

## Weekly Market Update

### Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.18%) lost -11.43 points and closed the week at 6,283.31 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.21%) gained 4.62 points and stood at 2,235.36 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-0.15%) lost -2.07 points and stood at 1,371.89 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.02%) gained 0.29 points and closed at 1,224.62 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +1.23%, +1.82%, +0.96%, +0.84%, respectively.

**Total Turnover During the Week (DSE):** BDT 32.4 billion (USD 308 million)  
**Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV):** BDT 6.5 billion (Δ% Week: +14.2%)  
**Market P/E:** 18.4x

### Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note (-0.13%) on Sunday. It remained negative on Monday (-0.09%). It turned positive Tuesday (+0.07%) and remained positive on Wednesday (+0.16%). Lastly, the market closed on a negative note (-0.20%) on Thursday.

### Sectoral Performance

- All the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. General Insurance experienced the highest loss of -4.39% followed by Life Insurance (-3.40%), NBFIL (-0.17%), Mutual Fund (-0.09%), and Bank (+0.04%).
- Non-financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Food & Allied booked the highest gain of 0.54% followed by Telecommunication (0.00%). Fuel & Power experienced the highest loss of 0.12% followed by Pharmaceutical (-0.08%), and Engineering (-0.08%).

### Macroeconomic arena

Bangladesh RMG adds more value to products. Indian data centre major Yotta to invest BDT 20 Bn in Bangladesh. BB moves to boost QR code-based transactions. Japan Bank keen to sign deal with Bangladesh to boost energy coop. Logistics index: Bangladesh ranks lowest in South Asia. 70% listed firms incur profit drop, losses. Bangladesh improves in logistics strength. Country's revenue earnings were BDT 400 Bn more in last fiscal: Finance Minister. JBCCI for EPA between Bangladesh, Japan to boost trade. Sustainable trade and investment key to Asia and Pacific green future. RMG turns to India from China to get cheaper man-made yarn. Bangladesh made over 100 Mn handsets so far. FDI from US halves after sanctions. Bangladesh now home to half of top green factories worldwide. Retailers cancelling RMG orders, seeking discounts. Foreign aid for national budget drops by USD 1 Bn: Finance Minister. Launch campaigns at grassroots to boost tax, PM asks taxmen.

Govt borrowing from commercial banks surges. Inflation slows in Jan, still higher than expected. Call for separate tax administration, policy-making institution. GDP grows 7.1% in FY22, but remains below provisional estimate. Revenue experts optimistic about 9.5% tax-GDP target by 2026. IMF sets time-bound reform agenda as it releases first tranche of loan. Bangladesh likely to get back the money borrowed by Sri Lanka: FM. Investment flow drying up for tech start-ups. Cash-strapped banks fail to maintain emergency cash. Bangladesh among top 3 nations to spur user growth of Facebook. Export earnings defy hard times. Idcol to get EUR 140.5 Mn German loan, Funds to be used in renewable energy, efficiency projects. Gold price falls for first time in nearly 4 months. Data protection act will hurt FDI: Diplomats. Tax-GDP ratio to increase with duty exemption cutbacks: NBR official. Govt won't raise fertiliser prices Razzaque says. BB sells dollar at BDT 101 for first time. Economic shocks not entirely external. Rod prices hit all-time high amid dollar crisis.

### Stock Market arena

PDL | BSEC smells revenue manipulation at Pacific Denims. AL-HAJTEX | Alhaj Textile Mills incurs losses. EXCHANGE | BSEC stands firm on gathering unclaimed dividends. BANGAS | Biscuit-maker Bangas thrives amid inflation. GPHISPAT | GPH Ispat suffers losses for two quarters straight due to strong dollar. UPGDCL | Load shedding, high operational costs eat into United Power's profit. EXCHANGE | Four firms miss deadlines to submit dividend reports. BARKAPOWERT | Baraka Power director to sell his entire holding. EXCHANGE | Stocks slip amid profit booking, portfolio rebalancing. BANKASIA | Bank Asia to provide loans to exporters using BB fund. ALIF | BSEC approves Alif Manufacturing's revised fund utilisation plan. AL-HAJTEX | Special auditor appointed at Alhaj Textile. CNATEX | Global fashion retailer C&A warns C&A Textiles of legal action for using same name. OIMEX | Oimex Electrode declares 1% cash dividend for shareholders. IMAMBUTTON | BSEC recasts board to make Imam Button functional.

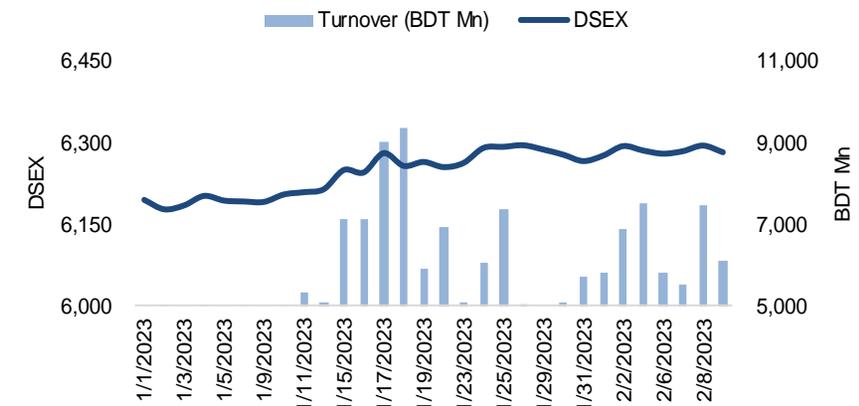
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	29-Dec-2022	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	6,283.31	6,294.73	-11.43	6,206.81	-0.18%	+1.23%
DS30	2,235.36	2,230.73	+4.62	2,195.30	+0.21%	+1.82%
DSES	1,371.89	1,373.96	-2.07	1,358.84	-0.15%	+0.96%
CDSET	1,224.62	1,224.33	+0.29	1,214.42	+0.02%	+0.84%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	7,670,502	7,673,382	-0.0%
	Mn USD	72,879	72,906	-0.0%
Turnover	Mn BDT	32,437	28,396	+14.2%
	Mn USD	308	270	+14.2%
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	6,487	5,679	+14.2%
	Mn USD	62	54	+14.2%
Volume	Mn Shares	409	413	-1.0%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in last four weeks



**Md. Tanvir Ahmed**

Research Associate

(880) 1708805201

mtanvir.ahmed@bracepl.com

**Billal Hossain**

Research Associate

(880) 1708805229

billal.hossain@bracepl.com

**Table 3: Top Ten Gainers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
APEXFOOT	306.0	261.9	+16.8%	3,976	463.1	24.6x	1.3x
SONALIANSH	459.0	402.0	+14.2%	2,490	270.5	NM	2.0x
MONNOAGML	917.5	812.0	+13.0%	2,507	222.8	NM	5.3x
GEMINISEA	499.5	444.1	+12.5%	3,050	896.7	35.6x	29.1x
ORIONINFU	397.5	364.6	+9.0%	8,093	826.5	NM	29.7x
SEAPEARL	293.0	271.0	+8.1%	35,380	1,163.0	71.1x	20.7x
FINEFOODS	61.8	57.3	+7.9%	864	52.4	NM	5.9x
SONALIPAPR	661.0	615.1	+7.5%	21,777	362.1	70.7x	3.9x
OLYMPIC	153.5	143.9	+6.7%	30,691	1,411.6	20.0x	3.2x
BSC	142.2	133.4	+6.6%	21,690	2,875.9	9.8x	1.9x

**Table 4: Top Ten Losers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
PRAGATILIF	125.8	149.6	-15.9%	4,340	315.2	NM	NM
OIMEX	15.9	18.4	-13.6%	1,067	25.1	NM	1.4x
PRAGATIINS	67.3	74.1	-9.2%	4,414	39.2	11.5x	1.1x
POPULARLIF	74.0	81.3	-9.0%	4,472	161.4	NM	NM
AAMRANET	64.3	69.7	-7.7%	3,986	994.6	20.2x	1.7x
SONALILIFE	64.3	69.7	-7.7%	3,054	171.7	NM	NM
PIONEERINS	74.1	80.0	-7.4%	6,275	113.8	12.0x	1.6x
BDTHAIFOOD	38.5	41.5	-7.2%	3,138	70.1	92.4x	2.7x
GREENDELTA	65.9	70.6	-6.7%	6,602	33.1	8.8x	1.0x
SANDHANINS	27.4	29.3	-6.5%	3,006	29.4	NM	NM

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

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
GENEXIL	106.2	109.4	-2.9%	12,300	3,271.5	32.1x	5.7x
BSC	142.2	133.4	+6.6%	21,690	2,875.9	9.8x	1.9x
SPCERAMICS	52.2	51.5	+1.4%	7,672	1,950.8	96.7x	1.7x
ORIONPHARM	90.3	90.9	-0.7%	21,130	1,578.0	25.7x	1.0x
OLYMPIC	153.5	143.9	+6.7%	30,691	1,411.6	20.0x	3.2x
SEAPEARL	293.0	271.0	+8.1%	35,380	1,163.0	71.1x	20.7x
EHL	103.4	108.2	-4.4%	9,652	1,018.0	16.2x	1.4x
AAMRANET	64.3	69.7	-7.7%	3,986	994.6	20.2x	1.7x
GEMINISEA	499.5	444.1	+12.5%	3,050	896.7	35.6x	29.1x
BPML	84.9	88.4	-4.0%	14,755	871.2	23.4x	1.1x

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

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
OLYMPIC	153.5	+23.8%	30,691	20.0x	3.2x
UNIQUEHRL	67.8	+17.5%	19,960	15.1x	0.8x
PRIMEBANK	20.0	+4.2%	22,646	6.5x	0.7x
JAMUNAOIL	173.4	+3.6%	19,148	7.3x	0.9x
PIONEERINS	74.1	+3.6%	6,275	12.0x	1.6x
IBNSINA	290.2	+1.3%	9,067	15.0x	3.3x
BXPHARMA	146.7	+0.3%	65,445	14.1x	1.6x
ISLAMIBANK	33.1	+0.3%	53,291	10.9x	0.8x
BERGERPBL	1,725.8	+0.2%	80,039	27.1x	6.7x
MPETROLEUM	198.8	+0.1%	21,513	6.0x	1.0x

\*BDT

\*\*BDT Mn

**Table 7: Sector Indices**

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,434.3	1,433.6	1,427.09	+0.04%	+0.50%
NBFI	1,927.0	1,930.3	1,927.24	-0.17%	-0.01%
Mutual Fund	848.4	849.2	852.07	-0.09%	-0.43%
General Insurance	3,277.5	3,428.0	3,177.87	-4.39%	+3.13%
Life Insurance	2,589.2	2,680.3	2,492.91	-3.40%	+3.86%
Telecommunication	4,945.6	4,945.6	4,945.60	-	-
Pharmaceutical	3,775.2	3,778.4	3,754.47	-0.08%	+0.55%
Fuel & Power	1,693.9	1,695.9	1,694.29	-0.12%	-0.02%
Cement	2,313.2	2,330.9	2,319.67	-0.76%	-0.28%
Services & Real Estate	2,258.7	2,235.8	1,782.23	+1.03%	+26.73%
Engineering	4,486.3	4,489.7	4,503.40	-0.08%	-0.38%
Food & Allied	21,495.1	21,379.4	21,247.80	+0.54%	+1.16%
IT	3,283.6	3,431.7	3,004.33	-4.31%	+9.30%
Textile	1,582.9	1,587.2	1,621.87	-0.27%	-2.40%
Paper & Printing	11,145.9	10,858.2	10,388.08	+2.65%	+7.29%
Tannery	3,080.7	3,051.0	3,093.43	+0.97%	-0.41%
Jute	13,707.6	12,519.1	14,850.17	+9.49%	-7.69%
Ceramics	722.2	717.3	704.74	+0.68%	+2.47%
Miscellaneous	4,126.9	4,112.2	4,071.46	+0.36%	+1.36%

**Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix**

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	68.8	58.4	+17.94%	+1.18%	7.8x	0.7x
NBFI	22.6	39.5	-42.79%	+0.39%	NM	4.5x
Mutual Fund	3.4	4.1	-17.14%	+0.06%	NM	0.8x
General Insurance	197.6	183.2	+7.86%	+3.40%	16.1x	1.5x
Life Insurance	366.4	455.3	-19.52%	+6.30%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	1.6	1.9	-20.07%	+0.03%	17.4x	4.7x
Pharmaceutical	869.6	564.2	+54.14%	+14.96%	18.9x	2.4x
Fuel & Power	183.5	190.6	-3.72%	+3.16%	17.8x	1.1x
Cement	56.2	44.6	+25.98%	+0.97%	33.6x	2.5x
Services & Real Estate	625.9	728.1	-14.05%	+10.77%	37.9x	1.2x
Engineering	145.7	95.6	+52.43%	+2.51%	53.9x	2.1x
Food & Allied	564.4	415.0	+36.00%	+9.71%	19.9x	7.7x
IT	1,041.4	1,177.5	-11.56%	+17.91%	31.2x	2.9x
Textile	94.7	102.6	-7.73%	+1.63%	42.6x	1.0x
Paper & Printing	346.6	393.8	-12.00%	+5.96%	42.4x	2.2x
Tannery	95.2	11.7	+710.69%	+1.64%	47.1x	3.1x
Jute	56.0	15.2	+267.50%	+0.96%	NM	5.3x
Ceramics	462.9	231.2	+100.19%	+7.96%	43.1x	2.0x
Miscellaneous	611.1	295.6	+106.74%	+10.51%	13.2x	1.8x

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

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
EGEN	49.7	-4.6%	3,728	34.3x	2.3x
ADNTEL	111.0	-2.7%	7,176	32.9x	3.9x
BATASHOE	941.5	-1.1%	12,880	36.4x	3.5x
MTB	16.6	-0.6%	14,836	3.5x	0.7x
SHAHJABANK	18.8	-	20,314	5.6x	0.9x
IDLC	46.5	-	19,330	10.6x	1.1x
DBH	57.8	-	11,270	11.1x	1.5x
IPDC	57.6	-	21,375	24.4x	3.3x
LANKABAFIN	26.0	-	14,010	16.6x	1.3x
ACI	260.2	-	19,829	NM	2.0x

## Important News: Business & Economy

### Bangladesh RMG adds more value to products

- Bangladesh's garments sector is on the rise as low imports have led to an increase in value addition. Value addition in the readymade garment (RMG) industry reached 62.78% during the second quarter (October-December) of the current fiscal 2022-23, improving 11.39% points over the previous quarter, according to central bank data.
- During the October-December quarter, the import value of raw materials was USD 4.11 Bn, accounting for 32.31% of total RMG export earnings. As a result, the net exports from this sector stood at over USD 8.61 Bn, which is 62.79% higher than the previous quarter and 37.43% higher than the same quarter of the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladesh-rmg-adds-more-value-products-582178>

### Indian data centre major Yotta to invest BDT 20 Bn in Bangladesh

- Yotta Data Services – the data centre and cloud services arm of the Mumbai-based conglomerate Hiranandani Group – has announced plans to invest over BDT 20 Bn to set up a modern data centre facility in Bangladesh. The investment will arrive in four to six years, according to the announcement.
- Yotta, the operator of Asia's largest certified Tier-IV data centre, would build its data centre park at the Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City in Kaliakair, Gazipur to house two hyperscale data centre buildings, featuring 4,800 racks and 28.8MW IT power capacity, according to a statement by the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/indian-data-centre-major-yotta-invest-BDT2000cr-bangladesh-582166>

### BB moves to boost QR code-based transactions

- In a bid to gear up digital transactions, banks and financial institutions have been asked to replace their proprietary QR codes within June with a uniform one developed earlier by the Bangladesh Bank. The central bank gave the directive yesterday as most banks and financial institutions are reluctant to embrace the common platform although two years have passed since the system was launched. The central bank also withdrew a maximum daily transaction limit of BDT 20,000 for an individual client using Bangla QR.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-moves-boost-qr-code-based-transactions-3243016>

### TCB buying 11 Mn litres of soybean oil for Ramadan

- The government is procuring 11 Mn litres of soybean oil and 8,000 tonnes of lentils for the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to sell at reduced prices during the upcoming Ramadan. Briefing journalists on the outcomes of the meeting, Cabinet Division Additional Secretary Syed Mahbub Khan said soybean oil and lentils are being bought in bulk for around BDT 1.95 Bn.
- Oil will cost BDT 176.88 per litre, which was BDT 177 during the previous purchase. Meghna Edible Oils Refinery will supply the soybean oil. He said the lentils will be bought from the local agent of a Turkish company at BDT 91.60 a kg, and the 8,000 tonnes will cost a total of BDT 732.9 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tcb-buy-soybean-oil-lentil-ahead-ramadan-581986>

### Japan Bank keen to sign deal with Bangladesh to boost energy coop

- Governor of Japan Bank for International Cooperation Nobomitsu Hayashi on Wednesday emphasised on establishing better relations with Bangladesh, saying there is a need to sign a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation in energy sector and protect mutual interests.
- 'This MoU will make an important contribution to enhance cooperation in overall energy management development,' he said, while paying a call on with state minister for power, energy and mineral resources Nasrul Hamid at his ministry office.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/193938/japan-bank-keen-to-sign-deal-with-bangladesh-to-boost-energy-coop>

### Logistics index: Bangladesh ranks lowest in South Asia

- India ranked second, Pakistan 26th and Sri Lanka was positioned 30th among the countries, according to the 14th annual edition of the index unveiled by Agility, a Kuwait-based global logistics company, revealed on Tuesday. Bangladesh has been stuck at the lowest position among the South Asian economies since 2019.
- The Index examined four key areas for logistics market development -- domestic logistics opportunities, international logistics opportunities, business fundamentals, and digital readiness – to assess and understand trends and their effects on 50 of the world's most promising emerging logistics markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/logistics-index-bangladesh-ranks-lowest-south-asia-3242296>

### **70% listed firms incur profit drop, losses**

- Around 70% of listed companies in Bangladesh either suffered losses or witnessed lower profit in the July to December period of the current financial year due to the surge in production costs, the sharp depreciation of the local currency and lower consumption.
- Among the 400 companies that trade on the Dhaka Stock Exchange, 214 have published their financial reports for the first half of 2022-23. Of them, the profits of 64 companies rose year-on-year and it dropped for 84.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/70-listed-firms-incur-profit-drop-losses-3243026>

### **Global energy prices drop, non-energy inch up**

- Global energy prices dropped 8.9% in January, led by a 44% decline in natural gas in Europe and a 16.1% fall in coal, the World Bank's Pink sheet reported. The Pink Sheet is a monthly report that monitors commodity price movements. Non-energy prices gained 1.7%, led by metals.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/global-energy-prices-drop-non-energy-inch-3242991>

### **15% spice demand met thru imports**

- Bangladesh has to rely on imports to meet about 15% of the demand of the spice market, which highlighted the foreign currencies the country has to spend to bring in the items as well as the potential for local production. The country produces 4.93 Mn tonnes of spices against an annual demand of 5.85 Mn tonnes, said Shailendra Nath Mozumder, principal scientific officer of state-run Spice Research Center in Bogura.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/15-spice-demand-met-thru-imports-3242971>

### **Bangladesh improves in logistics strength**

- Bangladesh has climbed up four notches to rank 35th among the 50 most promising emerging logistics markets in the world, thanks to the country's performance in both domestic and international logistics opportunities, according to the 2023 Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index.
- However, Bangladesh has scored the lowest yet again among four emerging South Asian economies in the 14th annual edition of the index unveiled by Agility – a Kuwait-based global logistics company – on Tuesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bangladesh-improves-logistics-strength-581646>

### **Country's revenue earnings were BDT 400 Bn more in last fiscal: Finance Minister**

- Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal has said the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has earned BDT 400 Bn more in 2021-22 fiscal year compare to the previous fiscal.
- "The NBR has earned over BDT 400 Bn more in 2021-22 fiscal year compare to 2020-21 fiscal", said the finance minister replying to a starred tabled question by treasury bench lawmaker M Abdul Latif of Chattogram-11 at the Jatiya Sangsad. Country's revenue earnings were BDT 3016.34 Bn in 2021-22 fiscal while it was BDT 2616.89 Bn in 2020-21, he mentioned.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/countrys-revenue-earnings-were-tk4000cr-more-last-fiscal-finance-minister-581638>

### **JBCCI for EPA between Bangladesh, Japan to boost trade**

- Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) laid emphasis on Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Japan and Bangladesh to increase trade and investment between the two countries. The chamber made the observation while meeting with Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Sharifa Khan at her office in the city, reports BSS citing a press release.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/jbcci-for-epa-between-bangladesh-japan-to-boost-trade-1675778152>

### **Sustainable trade and investment key to Asia and Pacific green future**

- Greener trade and investment is crucial to tackling climate change in Asia and the Pacific and will require governments in the region to work together more closely, according to a new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The report styled Asian Economic Integration Report (AEIR) 2023 stated although trade and investment have fueled remarkable economic growth in Asia in recent decades, it has also led to large increases in carbon dioxide emissions in the region—which is more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than any other.
- Reversing this trend will require measures such as promoting trade in environmental goods and services, nurturing green businesses, developing carbon pricing mechanisms, and strengthening regional cooperation through trade and investment agreements, added the report released by ADB Tuesday (7 February).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/sustainable-trade-and-investment-key-asia-and-pacific-green-future-581538>

### **RMG turns to India from China to get cheaper man-made yarn**

- Bangladesh has shifted its focus towards India from China for importing man-made fibre yarn and fabric due to competitive pricing, improved lead time with the opening of two new land ports and growing demand of the key apparel raw material globally.
- Industry stakeholders say the United States' anti-China position may have also played a role in Bangladesh's shift towards India for man-made fibre, the import volume of which is likely to double in the next five years from the neighbouring ally.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg-turns-india-china-get-cheaper-man-made-yarn-581650>

### **Bangladesh made over 100 Mn handsets so far**

- Bangladesh's mobile manufacturing industry hit a major milestone of having produced over 100 Mn handsets till date, with the local plants gaining the capability of meeting almost all of the annual demand for devices in a span of just over 5 years.
- In the latter half of 2017, when Bangladesh allowed local manufacturing by offering a huge amount of tax benefits, only 40,000 cell phones were produced by local firm Walton. But things started to accelerate the following year as the local entities engaged in deals with top global brands, including Samsung, Tecno and Symphony, to set up manufacturing facilities in Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-made-over-10cr-handsets-so-far-3241061>

### **FDI from US halves after sanctions**

- When Bangladesh is in dire need of foreign investment, FDI inflow from the top investing country the United States halved in January-June 2022 compared to the previous six months – a development that, stakeholders say, is attributable to "a lack of FDI-friendly atmosphere" in the country.
- According to a Bangladesh Bank report titled "Foreign Direct Investment and External Debt", the net FDI from the US dropped by 56% to USD 200.79 Mn in the first half of the last year from USD 460.33 Mn in the previous six months, contributing to a slowdown in FDI inflow in the second half of FY22. Coincidentally, the dip in FDI inflow has occurred following US sanctions on RAB and seven of its current and former officials on 10 December 2021.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fdi-us-halves-jan-jun-2022-581342>

### **Bangladesh now home to half of top green factories worldwide**

- Bangladesh became home to half of the top 100 green industrial units worldwide after KDS IDR Limited, a garment factory in Kalurghat, received platinum certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) programme on February 1. Being the global champion in LEED certified factories, Bangladesh has 63 platinum rated garment units while another 110 are gold rated, 10 are silver rated and four are just certified.
- Besides, more than 500 other garment factories are awaiting LEED certification by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) for their green initiatives, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-now-home-half-top-green-factories-worldwide-3241006>

### **Retailers cancelling RMG orders, seeking discounts**

- International clothing retailers and brands are either cancelling their orders to garment factories in Bangladesh or putting them on hold because of the persisting volatility in the global economy, higher inflation, and stockpiling of unsold goods.
- Inflation in Europe and the US, the two largest markets for garment items made in Bangladesh, as well as many other export destinations has remained at an elevated level despite falling in recent months, meaning a continued struggle for consumers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/retailers-cancelling-rmg-orders-seeking-discounts-3241936>

### **Foreign aid for national budget drops by USD 1 Bn: Finance Minister**

- The foreign assistance for the national budget has declined to USD 2.23 Bn in the current fiscal year from USD 3.26 Bn in the last fiscal year (2021-22). Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday placed these statistics in Parliament while replying to a scripted question from Awami League lawmaker Morshed Alam (Noakhali-2).
- In the written answer, the minister said the government received assistance equivalent to some USD 3.26 Bn from different development partners for the budget in the last fiscal year. But there is a possibility to get the assistance equivalent to USD 2.23 Bn in the current fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-aid-national-budget-drops-finance-minister-581474>

### **Launch campaigns at grassroots to boost tax, PM asks taxmen**

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to launch campaigns at the grassroots level and motivate people to pay tax as the country's socioeconomic condition has improved radically in the last 14 years.
- "If you carry out campaigns there [at the upazila and union levels] in a good manner, people will spontaneously come forward [to pay tax]. They [taxpayers] are now getting services. So, people will pay tax to avail the services," Hasina added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/launch-campaigns-grassroots-boost-tax-3240116>

### **Govt borrowing from commercial banks surges**

- The government borrowed BDT 23.41 Bn from the scheduled banks in January this year, up from BDT 8.63 Bn in the previous month. With the latest addition, the borrowing from the sector in the first seven months of FY23 rose to BDT 345.9 Bn.
- Bankers and analysts said the government's borrowing from commercial banks can put further strain on the banking sector already hit by a liquidity crunch. It also can badly impact the sector in meeting deposit and loan obligations, which can lead to a further tightening of credit and a reduction in economic activities.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/govt-borrowing-commercial-banks-surges-581090>

### **Inflation slows in Jan, still higher than expected**

- January's inflation rate grew higher than the wage growth rate, meaning that the cost of living is increasing faster than people's wages, a development that indicates the purchasing power of the people is on the decline. According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data released on Monday, inflation in Bangladesh decreased to 8.57% in January from 8.71% in December.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/inflation-eases-further-857-january-580882>

### **Call for separate tax administration, policy-making institution**

- Experts, at a seminar 'Income Tax', have observed that tax administration and policy-making institutions should be separated to strengthen the country's tax management system. At the seminar on Monday, they gave several recommendations, including increasing tax revenue collection and expansion of the tax net, setting up tax offices at the grassroots level, increasing the use of digital methods and developing a fearless tax system.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/call-for-separate-tax-administration-policy-making-institution-1675691077>

### **No respite from jute export slump**

- Earnings from jute exports from Bangladesh slumped for the second consecutive year in July-January, raising concerns for the promising industry, one of the few sectors for which raw materials are locally available.
- Due to the global economic slowdown, shrinking demand, increasing domestic production cost and the persisting anti-dumping duty imposed by India played a part in dragging exports down, industry insiders and economists say.
- The country's jute industry fetched USD 548 Mn by selling jute and jute-made products in the first seven months of the current financial year of 2022-23, down 21.22% year-on-year, data from the Export Promotion Bureau showed

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/no-respite-jute-export-slump-3240121>

### **Dual policy in a single stock market**

- By removing the floor price for nearly half of the companies listed in the country in December while retaining the regulatory measure for the rest, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has effectively moved to a dual system.
- This is because the companies that have seen the floor price removal are allowed to drop slowly while the rest have been safeguarded from further erosion. In order to prevent a freefall of stocks, the floor price, the lowest price at which a share can be traded, was brought back on July 29. The floor was the average of the closing prices on July 28 of 2022 and the preceding four days.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/dual-policy-single-stock-market-3241076>

### **GDP grows 7.1% in FY22, but remains below provisional estimate**

- Bangladesh logged higher growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021-22 fiscal year compared to the previous year, but it was 15 basis points below the provisional estimate.
- The economy grew by 7.1% in 2021-22 fiscal year, up from 6.94 % the previous year. However, the provisional GDP growth rate figure was 7.25% for FY22, according to data released by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics yesterday. Similarly, the state-owned statistical agency revised downwards the per capita GDP of the country to USD 2,687 from USD 2,824.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/gdp-grows-71-fy22-3240111>

### **Revenue experts optimistic about 9.5% tax-GDP target by 2026**

- The revenue board will have to collect an additional BDT 2,340 Bn to push up Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio from 7.8% to 9.5% by June 2026, calculates the Policy Research Institute, stating that the target can only be achieved if policy reforms are carried out within the time frame agreed upon with the IMF.
- "The target looks very challenging, but there is no alternative to that," PRI Executive Director Ahsan H Mansur has said, stressing the need for meeting the time-frame of pledged reforms. Previous failures, however, have made him less optimistic.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbr-needs-collect-BDT234-lakh-crore-more-3yrs-meet-imf-set-tax-gdp-ratio-580942>

### **BB to offer new tool for cash support to Islamic banks**

- Bangladesh Bank will introduce another tool to provide liquidity support to cash-strapped Shariah-based banks in order to safeguard their ailing financial health.
- Under the new window, the banks will be able to get liquidity support from the central bank in the form of collateral against funds, which they initially provide to receivers of remitters as an incentive for attracting remittance.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-offer-new-tool-cash-support-islamic-banks-3240106>

### **Potato export to Russia to resume this year: Agriculture minister**

- An agreement will soon be signed with Russia to import DAP fertiliser from there. Bangladesh will resume the export of potatoes to Russia this year, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said on Sunday. Bangladesh will resume the export of potatoes to Russia this year, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/potato-export-russia-resume-year-agriculture-minister-580414>

### **NBR must increase revenue by working digitally: Tipu Munshi**

- Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has said the National Board of Revenue (NBR) needs to increase revenue collection by working digitally and efficiently. "Digital Bangladesh is now rapidly moving towards Smart Bangladesh. A digital system should be used more efficiently in VAT and tax collection," he said. Mentioning that initiatives should be taken to increase the scope of tax collection, the commerce minister said NBR should play a more responsible role in this regard.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-must-increase-revenue-working-digitally-tipu-munshi-580486>

### **IMF sets time-bound reform agenda as it releases first tranche of loan**

- The IMF wants Bangladesh to take up measures to increase the tax-GDP ratio by 0.5% by this June and adopt a periodic formula-based price adjustment mechanism for petroleum products by December as the global lender released the first chunk of its USD 4.7 Bn loans.
- It also wants the Bangladesh Bank to compile and report official reserve assets as per the BPM6 definition – IMF's balance of payment guideline – and use market-determined exchange rate for official forex transactions by June this year. The net forex reserve also must not drop below USD 26.8 Bn by the end of this year.
- Before publishing the 125-page document last night, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released USD 476 Mn in the first tranche of the loan on Thursday – within three days of its approval of the package, the central bank confirmed yesterday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-receives-first-imf-tranche-476m-578918>

### **Shariatpur transport sector booms in 7 months since Padma Bridge opening**

- The road transport sector in Shariatpur expanded significantly as buses resumed operation on the Dhaka-Shariatpur route after 18 years, following the inauguration of the Padma Bridge on 25 June last year.
- Entrepreneurs have invested around BDT 2 Bn in this sector during the last seven months. Currently, seven companies run 350 passenger buses from 6am to 10pm on different routes to and from the district. Many entrepreneurs have also started rent-a-car businesses recently, said industry insiders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/shariatpur-transport-sector-booms-7-months-padma-bridge-opening-579834>

### **Bangladesh likely to get back the money borrowed by Sri Lanka: FM**

- Bangladesh is expected to get back the money borrowed by Sri Lanka by September this year as the country's economic situation is improving.
- "Sri Lanka is gradually doing better. They are recovering slowly. We have given them time till September (to repay the loan)," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told reporters at state guesthouse Padma on Sunday afternoon, hoping for repayment by Sri Lanka within the timeframe.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-likely-get-back-money-borrowed-sri-lanka-fm-580374>

### **Loan provisioning eased to boost banks' participation in stock market**

- To increase banks' participation in stock market investment, the Bangladesh Bank has reduced the provision from 2% to 1% against loans given to intermediary brokerage firms, merchant banks and stock dealers.
- The new decision regarding credit loss provision will be effective from 30 March, said the central bank in a letter sent to the managing directors of all banks in the country Thursday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/loan-provisioning-eased-boost-banks-participation-stock-market-579034>

### **Investment flow drying up for tech start-ups**

- Start-ups in Bangladesh went through a tough time in 2022 owing to the uncertainty in the global economy, but gloomier days for them might not go away any time soon since the decline in global investments is set to linger. In Bangladesh, the tech-startup industry has enjoyed years of a boom driven by people's increasing access to internet, more smartphone penetration and a decade of economic growth.
- Now, the founders and executives of technology start-ups are facing a new reality as global venture capital investors are becoming cautious regarding investments amid rising inflation and widespread economic uncertainty. This comes as start-up funding worldwide is dropping: global venture funding reached USD 445 Bn in 2022, a 35% decline year-on-year, said California-based information service provider Crunchbase in an analysis.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/investment-flow-drying-tech-start-ups-3239171>

### **Cash-strapped banks fail to maintain emergency cash**

- Banks strapped for cash are now struggling to maintain the mandatory daily cash reserve ratio (CRR) with the Bangladesh Bank, meaning they won't have cash readily available if customers want their deposits back. Although the lending rate cap is 9%, some banks are aggressively borrowing money at more than that from other banks for the short term to mitigate their daily cash maintenance requirement.
- According to bankers, the Bangladesh Bank recently verbally instructed banks to keep the interest rate for inter-bank operations at 9% in line with the lending rate cap. The CRR is the percentage of total deposits a bank must have in cash to operate risk-free. The Bangladesh Bank reduced the CRR to 4% from 5% in April 2020 to increase money flow in the market during the pandemic.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cash-strapped-banks-fail-maintain-emergency-cash-579666>

### **Bangladesh among top 3 nations to spur user growth of Facebook**

- Bangladesh is among the top three nations contributing to the active user growth for Facebook as of December 31, 2022, according to its parent social media giant Meta.
- "Users in India, the Philippines, and Bangladesh represented the top three sources of growth in DAUs (daily active users) during December 2022, relative to the same period in 2021," reported the NDTV citing a regulatory filing of Meta.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-among-top-3-nations-spur-user-growth-facebook-3239066>

### **Export earnings defy hard times**

- Despite the persisting volatility in the global economy and higher consumer prices in the western markets, Bangladesh's merchandise shipment grew 5.89% year-on-year to USD 5.13 Bn in January, official data showed yesterday. This was the second-highest single-month shipment in the history of the country. The previous highest was recorded in December when exporters brought home USD 5.35 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/export-earnings-defy-hard-times-3237806>

### **Idcol to get EUR 140.5 Mn German loan, Funds to be used in renewable energy, efficiency projects**

- Infrastructure Development Company Limited (Idcol) signed two agreements with German development bank yesterday to avail a loan of EUR 140.5 Mn. Of the fund, EUR 41 Mn is for the disbursement of loans among companies undertaking energy efficiency projects and EUR 99.5 Mn for renewable energy projects.
- Idcol said it would be acting as the projects' "executing agency". The energy efficiency fund will focus on methods such as extensions or replacement of equipment and machinery to reduce final energy consumption and related carbon dioxide emission by at least 20%. The renewable energy fund will focus on solar irrigation and solar grid-tied and biogas projects.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/idcol-get-eu1405m-german-loan-3240046>

### **Gold price falls for first time in nearly 4 months**

- For the first time in more than three months, Bangladesh Jewellers Samity (Bajus) yesterday reduced the price of gold by 1.24% or BDT 1,166 per bhoari in line with a fall in the price of the precious metal in the local market. From now on, the price of one bhoari of 22-carat gold (11.664 grammes) will be BDT 92,263, said Bajus in a press release yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/gold-price-falls-first-time-nearly-4-months-3239156>

### **Data protection act will hurt FDI: Diplomats**

- The Data Protection Act being worked on by the Bangladesh government for protecting user data in the digital world can backfire in terms of falling foreign direct investments, diplomats said at a discussion on Sunday.
- "We worry the Data Protection Act, if passed with strict data localisation requirements, may force some US companies currently operating in Bangladesh to leave the market," US Ambassador in Dhaka Peter Haas said at the event titled "Online Freedom & Business Investment in Bangladesh" held at the EMK Center.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/tech/ict/data-protection-act-will-hurt-fdi-diplomats-580610>

### **LC opening for Ramadan items rises: BB**

- Opening of letters of credit (LCs) for importing essential commodities meant for Ramadan increased in January, a development that is expected to increase supply of the items during the fasting month, said Bangladesh Bank yesterday.
- LC opening for four out of five essential commodities -- sugar, edible oil, peas, onion and dates -- rose last month in terms of quantity of products, states data revealed by the central bank at a press conference at its headquarters in the capital. January's LCs are to import 565,000 tonnes of sugar whereas it was 511,000 tonnes a year ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/lc-opening-ramadan-items-rises-bb-3237801>

### **Tax-GDP ratio to increase with duty exemption cutbacks: NBR official**

- The ratio of tax revenue to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) will increase once the tax exemptions are gradually reduced, said National Board of Revenue (NBR) Member Pradyut Kumar Sarkar. "Tax exemptions in various sectors have helped the country develop economically and this facility got us good results in the last two decades," said the NBR official at a press briefing organised on the occasion of the upcoming revenue conference on Friday.
- "Our GDP is now USD 470 Bn. The government has provided tax exemptions in many sectors, including agriculture trade. With these exemptions, the public sacrificed [their hard-earned money] for the better economic, industrial development," Pradyut Kumar Sarkar added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tax-gdp-ratio-increase-if-duty-exemption-reduced-nbr-official-579306>

### **Govt won't raise fertiliser prices Razzaque says**

- The prices of fertiliser, seeds and other agricultural inputs will not be raised further to ensure continuous production and sustainable security of food, Agriculture Minister said.
- The government's policy is to increase food production at any cost and make food security sustainable, he said. Therefore, the government will not increase the prices of agricultural inputs no matter how tough it becomes amid global recession, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-wont-raise-fertiliser-prices-razzaque-says-3237741>

### **BB sells dollar at BDT 101 for first time**

- Bangladesh Bank has sold US dollar at BDT 101 each to banks for the first time, giving indication that it is likely to devalue the local currency to reflect the market reality. The central bank sold USD 89 Mn to banks on February 1 to enable the financial institutions to clear import bills on behalf their clients, said a BB official, seeking anonymity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-sells-dollar-tk-101-first-time-3237791>

### **Economic shocks not entirely external**

- The ongoing economic shocks Bangladesh is experiencing have not been entirely generated from the external source and many of them instead are the consequences of the absence of time-befitting measures on the part of the country, said economists yesterday.
- The government regularly points to the coronavirus pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war for the economy's current ills. But experts disagree, saying the economy has been facing several problems for years but they have remained unaddressed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/economic-shocks-not-entirely-external-3239186>

### **Rod prices hit all-time high amid dollar crisis**

- An increase in rod-making scrap prices on the international market, dollar crisis and energy price hikes are blamed. Prices of mild-steel (MS) rods, the key element in building construction, hit an all-time high on Wednesday with an increase of BDT 5,000 per tonne in just seven days, multiplying pressure on the construction sector.
- A tonne of the premium quality (75-grade) rod sold at BDT 91,000-94,000 at different mills in Chattogram on the day, which was BDT 87,500-89,000 a week ago. The rates of 60-grade rods also jumped to BDT 89,000-91,000 from BDT 84,000-86,000.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/rod-prices-hit-all-time-high-amid-dollar-crisis-578690>

## Important News: Capital Market

### **PDL | BSEC smells revenue manipulation at Pacific Denims**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has smelled revenue manipulation at Pacific Denims Ltd as the market regulator suspects that the apparel manufacturer has been showing inflated sales for years. According to BSEC officials, the company failed to generate its expected profit based on its revenue. Besides, investors have not received expected dividends and returns from the company since its listing on the stock market. The commission also sought relevant documents from the company for review.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-smells-revenue-manipulation-pacific-denims-581562>

### **AL-HAJTEX | Alhaj Textile Mills incurs losses**

- Alhaj Textile Mills, a listed textile maker, has ended up suffering a loss in the July-December period of fiscal year 2022-23 due to increases in the prices of raw materials and costs rising in several of its operational segments. It incurred a loss of BDT 1.12 Mn, a far cry from the profit of BDT 2.57 Mn it secured in the same period of the previous year, according to its financial report. Thus, its earnings per share have come to stand at BDT 0.05 in the negative whereas it was BDT 0.12 in the six-month period of the preceding year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/alhaj-textile-mills-incurs-losses-3242986>

### **EXCHANGE | BSEC stands firm on gathering unclaimed dividends**

- Following several warnings and deadlines for depositing unclaimed dividends to the Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF), the stock market regulator is now becoming more stringent on gathering the funds that have been lying in issuer companies' accounts for years. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to appoint external auditors to bring issuers into compliance with the rules and to verify the status of unclaimed dividend payments to the fund.
- The regulator had set July last year for the deposit of the dividends, and some companies have complied with the order. But the majority have yet to do so. Thus, the fund formed for the purpose of increasing the supply of liquidity in the capital market is not getting the expected results, due to which the commission has decided to appoint auditors.
- As per its decision, the commission will now engage a maximum of four auditors and select issuer companies for audit based on information to be provided by CMSF, such as risk elements, default histories, and non-compliances of the issuer companies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-stands-firm-gathering-unclaimed-dividends-582162>

### **BANGAS | Biscuit-maker Bangas thrives amid inflation**

- Bangas Limited – one of the leading biscuit-makers of the country – has reported a 32% year-on-year profit growth in the July to December period of the fiscal 2022-23. In the October to December quarter of 2022, the sales volume of Bangas biscuits was high enough to help offset the company's year-on-year profit decline in the previous July to September quarter and post an overall profit growth in the first half.
- In the July to September quarter of 2022, Bangas' net profit declined by 16.6% and stood at BDT 381,000 compared to the first quarter of FY22. But in the next October to December quarter, the profit jumped by a staggering 88% to BDT 542,000 year-on-year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/biscuit-maker-bangas-thrives-amid-inflation-581586>

### **GPHISPAT | GPH Ispat suffers losses for two quarters straight due to strong dollar**

- GPH Ispat Limited has incurred losses for the two consecutive quarters of the ongoing fiscal year 2022-23 despite posting a significant growth in its sales revenue. The steel manufacturer has reported a loss of BDT 55.88 Mn in the second quarter (Q2) for October-December of FY23.
- In the first quarter, the company also suffered a huge loss of BDT 794.07 Mn. As a result, the company incurred a loss of BDT 849.95 Mn in total in the first half of the current FY23. In the same period of the previous FY22, the company made a profit of BDT 949.4 Mn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/gph-ispate-suffers-losses-for-two-quarters-straight-due-to-strong-dollar-1675839837>

### **UPGDCL | Load shedding, high operational costs eat into United Power's profit**

- The United Power Generation and Distribution Company experienced a 28.13% year-on-year profit decrease in the second quarter of the current fiscal year due to scheduled load shedding, the appreciation of the dollar, and increased operational costs.
- In the October-December quarter, its consolidated net profit came down to BDT 2.90 Bn compared to BDT 4.03 Bn in the same period of the previous fiscal year. The consolidated earnings per share stood at BDT 4.84, down from BDT 6.85 a year ago. The revenue of the company, which is listed on the stock market, dropped by 14.65%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/load-shedding-high-operational-costs-eat-united-powers-profit-581074>

**EXCHANGE | Four firms miss deadlines to submit dividend reports**

- Four firms – GSP Finance Company (Bangladesh), Fortune Shoes, Kay & Que (Bangladesh), and Energypac Power Generation – have failed to submit compliance reports to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) within the stipulated seven working days after paying their declared dividends. Hence, the DSE issued letters asking the firms to explain their non-compliance, according to the DSE disclosures by the companies on Monday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/four-firms-miss-deadlines-submit-dividend-reports-581082>

**BARKAPOWER | Baraka Power director to sell his entire holding**

- Abdul Bari, vice-chairman and director at Baraka Power, has expressed his intention to sell his entire holdings of the company, a private power producer. The shares will be bought by NRB Ventures (Pvt), and Fusion Holdings (Pvt). At present both companies are serving as directors on the board of Baraka Power. They hold 5.42% and 2.90% shares respectively.
- According to the company's latest shareholding report, Abdul Bari, a director of the company, holds 47,14,138 shares or 2% of the total shares of Baraka Power. In a disclosure on Monday, the company said the shares will be sold in the block market. NRB Ventures (Pvt) and Fusion Holdings (Pvt) have expressed their intention to buy 20,45,579 shares and 26,68,599 shares respectively at the prevailing market price within 30 working days at the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/baraka-power-director-sell-his-entire-holding-581070>

**EXCHANGE | Stocks slip amid profit booking, portfolio rebalancing**

- Profit booking pressure in majority stocks pushed equity indices marginally down on Sunday. DSEX, the broad-based index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), closed 0.13% lower at 6,286, compared to the previous trading session.
- Stock brokers said, as the broad market is inching up through a narrow channel instead of a sharp rise, smart investors are careful enough to book some of their profits in a wide range of stocks.
- Also portfolio rebalancing — selling weak or overbought stocks and buying more potential ones — continued till the end of the session that helped some undervalued or oversold stocks gain on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dsex-inches-down-amid-profit-booking-580370>

**BANKASIA | Bank Asia to provide loans to exporters using BB fund**

- Bank Asia signed an agreement with Bangladesh Bank recently to disburse loans among exporters from a newly formed BDT 100 Bn Export Facilitation Pre-finance Fund of the central bank.
- Exporters will be able to avail the loans in local currency against the purchase or import of raw materials at an interest rate of 4%. The tenure will be of a maximum of 180 days. Bangladesh Bank formed the fund on January 1 to help exporters continue developing and expanding their industries.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/bank-asia-provide-loans-exporters-using-bb-fund-3237641>

**ALIF | BSEC approves Alif Manufacturing's revised fund utilisation plan**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved the revised plan of Alif Manufacturing to utilise its BDT 1.09 Bn fund that the company raised through issuing right shares back in 2018. The company was supposed to complete the fund utilisation by June 2019.
- In its last annual general meeting, Alif Manufacturing secured approval of its general shareholders regarding the revised plan under a special resolution. After that, it applied to the BSEC for extension of fund utilisation time till December 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-approves-alif-manufacturings-revised-fund-utilisation-plan-580590>

**AL-HAJTEX | Special auditor appointed at Alhaj Textile**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has appointed Islam Jahid & Co Chartered Accountants as a special auditor at Alhaj Textile Mills to review its financial statements for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal years.
- According to BSEC sources, the company's share price soared around four times in the last two years, but the commission observed no significant change in the company's business. Besides, the company is yet to resolve an old issue with the Agrani Bank regarding a fixed deposit receipt (FDR), which is also relevant to the interest of investors, they added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/special-auditor-appointed-alhaj-textile-579026>

### **CNATEX | Global fashion retailer C&A warns C&A Textiles of legal action for using same name**

- One of the largest global fashion retailers C&A has warned Bangladesh's C&A Textiles of taking legal action for using the same name, which, as the complainant says, is creating confusion among its clients.
- In an announcement published in newspapers through India-based intellectual property law firm Selvam and Selvam, the multinational company said it has been sourcing from Bangladesh for a long time. Hence, the name has become well known in the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/global-fashion-retailer-ca-warns-ca-textiles-legal-action-using-same-name-580606>

### **OIMEX | Oimex Electrode declares 1% cash dividend for shareholders**

- The board of directors of Oimex Electrode Limited has recommended a 1% cash dividend for their shareholders, other than sponsors and directors, for the fiscal year 2021-22. The decision has taken in a board meeting of the company on Sunday (5 February). The sponsors and directors hold 20,133,184 shares out of a total of 67,084,781 shares of the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/oimex-electrode-declares-1-cash-dividend-shareholders-580834>

### **IMAMBUTTON | BSEC recasts board to make Imam Button functional**

- The stock market regulator has recast the board of Imam Button Industries Ltd to make the backward linkage company of the garment industry functional. As part of the recast, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) last week appointed Professor Mohammad Sogir Hossain Khandoker, Md Mahamud Hosain, and Mohammed Masum Iqbal as independent directors of the company.
- At the same time, the regulator had asked the newly-appointed independent directors to nominate two shareholder directors from investors owning a minimum of 2% of the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-recasts-board-make-imam-button-functional-580002>

## IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

**Analyst Certification:** Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

**Disclaimer:** Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

**Compensation of Analysts:** The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transactions.

**General Risk Factors:** BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and also revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment.

### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

#### Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	<a href="mailto:salim@bracepl.com">salim@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 221
Anika Mafiz	Research Analyst	<a href="mailto:anika.mafiz@bracepl.com">anika.mafiz@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 206
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	<a href="mailto:fahim.hassan@bracepl.com">fahim.hassan@bracepl.com</a>	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Senior Research Associate	<a href="mailto:hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com">hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 224
Billal Hossain	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:billal.hossain@bracepl.com">billal.hossain@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 229
Md. Tanvir Ahmed	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:mtanvir.ahmed@bracepl.com">mtanvir.ahmed@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 201
Syed Tawsifuzzaman	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:s.tawsifuzzaman@bracepl.com">s.tawsifuzzaman@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 202

#### International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	<a href="mailto:bappi@bracepl.com">bappi@bracepl.com</a>	01730 357 991
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

#### BRAC EPL Research

[www.bracepl.com](http://www.bracepl.com)

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (880)-2-9852446-50

Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52

E-Mail: [research@bracepl.com](mailto:research@bracepl.com)