconomic arena

• IMF's USD 1.15 Bn 3rd tranche likely in late June. Subsidy spending set to go up BDT 100 Bn for power, food. FDI slips but stays above USD 3 Bn. Democratic Budget Movement pushes for BDT 0.6 Mn tax-free income limit. NBR mulls ending tax breaks for physical infrastructures. Treasury bond yields climb to 15-year high. Allocation for interest payments to rise 38%. BANK | Loans, deposits rise in Islamic banks despite severe liquidity crisis. BANK | Keeping money in banks may get costlier. Government's fiscal strategy: Balancing risks and growth. Govt to take up two projects for Rohingyas. Economy to keep facing challenges, though exports imports improved in Jan-Mar: MCCI. BANK | Nagad Digital Bank all set to get licence. Plan to restructure source tax rates to aid manufacturers, traders. April's revenue growth hits 19%, riding on high import prices. Bangladesh's R&D expenditure among lowest globally, reveals BBS survey. Interest payments on foreign debt exceed budget allocation in 10 months. Fitch lowers Bangladesh rating as external buffers weaken.

• TRADE | Pran-RFL gets nod to use land of shuttered govt textile mills. Reduced import duty planned for steel raw materials, dialysis items. FBCCI for Customs Act reforms, 100% automation to facilitate business. Bangladesh govt to fund pensions of 25 institutions. Payment for foreign loans surges 44% in Jul-Apr. TRADE | Regaining GSP not going to happen quickly: US Embassy labour attaché. RMG | Garment export to EU slightly up in July-April. TRADE | Bangladesh hardly utilising Asian regional trade potential. MISCELLANEOUS | ShopUp accumulates losses of BDT 12.77 Bn. Forex position to stabilise in next few months: Moody's. 5% special incentive for govt employees to continue. 0.4 Mn more to get social safety, no rise in monthly amount in FY25. Bangladesh projects manageable external debt despite rising obligations. Budget For FY25: 53% rise in allocation for debt servicing

Stock Market arena

• IFIC | BB bypasses own rules in appointing IFIC Bank adviser. SSSTEEL | Can S.S. Steel justify its historically low dividends?. UCB | UCB to invest BDT 500 Mn as sponsor of new mutual fund. LINDEBD | Linde Bangladesh to sell welding business to ESAB Group. ACFL | Aman Cotton's loss narrows as yarn sales rise STANCERAM | Standard Ceramic's Q1 loss rises by 60%. BDTHAI | BD Thai seeks more time to utilize IPO fund as dollar dearth impedes imports. NATLIFEINS | National Life Insurance recommends cash dividend despite profit fall. ICB, SEAPEARL | ICB gets court order to give Sea Pearl 10 years to clear dues. EXCHANGE | Zero-coupon bonds come to the rescue of cos in keeping borrowing costs low. EXCHANGE | Listed firms may face 2.5% additional corporate tax in FY25

May 30, 2024 (Week: May 26, 2024 – May 30, 2024)

Dhaka Stock Exchange

DSEX ended in Red (-1.14%) in the week

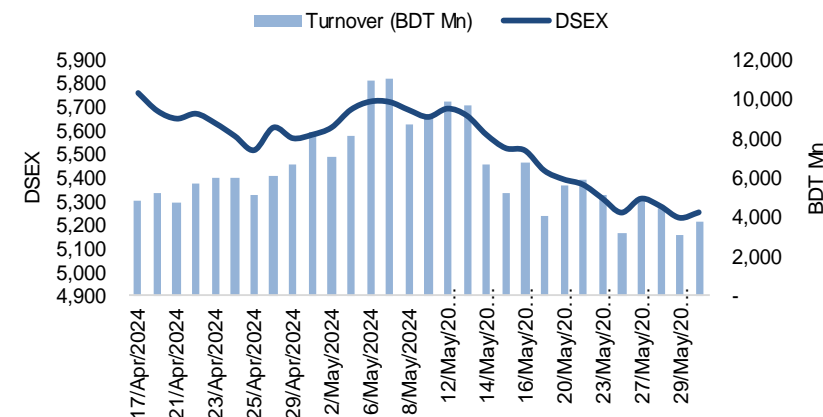
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ (Pts)	28-Dec-2023	Δ % Week	Δ % YTD
DSEX	5,251.96	5,312.40	-60.43	6,246.50	-1.14%	-15.92%
DS30	1,874.84	1,907.70	-32.86	2,093.83	-1.72%	-10.46%
DSES	1,143.70	1,159.54	-15.84	1,364.13	-1.37%	-16.16%
CDSET	1,008.71	1,010.94	-2.23	1,202.82	-0.22%	-16.14%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	M n BDT	6,489,221	6,530,667	-0.6%
	M n USD	55,089	55,441	-0.6%
Turnover	M n BDT	19,507	20,700	-5.8%
	M n USD	166	176	-5.8%
Average Daily Turnover	M n BDT	3,901	5,175	-24.6%
	M n USD	33	44	-24.6%
Volume	M n Shares	679	557	+22.0%

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
BIFC	12.0	8.2	+46.3%	1,208	42.4	NM	NM
GHCL	31.4	23.2	+35.3%	2,261	24.8	NM	0.7x
KPPL	23.4	18.7	+25.1%	1,709	93.5	NM	NM
HAMI	154.4	131.2	+17.7%	1,189	31.5	NM	74.3x
CAPMBDBLMF	8.2	7.0	+17.1%	411	12.7	NM	10x
FIRSTFIN	4.3	3.7	+16.2%	510	1.8	NM	NM
SONARGAON	28.3	24.9	+13.7%	749	36.4	NM	15x
IFIC	9.5	8.8	+13.4%	18,260	425.0	6.6x	0.5x
RUPALILIFE	155.4	139.2	+11.6%	4,664	354.0	NM	NM
MATINSPINN	47.8	43.0	+11.2%	4,660	16.4	24.5x	0.8x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
EGEN	39.6	45.8	-13.5%	2,970	354.2	26.9x	17x
ASIATICLAB	54.8	63.1	-13.2%	6,707	396.7	NM	11x
KBPPWBIL	163.4	187.7	-12.9%	16,026	1.2	NM	13.8x
SALVOCHEM	48.3	54.9	-12.0%	3,141	86.1	23.7x	2.9x
PIONEERINS	48.6	60.4	-11.5%	4,753	9.4	10.3x	11x
PREMIERBAN	10.2	11.5	-11.3%	12,581	24.3	3.0x	0.4x
NATLIFEINS	100.1	112.6	-11.1%	10,863	25.1	NM	NM
SHEPHERD	13.9	15.6	-10.9%	2,141	8.6	NM	10x
SONALIANSH	269.3	301.8	-10.8%	2,921	98.8	31.4x	4.0x
HRTEX	41.3	46.2	-10.6%	1,207	21.1	NM	12x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ORIONPHARM	73.0	76.0	-3.9%	17,082	686.7	16.6x	0.8x
AIL	135.6	128.7	+5.4%	6,001	540.2	54.9x	5.7x
LOVELLO	86.9	83.5	+4.1%	7,387	511.4	63.0x	6.6x
RELIANCE1	20.3	20.1	+1.0%	1,228	467.1	NM	19x
UNILEVERCL	2,056.5	2,206.2	-6.8%	39,638	437.8	45.9x	15.4x
ORIONINFU	572.1	567.6	+0.8%	11,648	436.8	NM	38.3x
IFIC	9.5	8.8	+13.4%	18,260	425.0	6.6x	0.5x
ASIATICLAB	54.8	63.1	-13.2%	6,707	396.7	NM	11x
BEACHHATCH	74.7	74.8	-0.1%	3,093	380.2	38.7x	6.0x
EGEN	39.6	45.8	-13.5%	2,970	354.2	26.9x	17x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
POWERGRID	43.2	+5.7%	39,476	NM	0.2x
BRACBANK	33.7	+3.5%	59,639	6.7x	0.9x
UNILEVERCL	2,056.5	+1.8%	39,638	45.9x	15.4x
JAMUNAOIL	170.1	+0.9%	18,783	4.6x	0.8x
BSRMLTD	90.0	-	26,873	4.6x	0.6x
ISLAMIBANK	32.6	-	52,486	8.3x	0.7x
KPCL	26.6	-	10,571	80.6x	1.5x
MPETROLEUM	198.6	-	21,492	4.6x	0.9x
NM	NM	-	NM	NM	NM
NM	NM	-	NM	NM	NM

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,304.7	1,316.1	1,455.32	-0.87%	-10.35%
NBFI	1,091.9	1,138.6	1,902.52	-4.10%	-42.61%
Mutual Fund	695.7	693.0	876.90	+0.39%	-20.66%
General Insurance	2,942.1	3,045.3	3,489.09	-3.39%	-15.68%
Life Insurance	2,000.2	2,055.0	2,637.78	-2.66%	-24.17%
Telecommunication	3,763.0	3,775.0	4,945.60	-0.32%	-23.91%
Pharmaceutical	3,024.2	3,076.6	3,732.58	-1.70%	-18.98%
Fuel & Power	1,197.1	1,194.5	1,691.80	+0.22%	-29.24%
Cement	2,152.6	2,154.2	2,523.22	-0.07%	-14.69%
Services & Real Estate	1,567.2	1,576.9	1,518.57	-0.61%	+3.21%
Engineering	2,723.7	2,802.9	4,520.40	-2.83%	-39.75%
Food & Allied	15,460.6	15,513.8	21,180.76	-0.34%	-27.01%
IT	2,447.8	2,568.3	2,894.80	-4.69%	-15.44%
Textile	1,238.1	1,252.9	1,658.23	-1.18%	-25.34%
Paper & Printing	6,781.7	7,034.5	10,093.63	-3.59%	-32.81%
Tannery	2,302.1	2,375.9	3,103.94	-3.11%	-25.83%
Jute	15,727.4	17,531.8	17,683.51	-10.29%	-11.06%
Ceramics	505.0	505.2	694.56	-0.04%	-27.29%
Miscellaneous	4,209.4	4,280.3	4,265.32	-1.66%	-1.31%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	293.9	271.9	+8.09%	+8.51%	7.2x	0.6x
NBFI	50.1	43.4	+15.46%	+1.45%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	260.7	261.7	-0.38%	+7.55%	NM	0.6x
General Insurance	101.1	162.1	-37.65%	+2.93%	15.5x	13x
Life Insurance	165.6	216.5	-23.54%	+4.80%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	47.2	48.6	-2.96%	+1.37%	9.8x	2.7x
Pharmaceutical	667.2	1,080.5	-38.25%	+19.33%	15.6x	17x
Fuel & Power	124.1	73.1	+69.85%	+3.60%	20.6x	0.7x
Cement	25.9	50.9	-49.02%	+0.75%	14.9x	2.1x
Services & Real Estate	157.4	232.9	-32.42%	+4.56%	27.1x	0.6x
Engineering	263.5	296.6	-11.16%	+7.63%	13.2x	10x
Food & Allied	436.3	529.2	-17.56%	+12.64%	15.1x	4.8x
IT	183.5	240.2	-23.61%	+5.32%	26.6x	2.1x
Textile	437.4	501.9	-12.85%	+12.67%	94.0x	0.9x
Paper & Printing	55.0	55.1	-0.08%	+1.59%	48.0x	1.5x
Tannery	50.0	46.0	+8.55%	+1.45%	36.3x	2.4x
Jute	19.9	40.4	-50.67%	+0.58%	NM	NM
Ceramics	54.2	83.1	-34.76%	+1.57%	43.8x	14x
Miscellaneous	59.1	97.3	-39.24%	+1.71%	38.7x	18x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
IPDC	19.7	-64.1%	7,676	22.2x	11x
DOREENPWR	26.6	-56.4%	4,818	6.7x	0.5x
BSCPLC	103.7	-52.6%	17,101	8.8x	11x
WALTONHIL	514.3	-50.9%	155,796	12.0x	14x
ACI	128.2	-50.7%	9,770	NM	13x
RUNNERAUTO	24.3	-49.8%	2,759	NM	0.4x
TITASGAS	20.8	-49.1%	20,576	NM	0.3x
BBSCABLES	25.4	-49.1%	5,377	NM	0.8x
RENATA	634.2	-47.9%	72,741	31.7x	2.2x
UPGDCL	126.6	-45.8%	73,389	9.8x	2.2x

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

IMF's USD 1.15 Bn 3rd tranche likely in late June

- Bangladesh may receive USD 1.15 Bn in the third instalment of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) loan in the last week of June, which will give a much-needed relief to the country's dwindling foreign exchange reserves.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imfs-115b-3rd-tranche-likely-late-june-3622261>

Subsidy spending set to go up BDT 100 Bn for power, food

- The government plans to increase subsidy and incentive allocation by nearly BDT 100 Bn for the next fiscal year, primarily for the power and agriculture sectors

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/subsidy-spending-set-go-tk10000cr-power-agri-863691>

FDI slips but stays above USD 3 Bn

- Central bank data showed yesterday that Bangladesh received USD 3.004 Bn in FDI last year, a decrease of 14% from USD 3.5 Bn in 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/fdi-slips-stays-above-3b-3621756>

Democratic Budget Movement pushes for BDT 0.6 Mn tax-free income limit

- The Democratic Budget Movement and Oxfam, Bangladesh have called for increasing the tax-free income threshold for individuals to BDT 0.6 Mn in the next fiscal year's budget.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/democratic-budget-movement-pushes-tk6-lakh-tax-free-income-limit>

NBR mulls ending tax breaks for physical infrastructures

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is considering the withdrawal of income tax exemptions and holiday benefits for investors of some physical infrastructures from the upcoming fiscal year as part of its efforts to reduce tax expenditure.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbr-mulls-ending-tax-breaks-physical-infrastructures-862941>

Treasury bond yields climb to 15-year high

- The interest rate of treasury bonds recently jumped to a 15-year high of 12.75%, indicating that government borrowing will become costlier in the months ahead.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/treasury-bond-yields-climb-15-year-high-3622351>

Allocation for interest payments to rise 38%

- The allocation for interest payments of domestic and foreign loans will likely increase by 38% to BDT 1290 Bn in the upcoming budget due to a significant hike in the cost of borrowing from both sources.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/allocation-interest-payments-rise-38-3621771>

TRADE | Mongla port set to be connected by rail on June 1

- Mongla, the country's second largest sea port, is going to be linked to the railway network on June 1 with the launch of a commuter train on Khulna-Benapole-Mongla route.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/mongla-port-set-be-connected-rail-june-1-3622496>

BANK | Loans, deposits rise in Islamic banks despite severe liquidity crisis

- Outstanding loans and deposits both increased in full-fledged 10 local Islamic banks in February this year although six of them have been facing severe liquidity crisis for more than a year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/loans-deposits-rise-islamic-banks-despite-severe-liquidity-crisis-3622211>

BANK | Keeping money in banks may get costlier

- Keeping money in the country's banking system is set to become more expensive as the revenue authorities plan to further increase excise duty on bank balances in the upcoming budget after three fiscal years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/keeping-money-banks-may-get-costlier-863696>

Government's fiscal strategy: Balancing risks and growth

- To mitigate fiscal risks, the Bangladesh government has adopted several strategies, including risk transfer and reduction, the creation of fiscal buffers, and diversification through various measures.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/governments-fiscal-strategy-balancing-risks-and-growth-862241>

Govt to take up two projects for Rohingyas

- After more than seven years of discussion, the government is set to finally undertake two projects involving BDT 84.83 Bn for the Rohingya and host communities. About 91% of the funds would be from the World Bank in loans and grants.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-take-two-projects-rohingyas-3621376>

Economy to keep facing challenges, though exports imports improved in Jan-Mar: MCCI

- The chamber in its Review of Economic Situation in Bangladesh for the January-March quarter of 2024 identified some major challenges for the economy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/economy-keep-facing-challenges-though-exports-imports-improved>

BANK | Nagad Digital Bank all set to get licence

- Nagad is all set to get licence for its 'Nagad Digital Bank', as it has successfully met the criteria after getting the letter of intent (LoI) from the central bank in October last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nagad-digital-bank-all-set-get-licence-3621216>

Plan to restructure source tax rates to aid manufacturers, traders

- According to finance ministry officials with knowledge of the matter, the rate will be reduced to 3% from the current 4% for supplying raw materials, and to 4% from the existing 5% for supplying trading goods.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/plan-restructure-source-tax-rates-aid-manufacturers-traders-861976>

April's revenue growth hits 19%, riding on high import prices

- Despite the country's economic slowdown, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has recorded a year-on-year revenue growth of approximately 19% for April, marking the third highest growth rate in the past ten months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/aprils-revenue-growth-hits-19-riding-high-import-prices-861176>

Bangladesh's R&D expenditure among lowest globally, reveals BBS survey

- GERD was 0.35% and 0.31% of GDP in the preceding two fiscal years, respectively. These figures place Bangladesh among the lowest in the world in terms of research and development (R&D) investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-rd-expenditure-among-lowest-globally-reveals-bbs>

Interest payments on foreign debt exceed budget allocation in 10 months

- According to provisional data from the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the government spent nearly USD 1.15 Bn (equivalent to BDT 126.26 Bn) on interest payments from July to April of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/interest-payments-foreign-debt-exceed-budget-allocation-10-months-861161>

Tax benefit on physical infrastructure unlikely to continue

- The government may not extend the tax holiday for investors of physical infrastructure in the upcoming fiscal year as the revenue administration seeks to trim the list of tax-exempt items to attain higher collection targets, officials said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tax-benefit-physical-infrastructure-unlikely-continue-3620366>

Fitch lowers Bangladesh rating as external buffers weaken

- Fitch Ratings yesterday downgraded Bangladesh's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating to "B+" from "BB-" owing to the lingering weakening of the country's external buffers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fitch-lowers-bangladesh-rating-external-buffers>

TRADE | Direct banking, currency alternatives can boost trade with Russia: FBCCI

- Bangladesh's shipments to Russia stood at USD 0.4 Bn, and imports from the country were USD 0.5 Bn in the fiscal 2022-23.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fbcci-eager-boost-trade-between-bangladesh-russia-861751>

ENGINEERING | Bogura emerging as a hub for used automobiles

- A major hub for the sale and repair of motor vehicles has gradually emerged in Bogura over the past two years, drawing an estimated investment of BDT 10 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bogura-emerging-hub-used-automobiles-3620376>

TRADE | Pran-RFL gets nod to use land of shuttered govt textile mills

- Pran-RFL Group is going to build factories to manufacture products related to textiles on the land of two shuttered mills of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation under a public-private partnership.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pran-rfl-gets-nod-use-land-shuttered-govt-textile-mills>

Reduced import duty planned for steel raw materials, dialysis items

- The government plans to reduce duties on the import of raw materials for the steel, beverage, healthcare, and personal care industries, as well as equipment for healthcare services in the upcoming budget.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/reduced-import-duty-planned-steel-raw-materials-dialysis-items-861126>

FBCCI for Customs Act reforms, 100% automation to facilitate business

- FBCCI has urged the National Board of Revenue (NBR) for amendments to the Customs Act and the implementation of full automation to ease the customs management system.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/fbcci-customs-act-reforms-100-automation-facilitate-business-861056>

Bangladesh govt to fund pensions of 25 institutions

- The government has decided to allocate BDT 12 Bn in the upcoming budget for pensions of employees at 25 state-owned and autonomous institutions

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/bangladesh-govt-fund-pensions-25-institutions-860536>

Payment for foreign loans surges 44% in Jul-Apr

- Bangladesh's foreign debt servicing surged by 44% to around USD 3 Bn mark for the first time because of the interest payments, which are spiraling thanks to rising borrowing from high-interest sources and increasing utilization of foreign loans.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/payment-foreign-loans-surges-44-jul-apr-3619356>

TRADE | Regaining GSP not going to happen quickly: US Embassy labour attaché

- Labour Attaché of the US Embassy in Dhaka Leena Khan today said the process of regaining the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) facility from the USA, which was withdrawn in 2013, will not happen quickly for Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/regaining-gsp-not-going-happen-quickly-us-embassy-labour-attache->

RMG | Garment export to EU slightly up in July-April

- Garment exports to the European Union (EU) in the July-April period of the current fiscal year grew by 3.66% from that in the corresponding period of last fiscal year to reach USD 19.90 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/garment-export-eu-slightly-july-april-3619436>

TRADE | Bangladesh hardly utilising Asian regional trade potential

- Bangladesh is hardly utilising the Asian regional trade potential as below 5% of the country's total exports go to India and China—two major economies of Asia—and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a study found.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-hardly-utilising-asian-regional-trade-potential-3619296>

MISCELLANEOUS | ShopUp accumulates losses of BDT 12.77 Bn

- ShopUp Pte Ltd reported a 55% growth in its consolidated revenue that surged to USD 129 Mn in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/shopup-accumulates-losses-tk1277-crore-860406>

Forex position to stabilise in next few months: Moody's

- US ratings agency Moody's has projected that Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves position will stabilise over the next few months despite repeatedly failing to fulfil the IMF's target and the drastic fall in international currency holdings over the past two years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-position-stabilise-next-few-months-moodys>

5% special incentive for govt employees to continue

- Similar to the last fiscal year, government employees, pensioners, and MPO teachers will receive a special incentive of 5% on their basic salary in FY25, starting in July, in addition to their regular 5% yearly increment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/5-special-incentive-govt-employees-continue-859721>

0.4 Mn more to get social safety, no rise in monthly amount in FY25

- Nearly 11.4 Mn elderly people, widowed or abandoned women and people with disabilities currently receive government allowances ranging from BDT 550 to BDT 850 per month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/4-lakh-more-get-social-safety-no-rise-monthly-amount-fy25-859051>

Bangladesh projects manageable external debt despite rising obligations

- The finance ministry expects external debt repayment to remain within tolerable limits over the next two fiscal years, thanks to the government's efforts to diversify funding sources and boost foreign exchange reserves.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-projects-manageable-external-debt-despite-rising>

Beza seeks bidding process reform amid delay in Indian economic zone project

- The Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) has requested the Indian authorities to let Bangladeshi contractors participate in the tender process for land development for setting up an Indian economic zone in Chattogram's Mirsharai that has remained stalled for years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/beza-seeks-bidding-process-reform-amid-delay-indian-economic>

Budget For FY25: 53% rise in allocation for debt servicing

- The government's allocation to repay foreign debts may reach BDT 570 Bn in the next budget, a 53% rise from the current year, putting further pressure on the country's dwindling foreign currency reserves.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/budget-fy25-53pc-rise-allocation-debt-servicing-3618611>

REAL ESTATE | In a dull time, real estate in Bangladesh is thriving

- Data from the Directorate of Registration confirms the growing demand for flats in the country. Up until March of the current fiscal year, flats worth BDT 240 Bn were sold.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/dull-time-real-estate-bangladesh-thriving-859556>

TELECOM | Mobile operators allowed to pay spectrum fee in BDT

- The telecom regulator has decided to allow mobile phone operators to pay spectrum acquisition fees in the local currency, a relief for them as the USD has become costlier to a large extent.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mobile-operators-allowed-pay-spectrum-fee-taka-3618556>

ENERGY | Businesses want 1% duty on solar panel import

- Businesses yesterday demanded that the government lower the duty on the import of solar panels meant for use in industrial plants to 1% in order to facilitate the implementation of a national roadmap on renewable energy production.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-want-1pc-duty-solar-panel-import-3617706>

Important News: Capital Market

IFIC | BB bypasses own rules in appointing IFIC Bank adviser

- The Bangladesh Bank has bypassed its own rules by approving the appointment of Mohammad Shah Alam Sarwar as the strategic adviser of IFIC Bank PLC.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-bypasses-own-rules-appointing-ific-bank-adviser>

SSSTEEL | Can S.S. Steel justify its historically low dividends?

- S.S. Steel has been paying insignificant amounts of dividends to its shareholders, compared to its listed peers in the industry, but the earnings that it supposedly kept with itself have not been translated into business growth.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/can-ss-steel-justify-its-historically-low-dividendsv>

UCB | UCB to invest BDT 500 Mn as sponsor of new mutual fund

- United Commercial Bank has decided to be the sponsor of an upcoming closed-end mutual fund to be managed by Capitec Asset Management. As the sponsor of a growth fund to be listed publicly, the private sector lender will invest BDT 500 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ucb-invest-tk50cr-sponsor-new-mutual-fund-862721>

LINDEBD | Linde Bangladesh to sell welding business to ESAB Group

- Linde Bangladesh Limited is going to sell its major revenue-generating segment, the welding electrodes business, to the American-Swedish industrial company ESAB Group.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/linde-bangladesh-sell-welding-business-esab-group-862326>

ACFL | Aman Cotton's loss narrows as yarn sales rise

- Aman Cotton Fibrous Ltd reported a 91% year-on-year decline in losses in January-March 2024. As a result, the loss per share declined to BDT 0.06 from BDT 0.69.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/aman-cottons-loss-narrows-yarn-sales-rise-3620126>

STANCERAM | Standard Ceramic's Q1 loss rises by 60%

- Standard Ceramic Industries Ltd's loss increased by 60% year-on-year in January-March of 2024 as higher production costs and the taka's rapid depreciation weighed on its bottom line.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/standard-ceramics-q1-loss-rises-60-3620121>

BDTHAI | BD Thai seeks more time to utilize IPO fund as dollar dearth impedes imports

- It had been given 24 months' time that ended in January this year to fully use BDT 150 Mn raised under the fixed price method for business expansion.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bd-thai-seeks-more-time-to-utilize-ipo-fund-as-dollar-dearth-impedes-imports-1716832652>

PHARMAID | Pharma Aids to buy BDT 113.8 Mn land for expansion

- Glass ampoule manufacturer Pharma Aids is going to purchase 103 decimals of land at a cost of BDT 113.8 Mn with the aim of expanding its business and modernising its manufacturing unit.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pharma-aids-buy-tk-1138cr-land-expansion-3619466>

NATLIFEINS | National Life Insurance recommends cash dividend despite profit fall

- National Life Insurance Company's board has recommended a 38% cash dividend for 2023 even though its profit declined. The insurer reported a profit of BDT 459 Mn last year, down 26% from BDT 627.3 Mn in 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/national-life-insurance-recommends-cash-dividend-despite-profit-fall-3619051>

ICB, SEAPEARL | ICB gets court order to give Sea Pearl 10 years to clear dues

- The High Court has asked the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) to give Sea Pearl Beach Resort & Spa an additional 10 years' time to pay off dues that piled up to BDT 4.38 Bn until April.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/icb-gets-court-order-to-give-sea-pearl-10-years-to-clear-dues-1716744369>

EXCHANGE | Zero-coupon bonds come to the rescue of cos in keeping borrowing costs low

- In the five months to March this year, at least eight companies received regulatory approval to collect more than BDT 42 Bn through zero-coupon bonds that would not require immediate interest payment.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/zero-coupon-bonds-come-to-the-rescue-of-cos>

DOMINAGE | Dominage Steel seeks more time for IPO fund utilisation

- Dominage Steel Building Systems seeks a nine-month extension to fully utilise its IPO (initial public offering) funds, aiming to complete the process by December of this year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dominage-steel-seeks-more-time-for-ipo-fund-utilisation-1716567743?date=25-05-2024>

SALVOCHEM | Salvo Chemical's retail investors to suffer if sponsors, directors get cheap shares

- Salvo Chemical Industry will treat its general shareholders unfairly, analysts say, if it issues ordinary shares to sponsors at less than 20% of the current market price.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/salvo-chemicals-retail-investors-to-suffer-if-sponsors-directors-get-cheap-shares-1716486449?date=24-05-2024>

EXCHANGE | Listed firms may face 2.5% additional corporate tax in FY25

- Companies listed on the capital market are expected to face an additional 2.5% corporate tax in the next fiscal year unless they adopt cashless transactions - as the government plans to promote a cashless society.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/listed-firms-may-face-25-additional-corporate-tax-fy25-859031>

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