

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+0.07%) gained 4.96 points and closed the week at 6,757.84 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.29%) gained 7.26 points and stood at 2,474.01 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.78%) gained 11.30 points and stood at 1,468.11 points. The large cap index CDSET (-0.09%) lost 1.18 points and closed at 1,338.26 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +0.02%, -2.31%, +2.58%, -1.54%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 46.8 billion (USD 545 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 9.4 billion (Δ Week: +20.0%)

Market P/E: 16.6x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

Market performed five sessions during this week. Market started on a negative note (-0.17%) on Sunday. However, the market became positive (+0.25%) on Monday and remained positive (+0.11%) on Tuesday. Again, it got negative (-0.17%) on Wednesday but at the end, it ended positively (+0.06%) on Thursday.

Sectoral Performance

- Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. General Insurance booked the highest gain of 5.22% followed by Mutual Fund (+0.65%). Bank experienced the highest loss of 1.14% followed by NBF1 (-0.85%), Life Insurance (-0.55%).

- Non-financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Fuel & Power booked the highest gain of 1.26% followed by Telecommunication (+0.43%), and Engineering (+0.36%). Food & Allied experienced the highest loss of 1.29% followed by Pharmaceutical (-0.54%).

Macroeconomic arena

- Automation gaining ground in garment. Govt to buy LNG at lower price. Japan confirms USD158m loan. India mulls exporting sugar to BD under G2G arrangement. Recast ahead as distortions hit VAT system. Tax receipts fall BDT 361.8 Bn short of target in July-Feb. Excess liquidity risks fuelling inflation. Export subsidies, incentives to continue under different names post-LDC. New export policy sets sights high. BDT 20 billion fund for shipbuilding industry soon. Fresh recovery scheme for CMSMEs launched. Forex crisis now threatens macroeconomic stability. Local millers want more cotton from US. Banks must provide large loans info with new exposure limits. WB approves USD 358m to help BD improve road safety. BB relaxes rule of presenting audited financial statement for CMS entrepreneurs.

- BB decides to set ceiling on NBF1 lending rate. Pent-up demand drives up industrial credit growth to 19%. Govt drafts law to introduce pensions for all. Moody's affirms Bangladesh's rating at Ba3 with a stable outlook. Pvt sector credit growth falls slightly in Feb. ONGC finds well dry, ditches gas drilling. Dhaka to get subway network by 2030. Bitopi Group to invest USD9.58m in RMG plant. BTRC issues new licensing regulation. BEZA to ink 'Term Sheet' on April 1 to establish Indian EZ. Realtors rue road, other materials' price rises. Colombo Port crisis knocks on BD shipping industry. Poor show by key ministries blights ADP spending. Bangladesh meets UN target.

Stock Market arena

- Insurance regulator puts pressure on 30 firms to comply with 60% shareholding. Listed cos asked to provide info about directors' loans. BDT 100b spl fund coming to boost bourses. IPDC registers BDT 880 Mn net profit. JMI Hospital posts 6% profit growth in H1. BSEC seeks IDRA's steps. JMI Hospital Requisite makes debut tomorrow. No registration for QIs to take part in SME platform trading.

- LafargeHolcim resumes aggregate business. Prime Bank profits soar 78% in 2021. C&A Textiles gears up to resume manufacturing after four years. Padma Bank's SLR exemption extended till 2025. Two cos' prices keep rising sans PSI. Mir Akhter Hossain to form subsidiary co. MNCs on a roll. Subscription to Star Adhesive shares begins tomorrow. Perpetual bonds won't need provisioning. United Finance posts 5% profit growth. Securities regulator to look into RSRM's financials.

March 27, 2022 (Week: Mar 27, 2022 – Mar 31, 2022)

Dhaka Stock Exchange

DSEX ended green (+0.07%) in the week

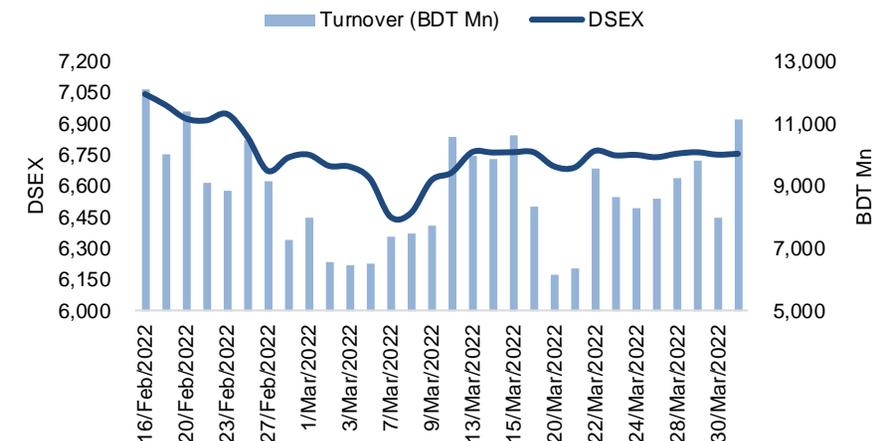
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ (Pts)	30-Dec-2020	Δ % Week	Δ % YTD
DSEX	6,757.84	6,752.87	+4.96	6,756.66	+0.07%	+0.02%
DS30	2,474.01	2,466.74	+7.26	2,532.58	+0.29%	-2.31%
DSES	1,468.11	1,456.81	+11.30	1,431.12	+0.78%	+2.58%
CDSET	1,338.26	1,339.44	-1.18	1,359.13	-0.09%	-1.54%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	5,394,155	5,382,633	
	Mn USD	62,723	62,589	+0.2%
Turnover	Mn BDT	46,833	39,012	+20.0%
	Mn USD	545	454	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	9,367	7,802	+20.0%
	Mn USD	109	91	
Volume	Mn Shares	968	966	+0.2%

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
BNICL	103.1	87.4	+18.0%	4,562	638.8	35.7x	4.7x
IPDC	41.3	35.1	+17.7%	15,326	495.3	17.4x	2.4x
JANATAINS	44.4	38.3	+15.9%	1,971	47.0	32.2x	2.9x
CONTININS	42.9	37.9	+13.2%	1,785	97.2	27.7x	2.1x
FORTUNE	142.8	126.6	+12.8%	23,210	3,815.8	48.9x	9.4x
AGRANINS	53.3	47.3	+12.7%	1,693	50.8	22.0x	2.9x
LOVELLO	41.7	37.1	+12.4%	3,545	255.5	25.5x	3.5x
PF1STMF	12.1	10.8	+12.0%	726	115.0	NM	2.1x
BDLAMPS	352.3	315.1	+11.8%	3,301	757.7	48.2x	3.6x
PAPERPROC	291.9	263.7	+10.7%	3,050	295.8	NM	10.0x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
DUTCHBANGL	67.7	76.9	-12.0%	42,820	68.7	7.7x	1.2x
ATLASBANG	115.5	125.2	-7.7%	3,826	18.5	NM	0.9x
GBBPOWER	31.9	34.4	-7.3%	3,248	192.0	24.1x	1.6x
RUPALILIFE	74.7	80.1	-6.7%	2,242	196.6	NM	NM
KPCL	32.8	35.0	-6.3%	13,035	127.4	NM	1.5x
SHASHADNIM	25.8	27.4	-5.8%	3,639	21.5	17.4x	0.6x
BPML	55.5	58.9	-5.8%	9,645	121.6	20.7x	1.2x
ENVOYTEX	42.8	45.4	-5.7%	7,179	54.2	27.3x	1.1x
MEGHNALIFE	74.5	79.0	-5.7%	2,872	33.4	NM	NM
AAMRANET	45.1	47.8	-5.6%	2,662	222.7	25.6x	1.2x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
FORTUNE	142.8	126.6	+12.8%	23,210	3,815.8	48.9x	9.4x
BEXIMCO	153.1	157.6	-2.9%	134,164	2,677.7	10.7x	1.8x
SONALIPAPR	876.4	813.9	+7.7%	19,249	2,264.5	77.6x	3.5x
GENEXIL	124.1	125.0	-0.7%	14,091	2,145.8	32.5x	6.2x
ORIONPHARM	103.3	106.6	-3.1%	24,172	1,106.9	25.8x	1.3x
LHBL	75.0	72.1	+4.0%	87,103	1,038.6	22.5x	4.4x
BDCOM	41.0	40.9	+0.2%	2,341	938.9	29.4x	2.7x
PREMIERBAN	16.6	17.3	-4.0%	17,315	930.6	5.3x	0.8x
FUWANGFOOD	24.4	22.2	+9.9%	2,704	789.7	NM	2.1x
BDLAMPS	352.3	315.1	+11.8%	3,301	757.7	48.2x	3.6x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ADNTEL	65.1	+24.2%	4,209	25.0x	2.5x
SQUARETEXT	63.6	+21.8%	12,545	8.7x	1.5x
UNIQUEHRL	59.0	+17.5%	17,370	NM	0.7x
TITASGAS	40.5	+11.6%	40,063	11.7x	0.6x
CROWNCEMNT	68.5	+10.1%	10,172	15.2x	1.3x
IBNSINA	298.1	+9.9%	9,314	16.6x	4.0x
KPCL	32.8	+9.7%	13,035	NM	1.5x
GHAIL	18.1	+9.7%	3,907	NM	1.3x
IPDC	41.3	+7.0%	15,326	17.4x	2.4x
POWERGRID	63.5	+6.5%	45,258	13.0x	0.5x

*BDT
 **BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,547.7	1,565.6	1,589.69	-1.14%	-2.64%
NBFI	2,031.0	2,048.4	2,327.63	-0.85%	-12.74%
Mutual Fund	904.6	898.8	882.99	+0.65%	+2.45%
General Insurance	4,090.1	3,887.2	4,698.62	+5.22%	-12.95%
Life Insurance	2,633.4	2,647.9	2,687.55	-0.55%	-2.02%
Telecommunication	5,556.5	5,532.7	5,800.37	+0.43%	-4.20%
Pharmaceutical	3,888.9	3,910.2	3,866.63	-0.54%	+0.58%
Fuel & Power	1,846.6	1,823.6	1,792.97	+1.26%	+2.99%
Cement	2,674.6	2,547.9	2,534.76	+4.97%	+5.52%
Services & Real Estate	1,467.0	1,465.3	1,309.43	+0.12%	+12.03%
Engineering	4,741.3	4,724.3	4,727.46	+0.36%	+0.29%
Food & Allied	23,615.1	23,924.0	25,222.81	-1.29%	-6.37%
IT	3,250.6	3,326.3	3,274.61	-2.28%	-0.73%
Textile	1,630.6	1,640.6	1,470.60	-0.61%	+10.88%
Paper & Printing	10,111.0	9,651.3	9,680.03	+4.76%	+4.45%
Tannery	4,004.2	3,711.8	3,236.76	+7.88%	+23.71%
Jute	9,129.3	8,904.9	8,747.84	+2.52%	+4.36%
Ceramics	683.0	678.4	675.88	+0.68%	+1.05%
Miscellaneous	4,628.8	4,737.2	4,625.39	-2.29%	+0.07%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	600.5	667.2	-10.01%	+6.89%	8.1x	0.8x
NBFI	318.0	198.0	+60.63%	+3.65%	NM	3.6x
Mutual Fund	105.8	69.1	+53.10%	+1.21%	NM	0.8x
General Insurance	553.6	260.8	+112.27%	+6.35%	19.2x	2.1x
Life Insurance	250.1	295.8	-15.44%	+2.87%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	55.2	70.8	-21.99%	+0.63%	17.2x	5.2x
Pharmaceutical	859.2	908.6	-5.44%	+9.85%	18.2x	2.7x
Fuel & Power	319.1	337.2	-5.37%	+3.66%	11.8x	1.2x
Cement	231.1	82.6	+179.96%	+2.65%	19.8x	2.7x
Services & Real Estate	172.9	173.0	-0.11%	+1.98%	NM	1.1x
Engineering	878.0	607.7	+44.48%	+10.07%	18.8x	2.0x
Food & Allied	547.7	435.0	+25.90%	+6.28%	26.1x	9.0x
IT	856.6	610.5	+40.32%	+9.82%	32.9x	2.9x
Textile	789.4	965.5	-18.23%	+9.05%	29.9x	1.1x
Paper & Printing	587.8	268.9	+118.61%	+6.74%	NM	2.5x
Tannery	817.8	291.7	+180.40%	+9.38%	NM	4.2x
Jute	16.1	10.6	+52.17%	+0.19%	NM	24.9x
Ceramics	68.2	49.6	+37.32%	+0.78%	30.1x	1.9x
Miscellaneous	694.2	1,152.2	-39.75%	+7.96%	14.4x	2.2x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
DBH	65.6	-14.9%	11,629	11.1x	1.6x
OLYMPIC	137.2	-14.6%	27,432	16.3x	3.1x
IDLC	52.1	-13.6%	20,627	9.8x	1.2x
LANKABAFIN	32.3	-13.4%	17,404	12.4x	1.7x
DUTCHBANGL	67.7	-13.3%	42,820	7.7x	1.2x
ENVOYTEX	42.8	-12.5%	7,179	27.3x	1.1x
ACTIVEFINE	22.6	-11.7%	5,423	NM	1.0x
PIONEERINS	104.0	-11.0%	8,006	13.6x	2.1x
BRACBANK	49.7	-10.1%	69,191	12.6x	1.2x
BXPBARMA	176.2	-8.6%	78,605	12.9x	2.0x

Important News: Business & Economy

Govt drafts law to introduce pension for all

- The government has drafted a law to introduce universal pension scheme for people aged between 18 years to 50 years. The finance ministry sought opinions from the stakeholders by April 12. For each citizen, a separate pension account will be created. As a result, the account will remain unchanged even if a beneficiary changes his or her job.
- Each citizen would pay a minimum amount of monthly fee, the expatriates will be able to pay the fee quarterly. The instalment for pension will be considered as investment and tax rebate while the monthly pension will remain out of income tax. The government may pay a portion of the monthly instalment for the lower income group people and bear the necessary expenditures of the pension authority and the other relevant organizations.
- The pension authority will invest the amount deposited to the fund as per guideline (in ensuring maximum financial return). The 15-member governing board which has proposed different rules and regulations for the scheme under the supervision of the finance ministry include people from the government and private sectors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-drafts-law-introduce-pension-all-2993991>

Moody's affirms Bangladesh's rating at Ba3 with a stable outlook

- Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has affirmed Bangladesh's long-term issuer and senior unsecured ratings at Ba3 and maintained a stable outlook. The short-term issuer ratings stand at Not Prime.
- Moody's gave the affirmation considering that the growth rebound following the pandemic will continue to anchor macroeconomic and external stability. However, weak revenue generation capacity continues to reduce debt affordability and limits Bangladesh's fiscal flexibility.
- Moody's expects real GDP growth to reach 6% in fiscal 2022 and 6.5% in fiscal 2023, driven by exports and domestic demand. The debt burden remains moderate, and Moody's expects it to remain below 40% of GDP over the next few years, anchored by strong growth.
- Moreover, continued access to concessional funding (30% of general government debt and more than 70% of government external debt), even after pandemic-related support expires, is key to mitigating debt financing costs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/moodys-affirms-bangladeshs-rating-ba3-stable-outlook-393682>

Pvt sector credit growth falls slightly in Feb

- Private sector credit growth fell by 0.35 percentage points in Feb'22 compared to the previous month after a rally for the first eight months of the current fiscal year mostly powered by burgeoning import and export. However, the growth is still 10.72% higher compared to the corresponding month of the last year. Private sector loans amounted to around 11.53 trillion in Feb'21, which increased to around 12.77 trillion in Dec'22.
- Sector people said the surged imports, especially a rise in capital machinery import, has led to an increase in private sector loans. In the first seven months of the current 2021-22 fiscal year, the rate of LC opening increased by 49%, while LC settlement increased by 52.50% – pushing up the demand for US dollars. Meanwhile, export earnings soared about 31%, while remittance in the July-January period dropped by 19.46%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/pvt-sector-credit-growth-falls-slightly-feb-394234>

Banks must provide large loans info with new exposure limits

- Bangladesh Bank has asked all banks to submit information on their large loans from this April as per the new exposure limits fixed at the beginning of the year. Information for each month must be submitted to the central bank by the 10th of the following month, according to a circular issued on Wednesday.
- For both funded and non-funded loans, at present, a bank can lend up to a maximum of 35% of its total capital to a single customer. This limit has been changed to 25%.
- On the other hand, for the large loans, six slaps have been fixed according to the ratio of the classified loan. The first slap is, if a bank has a classified loan ratio of 3%, the large loan can be given 50% of its total loan and advances. Earlier, it was 5% and 56%, respectively. The last slap is if a bank has a classified loan ratio over 20%, the large loan can be given 30% of its total loan.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banks-must-provide-large-loans-info-new-exposure-limits-394230>

Automation gaining ground in garment

- Automation has been substantially coming about in garment factories, with modern machinery being used to make high-end garments and increase productivity in attempts to become more competitive globally. Almost all the regulation-compliant garment factories, especially the 157 with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, have already automated major sections of the factories, producing sophisticated apparel items, mainly outerwear, using robotics.

- Vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) told that nearly 80 per cent of apparel factories have been using modern machineries for improving productivity and efficiency. But in terms of the use of robotics, artificial intelligence and algorithm, it is between 5-10 per cent.
- Managing director of Team Group told that over the next 10 years, local apparel exporters have to adopt new technologies to be more competitive. He added that automation is now saving up 10-15% on costs, while requiring lesser number of workers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/automation-gaining-ground-garment-2994681>

ONGC finds well dry, ditches gas drilling

- India's ONGC Videsh Ltd has plugged and abandoned drilling Kanchon gas well as the firm couldn't discover any hydrocarbon in the shallow-water gas block. The explorers drilled in search of a commercially viable deposit of gas in the block SS-04 situated on Moheshkhali Island in the Bay of Bengal, a senior energy ministry official told the FE Wednesday.
- The Indian firm was, however, upbeat about discovering three layers of gas structures having the total gas potential resources of around 1.0 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) in the SS-04 block covering some 7,269 square kilometres (sq km), which prompted the company to carry out the exploratory drilling.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ongc-finds-well-dry-ditches-gas-drilling-1648664908>

Govt to buy LNG at lower price

- The government on Wednesday decided to purchase 3.36 Mn MMBTU liquefied natural gas for USD 35 each unit from M/S. Vitol Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore, which is one dollar less than the previous purchase deal.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/166801/govt-to-buy-lng-at-lower-price>

Dhaka to get subway network by 2030

- Road Transport and Bridges Minister on Tuesday said the government has decided to set up subway train on four routes by 2030 at an estimated cost of USD 413.06 million so that people commute without hassle in a city infamous for its notorious traffic jams. Once the subway trains are launched, half of the 8 million commuters will be shifted underground, freeing up the streets from congestion, the road transport and bridges minister said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/dhaka-to-get-subway-network-by-2030-says-obaidul-quader-1648568530>

Japan confirms USD158m loan

- Japan on Tuesday confirmed USD 158 million worth of loan for the Mass Rapid Transit Line-6 (MRT-6) extension work from Motijheel to Kamlapur. In this regard, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Economic Relations Division (ERD) signed a loan agreement in Dhaka.
- Japan had earlier confirmed financial support to Bangladesh for constructing the MRT-6 project from Uttara to Motijheel involving BDT 219.15 billion. The government later decided to extend the MRT-6 up to Kamlapur. The newly signed USD 158 million loan will be used to build the extended part. The Japanese loan will be provided at a 0.70 % interest rate for construction spending and 0.01% for the consultancy services. The loan will be matured in 30 years with a grace period of 10 years.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/japan-confirms-158m-loan-1648576932>

WB approves USD 358m to help BD improve road safety

- The Road Safety Project will help Bangladesh achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on road safety by 2030. In two national highways-N4 (Gazipur-Elenga) and N6 (Natore to Nawabganj)-the project will pilot comprehensive road safety measures. World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) would provide the concessional financing, with a 30-year term, including a five-year grace period.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/wb-approves-358m-to-help-bd-improve-road-safety-1648572112>

India mulls exporting sugar to BD under G2G arrangement

- India considers exporting sugar to Bangladesh under the government-to-government (G2G) arrangement. National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) made the request to the Bangladesh government, mentioning its willingness to export Indian origin Sugar to Bangladesh under the G2G supply contract.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/india-mulls-exporting-sugar-to-bd-under-g2g-arrangement-1648572033>

Recast ahead as distortions hit VAT system

- The five-member committee, formed on January 26, 2022 sat for a number of meetings with the stakeholders and businesses to elicit their opinion on the prevailing VAT system of the country. To achieve a 17-% growth in the tax-GDP ratio by 2041, the government will have to attain 1.01-% growth annually, which, according to the report of the committee, is a difficult task without proper action plan.

- Currently, tax-GDP-ratio growth is 7.9%. The tax-GDP ratio has decreased by 2.0 percentage points in the last 10 years because of changing GDP base year by the government. In the first perspective plan (2011-21), the government could not meet its tax-GDP target at 16%. A standard VAT system has to follow the theme 'lowest possible single rate and widest possible coverage', the report says.

- In the report the panelists have singled out major components of the country's VAT system that are crippled with complex rules and regulations, poor VAT management and VAT culture, inefficient VAT consultant, poor ICT infrastructure. The government has implemented the new VAT and SD law from 2019 by scrapping the previous Vat law 1991 to get rid of the distorted law. However, the new VAT law, too, remains distorted like the previous one due to its frequent changes following recommendations from the businesses.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/recast-ahead-as-distortions-hit-vat-system-1648576595>

Tax receipts fall BDT 361.8 Bn short of target in July-Feb

- The shortfall in revenue collection by the National Board of Revenue stood at BDT 361.8 Bn in 8MFY22, however, the revenue mobilisation grew by 16.12% year-on-year. The NBR collected BDT 1.8 trillion in 8MFY22 against BDT 1.5 trillion in 8MFY21.
- The year-on-year growth of VAT revenue increased by 11.47% to BDT 668.7 Bn, customs revenue grew by 23.18% to BDT 569.6 Bn.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/166693/tax-receipts-fall-tk-36184cr-short-of-target-in-july-feb>

Colombo seeks another USD 250 million loan

- Bangladesh is looking into cash-strapped Sri Lanka's request for another loan of USD 250 million but no decision has been made yet, said foreign minister in Colombo on Tuesday. He also said that when Sri Lanka still faced difficulties even after providing USD 250 Mn under currency swap, Bangladesh had extended the time for the repayment.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/166673/colombo-seeks-another-250-million-loan>

BB relaxes rule of presenting audited financial statement for CMS entrepreneurs

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has relaxed its condition to present the annual audited financial report for the cottage, micro and small (CMS) entrepreneurs who faced financial shock during the Covid-19 pandemic, aiming to help their growth.

- A Bangladesh Bank official told TBS that the loan disbursement process is much lengthy in their case as they could not show the annual audited report in time. That is why the central bank has relaxed the condition of presenting the report for them until December this year so that they can get the credit easily, he said, adding: the Bangladesh Bank rules will be strictly followed in other type of loan disbursement.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-relaxes-rule-presenting-audited-financial-statement-cms-entrepreneurs-393534>

Bitopi Group to invest USD9.58m in RMG plant

- M/s. Sonar Manufacturing Limited, a sister concern of Bitopi Group, is going to establish a readymade garments industry in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) with an investment of USD 9.58 million. This fully Bangladeshi owned company will produce 2.93 million pieces of woven and knit (Jacket, Bottom) garments per annum.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bitopi-group-to-invest-958m-in-rmg-plant-1648572128>

BTRC issues new licensing regulation

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) issued a new licensing regulation, categorising services for getting licences through tender and open allocations. The regulation -- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation (Licensing) 2022 -- scrapped the previous one, issued in 2004, to implement the BTRC Law 2001. The Ministry of Post, Telecommunication and ICT issued the regulation recently with effect from March 16, 2022.
- Some eight telecommunication services, including internet services, V-SAT service, radio communication, amateur radio, internet protocol telephony service, telecommunication transmission service, national internet exchange service, and vehicle tracking service, have been fixed to get licence from the BTRC through open application.
- BTRC categorised 12 types of services to get licence through tender procedure. The services are: public-switched telephone network service, cellular mobile telecommunication service, mobile number portability service, tower sharing licence service, submarine cable, international terrestrial cable service, satellite service, international gateway service, international internet gateway service, interconnection exchange service, broadband wireless access service, and voice over internet protocol service. The BTRC will be able to issue registration certificate in favour of call centre, telecommunication value added service, radio equipment importer, vendor enlistment, and application to person (A2P).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/btrc-issues-new-licensing-regulation-1648522422>

Excess liquidity risks fuelling inflation

- Excess liquidity in the country's banking system, stemming from the stimulus packages, is likely to fuel inflationary pressure on the economy, the central bank cautions over money-supply upturn.
- The overall excess liquidity with the scheduled banks dropped slightly in January 2022 as trade financing increased significantly following higher prices of commodities and raw materials. Surplus liquidity came down to BDT 2.1 trillion in Jan'22 from BDT 2167.29 billion a month ago. It was BDT 2.3 trillion in Jun'21.
- Expansionary monetary policy coupled with the implementation of the government stimulus packages pushed up liquidity in the banking system, experts say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/excess-liquidity-risks-fuelling-inflation-1648490598>

Dhaka requests Delhi to amend conditions

- Bangladesh seeks to make 50% procurement from outside India under the ongoing Line of Credit (LoC) financing programme for what insiders say ensuring quality development works with the borrowed money. Since Bangladesh's project-implementing agencies are facing problems in complying with exiting 75% procurement condition under the LoCs, Dhaka in a review meeting Sunday requested New Delhi for relaxing the terms.
- The government also called upon the Indian side to expedite disbursement of the USD 7.9 Bn worth of LoCs India already committed. India disbursed only USD 120 million in loan during 8MFY22.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-requests-delhi-to-amend-conditions-1648490744>

BEZA to ink 'Term Sheet' on April 1 to establish Indian EZ

- Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority is going to ink a 'Term Sheet' with Adani Ports and SEZ Limited of India to establish the Government to Government based Indian Economic Zone. Through this Term Sheet, full-fledged activities for the development of the Indian EZ will begin. Other processes, including the formation of company, to operate the EZ will be started in phases.
- Indian EZ is being established at Mirsarai in Chattogram district under the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar on about 857 acres of land with a cost of about USD 115 million (Indian Flexible Loan LOC).

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/166615/beza-to-ink-term-sheet-on-april-1-to-establish-indian-ez>

BB decides to set ceiling on NBFIs lending rate

- The Bangladesh Bank has decided to impose a ceiling on the non-bank financial institutions' lending rate as the central bank found NBFIs' lending rate was much higher than the rate offered by the banks. On April 1, 2020, the central bank-imposed 9 per cent lending rate ceiling on banks came into force.
- The BB official said that the difference in lending rate between banks and NBFIs had widened as many of the NBFIs were charging up to 15% interest on the borrowers. He hoped that the imposition of a lending rate ceiling on the NBFIs would help lower the difference between the banks and NBFIs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/fresh-recovery-scheme-for-cmsmes-launched-1648405997>

Pent-up demand drives up industrial credit growth to 19%

- Credit flow to the industrial sector experienced a 19% year-on-year growth in 2021, with businesses running in full swing by shaking off pandemic fallouts to cater to pent-up consumer demand. Last year, banks and non-bank financial institutions disbursed BDT 4.29 trillion in loans to the industrial sector, while the disbursement was BDT 3.61 trillion in 2020.
- Industry insiders say businesses felt encouraged to go for expansion after the pandemic situation had started to turn the corner since the beginning of last year, as reflected in rising import payments. The Managing Director of Dhaka Bank told TBS that industrial credit growth will continue to go up in the coming days as demand is on the rise as reflected in rising imports of capital machinery and other industrial raw materials.
- The industrial loan recovery rose by over 10% year-on-year in 2021, while the amount of classified loans also marked an uptick of 8.47% last year. At the end of Dec'21, default loans stood at BDT 492.62 Bn from BDT 454.15 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/pent-demand-drives-industrial-credit-growth-19-392986>

Export subsidies, incentives to continue under different names post-LDC

- The government will continue to provide exporters with the existing cash incentives and subsidies under different names to maintain their competitiveness in the global market when Bangladesh graduates to a developing country. It will also introduce merchant trade and countertrade to further boost export earnings. Besides, exporters themselves will have the power to issue utilisation declarations for priority exportable goods, according to the Export Policy Order for 2021-24 issued by the commerce ministry on Sunday.

- Moreover, the government will provide necessary policy support for setting up warehouses in the European Union, the United States, the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union and Mercosur, an economic and political bloc of Latin American countries, to create and expand brands of Bangladeshi products in the international market.
- Keeping all these issues at the forefront, the government will adopt a specific plan on how to accommodate the existing export incentives, subsidies and other assistance in WTO-backed policies to enhance Bangladesh's export competitiveness, the order points out. According to sources concerned, India, China and Vietnam have also continued to provide such support to their export sectors under various names.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/export-subsidies-incentives-continue-under-different-names-post-ldc-392474>

New export policy sets sights high

- The government makes the new Export Policy 2021-24 effective with the highest priority attached to 14 sectors to boost much-needed foreign-currency earnings effective from March 23, 2022. As per the new export policy, exporters can borrow up to 90% of the amount stated in the irrecoverable letter of credit or confirmed contract. In the new policy, the government sets sights high on annualized export earnings at USD 80 billion in 2021- 2024 term.
- For new industry, value addition should be at least 30% for getting export incentives. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) would consider offering bonded-warehouse facility to the partial exporting sector on fast-track basis under the Customs Act 1969. For research and development activity, the government can offer policy support allowing a certain part as expenditure of annual turnover of the exporting company. Leather-sector exporters would get financial support from export-readiness fund.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-export-policy-sets-sights-high-1648405637>

Realtors rue rod, other materials' price rises

- Several retail sources in the capital city said 72-grade steel products available in the country-were selling between BDT 90,000 and BDT 95,000 per tonne in recent days, which used to trade between BDT 75,000-80,000. According to Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), as of March 25, 60-grade mild steel rod was selling between BDT 83,500 and BDT 91,500 per tonne.
- The TCB data also reveal that the latest price was around 26% higher than in the corresponding period of last year and 12 % higher compared with that of a month ago. Besides, 40-grade rod was selling between BDT 77,000 and BDT 80,000 per tonne, which was nearly 20% higher than the same period a year ago.

- The Russia-Ukraine war has added fuel to the flames in the global steel sector that was severely suffering from demand-supply mismatch. The two countries supply 50 million tonnes of scrap metal and a significant amount of other raw materials used by the steel sector. According to sources, per tonne scrap metal on the global market was selling at around USD 680-700 per tonne, depending on various aspects, which was USD 550-600 per tonne in December.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/realtors-rue-rod-other-materials-price-rises-1648405578>

Colombo Port crisis knocks on BD shipping industry

- Bangladesh's shipping industry begins suffering under a knock-on impact of a crisis at Colombo Port where truck-loading-service disruptions are now a common phenomenon. Usually, a voyage on the Chittagong-Colombo-Chittagong route takes eight days but now the time has increased to 10-11 days. This happens to be one of the busiest routes for Bangladesh's shipment as the vessels plying this route could save around four days to reach Europe than taking a detour via Singapore port.
- Sri Lanka is now hit hard by large-scale fuel stockouts. This is putting pressure on container lines as loading and unloading depends on the lorries. However, the shipping executives are now opting for alternative routes through India or Oman to tide over the crisis. Around 40% of container movements to and from Bangladesh are relaying over Colombo port.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/colombo-port-crisis-knocks-on-bd-shipping-industry-1648405696>

BDT 20 billion fund for shipbuilding industry soon

- A BDT 20-billion fund for Bangladesh's emerging shipbuilding industry is coming soon, officials say, as it's one of the thrust sectors of the economy. The borrowers will be able to receive such refinancing facility with 4.50% interest. Earlier on January 25 last calendar year, the cabinet cleared the draft of 'Shipbuilding Industry Development Policy 2021' with the target of earning USD 4.0 billion by exporting ships within next five years.
- The draft policy emphasizes the need for building capacity of the industry by providing soft loan and tax rebate for further development. It has proposed public-private partnership (PPP) for building dockyards or shipyards, harnessing blue economy, lowering bank interest rates, independent bank-guarantee facility, performance guarantee and creating fund for its development.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/BDT-20-billion-fund-for-shipbuilding-industry-soon-1648405737>

Fresh recovery scheme for CMSMEs launched

- Bangladesh launches a fresh scheme worth nearly BDT 4.0 billion in aid to coronavirus-hit cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs), as part of drives for economic recovery. The recovery package is aided by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the funds from it will be disbursed in a Shariah-compliant method. The amount of BDT 3.98 billion will be lent to eligible scheduled banks and non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) for supporting the CMSME sector.
- Besides, 41 Islamic banking branches of nine conventional commercial banks and 368 Islamic banking windows of 13 conventional commercial banks are also providing Islamic financial services across the country. Under the notification, the PFI will receive mark-up at a maximum of 4.0 % on the financed amount to maintain a maximum sale price, which refers to financed (disbursed) amount to each enterprise plus a rate of maximum 7.18 % on it from their end-client. Tenure of the scheme has been fixed two years from the date of first disbursement from the IsDB.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/fresh-recovery-scheme-for-cmsmes-launched-1648405997>

Poor show by key ministries blights ADP spending

- Implementation of the annual development programme is still below the pre-pandemic level as key ministries and divisions cannot pick up development spending even though the virus situation has improved. The development spending stood at 35.80% in 8MFY22 while the rate was 33.83% in 8MFY21.
- Ministry of Shipping is now implementing a number of vital projects such as Chattogram port, Matarbari Port and Payra Port. But the ministry could spend only 18.52% of the allocation. Meanwhile, the Bridges Division that is constructing the Padma Bridge and Karnaphuli Tunnel spent only 22% of its allocation.
- Ahsan H Mansur, executive director at the Policy Research Institute (PRI), said that even before 24 February when Russia invaded Ukraine, the spiraling prices of construction materials prompted many contractors to work at a slower pace in the hope of project price revision.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/poor-show-key-ministries-blights-adp-spending-392442>

Bangladesh meets UN target

- Bangladesh has met a UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development recommendation by bringing the cost of entry-level fixed or broadband and mobile internet cost within 2% of gross national income. At present, Bangladesh is among the 4 out of 46 countries in bringing down the cost for mobile and broadband internet at the prescribed range.
- The Telecom Minister has told that the government's decision to fix broadband prices played a crucial role in lowering internet prices. In Jun'21, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) fixed the monthly cost of a connection with a minimum speed of 5 Mbps at BDT 500, 10 Mbps at BDT 800-1,000, and 20 Mbps at BDT 1,100 -1,200.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-meets-un-target-2992061>

Growing orders signal export surge

- Additional container-handling orders are pouring in off-docks around Chittagong seaport in clear signs of significant export growth ahead for Bangladesh amid global trade resurgence. They handle almost all the export containers, 37 types of goods-laden import containers and a significant volume of empty containers.
- The 19 off-docks in the first 15 days of this March handled 34,901 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of export containers, marking a 25.50% increase from 27,809 TEUs handled in the same period last year. The off-docks handled 67,147 TEUs and 62,466 TEUs of outbound boxes during Jan'22 and Feb'22 respectively, up by 17.86% and 19.47% year-on-year respectively. growth over last year's same-month volume of 52,283 TEUs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/growing-orders-signal-bangladeshs-export-surge-1648260120>

How local brands replaced foreign ones in 50 years

- In pre-independence Bangladesh, businesses and Bangalis appeared to be synonymous with small retailers and some traders of agro commodities. The making of a local brand was a distant dream then, but things have taken a different turn now with the rise of great entrepreneurs in independent Bangladesh that gradually gave rise to a thriving private sector to dominate the economy.
- Kantar Worldpanel, a world leading market insight firm, that half of the top 50 brands in Bangladesh were local ones reflecting the strong emergence of the local soft assets in the economy. Local players are also dominating the market of pharmaceuticals, food, salt, cement and steel.

- Bangladeshi brands, closing the gaps over time, supplement Bangladesh's story of an economic rise with the fastest growing GDP alongside its enviable progress in social indicators, internationally being referred to as a role model of development. Bangladesh's sizable manufacturing-GDP ratio (about 20%) - which is twice the average of the LDC group and is even higher than that of India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka - enabled brands to flourish here.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-local-brands-replaced-foreign-ones-50-years-391306>

Forex crisis now threatens macroeconomic stability

- Like all countries in the world, Bangladesh too is facing volatility in the foreign exchange market, owing to demand recovery and supply chain disruption, exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Bangladesh Bank injected a record USD 3.78 Bn till now in FY22 to stop the freefall of the taka, and the export earnings has been on the rise. However, these initiatives were offset by steep increase in import payments and a sharp decline in remittance.
- Ahsan H Mansur, an economist who earlier worked at the International Monetary Fund, describes the central bank's move as insufficient to ensure macroeconomic stability from the current global turmoil. Bangladesh Bank will have to devalue the local currency by BDT 3.0 against the dollar immediately, he said. He suggested bringing down the country's import growth below 30% from 46% now or else the reserves will be hit hard by the ongoing instability.
- Md Habibur Rahman, chief economist of Bangladesh Bank, says the central bank has decided to gradually depreciate the local currency. He thinks the exchange rate gap between formal and informal markets should be BDT 2.50 per dollar to ride out the ongoing situation. Another central bank official said the government would try to keep inflation in check in order to protect people from higher prices since the next general election is not far away.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-crisis-now-threatens-macroeconomic-stability-2991361>

Local millers want more cotton from US

- Leaders of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) wants more cotton from the USA to diversify its cotton sourcing destination, and also wants to introduce direct shipping line to procure more of the American cotton. Bangladesh imports cotton worth nearly USD 1.0 Bn from the USA, while during 1HFY22, Bangladesh has already exported USD 4.0 Bn worth of garment to USA.

- President of BTMA told that direct shipping line between Bangladesh and the USA will reduce cost of doing business and also reduce the lead time in trade. He added that many shipping lines do not want to come to Chattogram port because of congestion and for long time in loading and unloading of goods. As a result, some shipping lines left the goods at ports in China and Malaysia, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/local-millers-want-more-cotton-us-2991001>

Important News: Capital Market

Insurance regulator puts pressure on 30 firms to comply with 60% shareholding

- The insurance regulator has asked the insurance companies again to ensure that their owners hold 60% shares in their paid-up capital to comply with the regulatory requirements. The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has also directed the non-life insurance companies to maintain a minimum paid-up capital of BDT 400 Mn as per law.
- Currently, 23 firms out of 30 comply with the rule regarding the minimum required paid-up capital, but no firm holds a 60% share of their paid-up capital. According to the rules, life insurance companies have to maintain a minimum of BDT 300 Mn and non-life insurance companies a minimum of BDT 400 Mn paid-up capital.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/insurance-regulator-puts-pressure-30-firms-comply-60-shareholding-394190>

Listed cos asked to provide info about directors' loans

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has asked all listed companies to provide information about loans sanctioned by banks or other financial institutions against a lien or pledge of shares of their directors and shareholders who hold more than 10% shares of the company. The companies have also been asked to give information about their directors and shareholders who took margin loans from stockbroker or portfolio manager.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/166773/listed-cos-asked-to-provide-info-about-directors-loans>

BDT 100b spl fund coming to boost bourses

- A special fund worth BDT 100 billion is to roll on bourses along with measures for increasing institutional participation in stock trade as per a consensus between the regulator and market operators. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and the associations of market operators Wednesday reached the decision in principle to work out market-boosting means.

- The representatives of the Bangladesh Merchant Bankers' Association (BMBA) assured of injecting fresh funds worth around BDT 2-3 billion through the own portfolios of merchant banks during Ramadan. The representatives of DSE Brokers Association also told in the meeting that the stockbrokers would also support the market through injecting around BDT 10 million by each stockbroker through their own portfolios.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tk-100b-spl-fund-coming-to-boost-bourses-1648664442>

IPDC registers BDT 880 Mn net profit

- IPDC Finance Limited registered a net profit of BDT 880 Mn in 2021. IPDC's revenue has increased by 21.7% and the company has earned 24.9% higher net profit during 2021. The loan portfolio of IPDC has grown by 21.9 per cent from the previous year. This growth has been possible due to the notable growth of SME and Emerging Corporate loan portfolios, it said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ipdc-registers-tk-88-crore-net-profit-2994056>

JMI Hospital posts 6% profit growth in H1

- JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing Limited posted a 6% profit growth for the July to December period of 2021 compared to the same period a year ago. The company is set to make its share trading debut at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today (on Thursday) under the 'N' category.
- During 1HFY22, JMI's profit rose to BDT 116.1 Mn from BDT 109.2 Mn, and EPS to BDT 1.29 from BDT 1.21 in the previous fiscal's first half. During 2QFY22, its net profit grew to BDT 59.8 Mn from BDT 54.6 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/jmi-hospital-posts-6-profit-growth-h1-394086>

BSEC seeks IDRA's steps

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on Tuesday sought necessary initiatives from the insurance regulator, Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA), in facilitating listing of 26 insurers as well as ensuring their stipulated investment in listed securities. As per a revised provision of the public issue rules, the 26 insurers will have to invest at least 20 % of their respective equities in listed securities along with going public, raising a minimum capital of BDT 150 million each.

- The BSEC earlier offered the exemption in November 2020 following a proposal of the IDRA. The regulator made the proposal, as the 26 small-cap companies were not able to float 30 million shares maintaining joint shareholding rules. As per the revised provision, the 26 insurance companies will have to raise at least BDT 150 million.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-seeks-idras-steps-1648574150>

JMI Hospital Requisite makes debut tomorrow

- JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing Ltd will make its debut on Dhaka Stock Exchange and Chittagong Stock Exchange tomorrow (Thursday) under the settlement category "N". JMI Hospital Requisite raised BDT 750 million under the book-building method. The cut-off price of shares of the company was fixed at BDT 25.
- The company's IPO application oversubscribed by 8.65 times, said the company in a press release recently. JMI Hospital Requisite will utilise the IPO proceeds for purchasing machinery, constructing building, land development, repaying bank loans and bearing the IPO expenses.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/jmi-hospital-requisite-makes-debut-tomorrow-1648574307>

No registration for QIs to take part in SME platform trading

- Qualified Investors (QIs) from now on will require no registration to take part in trading in SME platform of the bourses. Investors have been offered with the facility as part of the regulatory move to enhance QIs' participation in trading of SME platform. The data of QIs having a minimum investment of BDT 2.0 million or above in listed securities will be provided by Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL) or Depository Participants (DPs).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/no-registration-for-qis-to-take-part-in-sme-platform-trading-1648486535>

LafargeHolcim resumes aggregate business

- Shares of LafargeHolcim Bangladesh surged 7.12% on Monday following the news that the government allowed it to re-start aggregates business. The cement producer resumed its aggregates business after the Ministry of Industries gave permission to produce and sell aggregates in the open market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/lafargeholcim-resumes-aggregate-business-1648486507>

Prime Bank profits soar 78% in 2021

- Prime Bank Limited has reported a 78% year-on-year growth in profit for 2021. Buoyed by the high net profit, the private sector lender has recommended a 17.50% cash dividend for its shareholders. But the funded income of the lenders declined significantly compared to the normal time, they added.
- According to a stock exchange filing on Monday, Prime Bank's consolidated net profit increased to BDT 3.25 Bn, and EPS to BDT 2.87 for 2021.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/prime-bank-profits-soar-78-2021-392874>

C&A Textiles gears up to resume manufacturing after four years

- After more than a four-year hiatus, the troubled C&A Textiles has geared up to resume manufacturing as it got all utility connections – gas, electricity and water – restored. The company had earlier cleared its longstanding dues thanks to Alif Group, which came forward to save the textile mill by investing BDT 500 Mn as a share money deposit.
- Sources in the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) said Alif Group wants C&A Textiles shares at a discount on the face value of BDT 10. The group has offered to buy each share at a price of BDT 5.0. A BSEC official said has the commission in principle has agreed to approve the proposal, since Alif Group are taking a risk to restart the closed company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/padma-banks-slr-exemption-extended-till-2025-392446>

Padma Bank's SLR exemption extended till 2025

- Padma Bank has received an extension for three years to its partial exemption from maintaining statutory liquidity ratio (SLR). The private sector lender will be allowed to keep only 9.75% of SLR till December 2025 – down from the regular rate of 13% for all commercial banks. The central bank had earlier provided Padma Bank with the facility till December 2022.
- The institution is not able to keep the SLR with the central bank against its deposits. Besides, it is not making a profit. Therefore, it has been given time till 2025 to make a turnaround. According to a Bangladesh Bank report, Padma Bank's total outstanding loan is BDT 57.94 Bn and 63.25% of its loan has been defaulted as of Dec'21. The bank had earlier applied to the Bangladesh Bank board seeking exemption from the fine, but the central bank did not take it into consideration.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/padma-banks-slr-exemption-extended-till-2025-392446>

Two cos' prices keep rising sans PSI

- Share prices of two companies -Gemini Sea Food and Oimex Electrode-- are rising without any price sensitive information (PSI). Within 12 trading days, the stock price of Gemini Sea Food jumped 36 % or BDT 130 each to close at BDT 490.40 on Sunday in the falling market. The company's share price was BDT 360 each 12 trading days ago. Its shares traded between BDT 136.6 and BDT 497.6 in the last one year.
- The share price of Oimex Electrode rose about 25 % within the 12 trading days and closed at BDT 20.70 on Sunday. Its shares traded between BDT 16.10 and BDT 31 in the last one year. Oimex Electrode declared 'no' dividend for the year ended on June 30, 2021, while also reported loss of BDT 0.77 per share for 1HFY22.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/two-cos-prices-keep-rising-sans-psi-1648403428>

Mir Akhter Hossain to form subsidiary co

- Mir Akhter Hossain will form a subsidiary company, Mir Steel Mills, to meet the company's own demand of raw materials along with enhancing its profit through a new business wing. The company's board of directors recently has taken the decision of forming the said subsidiary company. Mir Akhter Hossain will hold the majority shares of the company, said the disclosure posted on the website of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mir-akhter-hossain-to-form-subsiary-co-1648403333>

MNCs on a roll

- Among all the listed firms in Bangladesh, business of multinational companies (MNCs) has been growing steadily driven by efficiency, focus on quality and proper management of resources compared to their local counterparts. The average sales growth of the listed MNCs was 9.41% from 2015 to 2020 and the profit growth stood at 9.22%, according to data compiled by UCB Asset Management. As a result, they comfortably outpaced the listed local companies as the average sales growth of the domestic firms was 6.7% whereas their profit growth dropped 1.4% during the six-year period.
- In 2020, all the listed companies went through upheavals due to economic pressures caused by the pandemic, but MNCs were less impacted. Profits of all the listed companies plunged 34% on average in the year, while the MNCs' profits dropped only 10%. Except for the pandemic-hit 2020, the MNCs' average sales growth was in double-digit every year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/mncs-roll-2992066>

Subscription to Star Adhesive shares begins tomorrow

- The subscription to shares of Star Adhesive Ltd, a concern of Star Partex Group, through qualified investor offer (QIO) will begin tomorrow (Sunday), as the company aims to raise BDT 50 million under the fixed-price method. The period of subscription through the electronic subscription system (ESS) will end at 5:30pm on March 31. As per the regulatory approval, Star Adhesive will issue 5.0 million ordinary shares of BDT 10 each.
- The fund will be raised through the exchanges' SME platform dedicated to ensuring long-term financing for small-capital companies. An individual investor having an investment of a minimum of BDT 2.0 million in the listed securities as on March 16 will be considered as a qualified investor.
- The company will utilise the proceeds for factory renovation, working capital, repaying bank loans and meeting the cost of the QIO. The company has reported its basic earnings per share (EPS) at BDT 6.05 while the diluted EPS stood at BDT 1.80 for the period from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. For the same period, the company's net asset value (NAV) without revaluation reserve stood at BDT 12.56.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/subscription-to-star-adhesive-shares-begins-tomorrow-1648266338>

Perpetual bonds won't need provisioning

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has removed the mandatory condition of keeping provision by issuers of perpetual bonds. The regulator earlier set a condition of keeping provision by issuers of perpetual bonds to remove apprehension regarding non-payment of interest or coupon to the bondholders.
- BSEC executive director said that some provisions set in the rules of perpetual bonds contradict with the central bank's rules on tier-I capital. When asked whether investors' interest to perpetual bonds will decline following such decision, the director replied that the bond holders' confidence may decline a little bit at this.
- In its fresh directive, the securities regulator has also extended the listing period of perpetual bonds, issued by 11 banks, to 180 market days from previous 90 market days.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/perpetual-bonds-wont-need-provisioning-1648176249>

United Finance posts 5% profit growth

- After a 13.66% decline in 2020, the United Finance Limited has reported a 5.2% growth in net profit for 2021. The company's net profit after tax rose to BDT 222.2 Mn for 2021, and EPS stood at BDT 1.19. In 2020, the profit was BDT 211.2 Mn, EPS BDT 1.13, and it had paid a 10% cash dividend to its shareholders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/united-finance-posts-5-profit-growth-391762>

Securities regulator to look into RSRM's financials

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has formed a four-member inquiry committee to look into the financial statements of Ratanpur Steel Re-Rolling Mills (RSRM) for the last five years – from 2017 to 2021. Incorporated in 1986, Ratanpur Steel Re-Rolling Mills Limited raised BDT 1.0 Bn from the stock market in 2014. The firm issued 25 Mn ordinary shares at a face value of BDT 10 with a BDT 40 premium each.
- In FY13, the company posted revenue of BDT 5.25 Bn and its net profit was BDT 166.7 Mn. But in FY21, it incurred a loss of BDT 380.0 Mn and its revenue stood at BDT 1.45 Bn. RSRM Group's excessive bank liability amounting to around BDT 22.0 Bn under its four companies and tussle with lenders regarding paying installments were the main reason behind the sorry state.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/securities-regulator-look-rsrms-financials-390834>

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