

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-2.41%) lost -165.56 points and closed the week at 6,702.61 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-2.88%) lost -74.47 points and stood at 2,511.99 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-2.64%) lost -38.66 points and stood at 1,423.65 points. The large cap index CDSET (-2.80%) lost -38.99 points and closed at 1,352.71 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +24.07%, +27.90%, +14.62%, +20.45%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 38.1 billion (USD 445 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 7.6 billion (Δ % Week: -18.3%)

Market P/E: 16.8x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

Market performed five sessions during this week. The market started the week negatively (-1.24%) and continued to perform poorly the next day, losing (-0.69%) on Monday. The market gained on Tuesday (+0.31%) and then continued to perform negatively over the next two days, losing (-0.04%) and (-0.77%) on Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

Sectoral Performance

- Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Life Insurance booked the highest gain of 1.30% followed by General Insurance (+1.23%). Mutual Fund experienced the highest loss of 1.25% followed by NBF1 (-1.18%), Bank (-0.53%).

- All the non-financial sectors registered negative performance this week. Fuel & Power experienced the highest loss of 1.89% followed by Food & Allied (-1.72%), Telecommunication (-1.66%), Engineering (-1.57%), and Pharmaceutical (-1.05%).

Macroeconomic arena

- Finance eyes 12% growth in revenue for FY23. World Bank lends USD500m to modernise power system in Bangladesh. OFID to give Bangladesh USD75m as budgetary aid. Govt bank borrowing surges as NSC sales plunge. Bangladesh, Korea sign USD100 million loan agreement

- Record exports bring home new hopes. Ctg port inks deal with Thailand's Ranong port to enhance maritime connectivity. Bangladesh outdoes China, Vietnam in apparel export growth in US. In pandemic time local shippers added 32 vessels to fleet. BTMA demands duty-free import of all types of fibre

- Deposits in NBFIs contract in July-Sept. 19 banks release below 20% in 5 months. MFS cash-in hits fresh record at BDT 21,049cr in Oct. Repayment policy for NBFIs eases. CMSME loan disbursement rises 8.75%

- Bangladesh gets BDT 11b Swiss investments. Bangladesh to receive USD27.21m from Japan for two projects. Denmark, PPPA sign MoU to enhance Bangladesh's economic growth. IMF enhances growth projection for Bangladesh for FY'22

Stock Market arena

- BSEC speeds up IPO approval process. Navana Pharma holds IPO road show for raising BDT 750m. Sonali Paper seeks exemption from rule to issue right shares. Fund raising through right shares low

- UCB to issue BDT1,000cr subordinated bond. IBBL and SJIBL set debut trading dates for their perpetual bonds. Govt Sukuk auction Dec 29 to raise BDT 50b

- Union Capital MD barred from joining Islamic Finance. RFL achieves unsatisfactory growth. Walton launches e-commerce platform Walcart. Malek Spinning to shut textile unit of its subsidiary. Summit closes Madhabdi plant as power deal with BPDB expires.

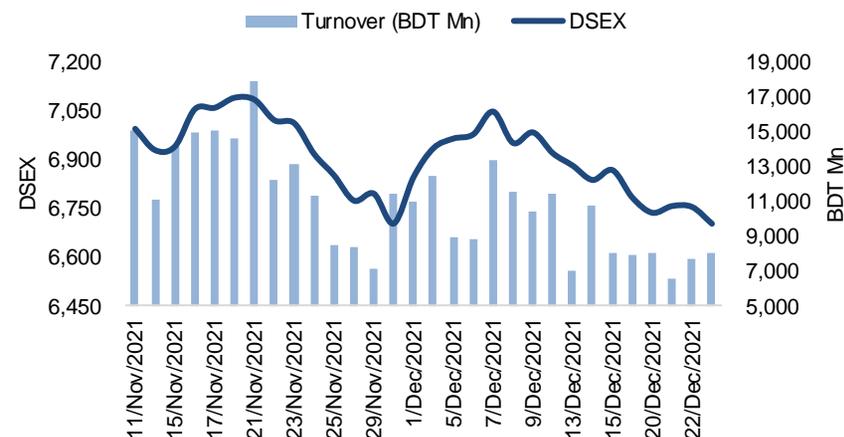
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ (Pts)	30-Dec-2020	Δ % Week	Δ % YTD
DSEX	6,702.61	6,868.17	-165.56	5,402.07	-2.41%	+24.07%
DS30	2,511.99	2,586.46	-74.47	1,963.96	-2.88%	+27.90%
DSES	1,423.65	1,462.31	-38.66	1,242.11	-2.64%	+14.62%
CDSET	1,352.71	1,391.70	-38.99	1,123.03	-2.80%	+20.45%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	5,392,583	5,515,908	
	Mn USD	62,851	64,288	-2.2%
Turnover	Mn BDT	38,147	37,331	+2.2%
	Mn USD	445	435	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	7,629	9,333	-18.3%
	Mn USD	89	109	
Volume	Mn Shares	871	968	-10.1%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in last four weeks



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Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ASIAINS	115.9	87.3	+32.8%	5,455	880.3	40.7x	4.1x
SAVAREFR	219.0	184.4	+18.8%	305	7.6	NM	359.0x
BNICL	136.7	117.5	+16.3%	6,049	203.0	47.3x	6.3x
PROVATIINS	127.8	110.9	+15.2%	4,441	144.0	29.5x	6.1x
AGRANINS	60.4	53.4	+13.1%	1,918	227.5	24.9x	3.3x
GLOBALINS	52.4	46.7	+12.2%	2,125	168.8	28.5x	4.0x
STYLECRAFT	131.5	117.2	+12.2%	1,826	109.6	NM	6.5x
PRAGATILIF	95.8	86.2	+11.1%	2,941	31.5	NM	NM
SONALIPAPR	853.5	769.5	+10.9%	18,746	1,098.1	NM	3.5x
SONARBAINS	76.1	68.9	+10.4%	3,047	75.0	37.5x	3.7x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ACMEPL	27.1	31.4	-13.7%	3,659	189.7	16.6x	1.4x
BEACHHATCH	28.0	32.4	-13.6%	1,159	56.6	NM	2.9x
SSSTEEL	18.6	21.4	-13.1%	5,660	97.7	8.1x	0.8x
APEXFOOT	277.6	311.2	-10.8%	3,279	97.7	29.7x	1.1x
KPCL	29.6	33.1	-10.6%	11,763	47.3	NM	1.3x
RECKITBEN	5,453.4	6,089.0	-10.4%	25,767	98.7	32.1x	40.1x
MALEKSPIN	25.3	28.2	-10.3%	4,898	107.8	6.7x	0.5x
MEGHNAPE	19.6	21.8	-10.1%	235	2.1	NM	NM
BSRMLTD	97.9	108.1	-9.4%	29,231	57.0	5.7x	0.9x
GOLDENSON	19.5	21.5	-9.3%	3,349	192.9	32.0x	1.0x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
BEXIMCO	151.1	154.3	-2.1%	132,412	4,405.1	13.1x	1.8x
ONEBANKLTD	13.5	14.4	-6.3%	12,610	1,596.6	6.9x	0.7x
FORTUNE	95.5	104.0	-8.2%	15,522	1,148.0	41.0x	6.5x
SONALIPAPR	853.5	769.5	+10.9%	18,746	1,098.1	NM	3.5x
GENEXIL	166.5	177.3	-6.1%	18,905	898.7	49.3x	9.3x
ASIAINS	115.9	87.3	+32.8%	5,455	880.3	40.7x	4.1x
GSPFINANCE	26.9	27.6	-2.5%	4,225	717.9	16.5x	1.4x
SKICL	83.1	81.7	+1.7%	3,324	654.9	31.2x	4.6x
IFIC	16.8	17.4	-3.4%	28,575	577.4	13.8x	1.0x
SAIFPOWER	39.3	42.2	-6.9%	14,908	481.4	21.9x	2.4x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
EGEN	49.9	+399.0%	3,743	28.9x	2.4x
BSRMLTD	97.9	+105.7%	29,231	5.7x	0.9x
ENVOYTEX	47.9	+94.7%	8,034	74.8x	1.3x
GPHISPAT	52.0	+86.9%	22,714	12.4x	1.8x
HEIDELBCEM	268.2	+79.3%	15,154	26.2x	3.5x
SQUARETEXT	52.5	+76.2%	10,356	9.6x	1.3x
PIONEERINS	119.4	+74.4%	9,191	15.6x	2.4x
BSRMSTEEL	69.6	+63.8%	26,166	6.9x	1.0x
BATBC	635.9	+61.6%	343,386	25.0x	8.5x
ACTIVEFINE	25.9	+53.3%	6,214	66.4x	1.2x

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,573.2	1,581.7	1,372.63	-0.53%	+14.62%
NBFI	2,258.7	2,285.6	2,033.53	-1.18%	+11.07%
Mutual Fund	883.2	894.4	959.61	-1.25%	-7.96%
General Insurance	4,636.5	4,580.2	4,103.56	+1.23%	+12.99%
Life Insurance	2,659.6	2,625.5	2,162.58	+1.30%	+22.98%
Telecommunication	5,822.0	5,920.1	5,463.26	-1.66%	+6.57%
Pharmaceutical	3,894.3	3,935.8	3,306.03	-1.05%	+17.79%
Fuel & Power	1,788.0	1,822.5	1,618.11	-1.89%	+10.50%
Cement	2,446.0	2,523.1	1,416.18	-3.05%	+72.72%
Services & Real Estate	1,303.1	1,341.1	1,083.79	-2.83%	+20.24%
Engineering	4,698.6	4,773.6	3,959.20	-1.57%	+18.68%
Food & Allied	25,095.6	25,534.6	14,705.76	-1.72%	+70.65%
IT	3,296.7	3,422.8	2,350.28	-3.68%	+40.27%
Textile	1,458.7	1,494.2	1,087.41	-2.38%	+34.14%
Paper & Printing	9,309.2	9,365.3	5,487.56	-0.60%	+69.64%
Tannery	3,226.5	3,370.6	1,771.77	-4.28%	+82.10%
Jute	9,159.2	8,668.5	12,154.61	+5.66%	-24.64%
Ceramics	672.1	683.4	472.38	-1.67%	+42.27%
Miscellaneous	4,703.6	4,778.6	2,539.70	-1.57%	+85.20%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	938.9	1,550.4	-39.44%	+13.17%	7.9x	0.9x
NBFI	356.8	594.1	-39.95%	+5.00%	21.1x	4.0x
Mutual Fund	51.6	60.3	-14.52%	+0.72%	NM	0.8x
General Insurance	1,073.3	458.6	+134.03%	+15.05%	21.5x	2.3x
Life Insurance	139.5	242.3	-42.43%	+1.96%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	89.9	85.0	+5.81%	+1.26%	16.9x	5.9x
Pharmaceutical	751.1	1,025.7	-26.78%	+10.53%	18.8x	2.6x
Fuel & Power	338.2	492.6	-31.34%	+4.74%	11.5x	1.2x
Cement	89.7	100.3	-10.51%	+1.26%	17.5x	2.6x
Services & Real Estate	149.4	331.0	-54.86%	+2.10%	NM	1.0x
Engineering	352.8	499.0	-29.30%	+4.95%	18.8x	2.1x
Food & Allied	427.2	568.4	-24.83%	+5.99%	30.5x	9.0x
IT	232.9	369.6	-36.98%	+3.27%	36.0x	3.0x
Textile	470.7	709.3	-33.63%	+6.60%	34.5x	1.0x
Paper & Printing	287.1	291.6	-1.53%	+4.03%	NM	2.3x
Tannery	262.4	472.6	-44.47%	+3.68%	NM	3.4x
Jute	33.9	21.0	+61.78%	+0.48%	NM	21.8x
Ceramics	46.8	69.7	-32.78%	+0.66%	31.0x	1.9x
Miscellaneous	1,037.2	878.4	+18.08%	+14.55%	17.5x	2.2x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
KPCL	29.6	-34.7%	11,763	NM	1.3x
MIRAKHTER	61.7	-23.8%	7,452	16.2x	1.3x
OLYMPIC	159.7	-16.4%	31,930	17.0x	3.3x
ADNTEL	53.8	-16.3%	3,478	20.8x	2.0x
MTB	18.6	-15.1%	15,112	26.4x	0.8x
BARKAPOWER	23.9	-7.0%	5,628	8.0x	1.1x
UPGDCL	245.6	-6.8%	142,373	13.1x	4.0x
DBH	77.3	-4.0%	13,703	12.3x	2.0x
GHAIL	16.1	-3.6%	3,475	NM	1.1x
IFADAUTOS	45.7	-3.2%	11,560	24.0x	1.1x

Important News: Business & Economy

Record exports bring home new hopes

- Despite all the lockdowns, travel restrictions, and pandemic-induced economic downturn, Bangladesh recorded its highest ever single-month export earnings amounting to USD 4.72 billion this year. According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data, export receipts surpassed the USD 3.46 billion target set for October, registering a whopping 60.37% year-on-year growth. Apparel shipment grew by 53.27% to USD 3.56 billion in the same month, raising the total export earnings to USD 15.74 billion in 4MFY22.
- The highest earnings, USD 2.04 billion, came from knitwear shipment, while woven items fetched USD 1.51 billion, both posting over 52% YoY growth. Meanwhile, export earnings for agricultural products rose by 29.34%, leather and leather products rose 28.85%, engineering products 142.49%, however, jute and jute products dropped by 24.11%. Apparel exporters are hopeful of export growth to continue but are concerned about lower unit prices compared to soaring costs of raw materials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/record-exports-bring-home-new-hopes-347143>

Finance eyes 12% growth in revenue for FY23

- With the pandemic situation turning the corner, the finance ministry is going to set a target of a little over 12% growth in revenue generation for the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in FY23's budget. Keeping the next budget deficit at 5.5%, the ministry will target to collect BDT 3.7 trillion, equal to 8.5% of GDP in the fiscal 2022-23, through the NBR. In a virtual meeting on Wednesday, the Finance Division estimated a budget size to the tune of BDT 675,139 crore for FY23, which is 15.5% of GDP and nearly 12% higher than that of FY22.
- The finance ministry has estimated that investment will account for 32.2% of the GDP in 2022-23 the fiscal year. Of this, 25.3 percentage points is expected to come from the private sector and 6.9 pp from the public sector. Although the size of the budget is estimated to increase by BDT 0.7 trillion in the next financial year, a large part of it will be spent on management and repayment of interest on government loans. Of the BDT 6.85 trillion budget estimated for FY23, BDT 2.50 trillion will go to the annual development programme while expenditure on management and other sectors will be BDT 4.25 trillion, which is 9.8% of GDP.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/finance-eyes-12-growth-revenue-fy23-347590>

World Bank lends USD 500m to modernise power system in Bangladesh

- The World Bank has approved USD 500 million to help Bangladesh expand and modernise the electricity distribution system and support the sustainable transformation of its electricity system. The 'Electricity Distribution Modernization Program' will deliver improved electricity services to about 40 million people in Dhaka and Mymensingh Division, said a media release on Wednesday. The lend, approved on Tuesday, will upgrade and construct more than 31,000 km of distribution lines, 157 distribution substations, and related infrastructure, and incorporate measures to increase climate resilience of network infrastructure in 25 rural electric cooperatives (Palli Bidyut Samities) in Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, said the release.
- Network investment will be paired with new and advanced technologies to help modernising and transform the electricity system, it added. The programme will introduce a modern grid system that can support the two-way flow of electricity and information, minimising and recovering quickly from climate and cyber risks, including natural disasters and extreme weather events. The credit is from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), which provides concessional financing, has a 30-year term, including a five-year grace period. In addition, the programme also includes a USD15 million grant from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), the media release mentioned.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/world-bank-lends-500m-to-modernise-power-system-in-bangladesh-1640167369>

OFID to give Bangladesh USD 75m as budgetary aid

- The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) is going to provide USD 75 million loans shortly to support Bangladesh's high-deficit budget, officials said on Tuesday. The Vienna-based lender would provide the budgetary support mainly for facilitating recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic shocks, they added. Since the country's budget deficit is estimated to exceed 6.0 % of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the current fiscal year (FY), 2021-22, the fund from the development partner would be very helpful, he added.
- According to the ERD officials, the OFID would charge LIBOR plus 1.35 % interest rate per annum for its USD 75 million loan. The lender would charge 0.25% per year as commitment fee, and 0.25% as front-end fee from Bangladesh. The maturity of the loan is 20 years with a grace period of five years.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/ofid-to-give-bangladesh-75m-as-budgetary-aid-1640146497>

Bangladesh gets BDT 11b Swiss investments

- Switzerland will invest around 119 million Swiss francs (CHF) or BDT 11 billion to implement its programme in Bangladesh over the next four years. The programme is aligned with the Agenda 2030 and Bangladesh's development priorities, including the Eighth Five-Year Plan. The overall goal of the Swiss Cooperation Programme 2022-2025 is to support Bangladesh's sustainable LDC graduation, promote a prosperous, just and resilient society, and contribute to peaceful coexistence.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-gets-tk-11b-swiss-investments-1640172248>

Bangladesh to receive USD 27.21m from Japan for two projects

- The government of Japan will provide an overall amount of USD 27.21 million to Bangladesh against two projects. Out of the amount, Japan will provide USD 4.21 million for the project titled 'The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)' as a grant for the Year 2021. Besides, Japan will also provide USD 23.00 million for the project titled 'The Project for the Improvement of Governance and Management Research and Training Facilities'.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-to-receive-2721m-from-japan-for-two-projects-1640185218>

Govt bank borrowing surges as NSC sales plunge

- The net government borrowing has surged in FY22 amid a drastic fall in the net sales of national savings certificates. As per Bangladesh Bank data, the government's borrowing from the banking sector stood at BDT 27,110.35 crore from July 1 to December 12 of the current fiscal year. For deficit financing, the government has targeted to borrow BDT 76,452 crore from the banking system in FY22.
- In 1HFY21, the government borrowing from the banking sector was only BDT 595.4 crore against BDT 44,946.8 crore in the same period of FY20. High sales of NSCs were the reason for the drastic fall in bank borrowing in FY21. In FY22, the government took several budgetary and taxation measures to contain the high sales of NSCs. In 4MFY22, the net sales of NSCs were 40% lower than 4MFY21.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/157994/govt-bank-borrowing-surges-as-nsc-sales-plunge>

Deposits in NBFIs contract in July-Sept

- Deposits in the non-bank financial institutions dropped by 1.26% year-on-year in 3QCY21 as the sector is suffering from the customers' trust deficit. The NBFIs suffered a deposit contraction at a time when the banks posted a 12.3% growth in deposits in the same period. Bangladesh Bank data showed that the deposits in the NBFIs dropped to BDT 44,121.03

crore at the end of September quarter 2021 from BDT 44,684.75 crore in deposits a year ago.

- Deposits in banks and NBFIs usually increase in a gradual manner but the situation has changed recently following the surfacing of massive irregularities in the NBFIs sector. Though the deposit interest rate in the NBFIs is still far better than the banks, the NBFIs could not capitalise the situation to improve their liquidity base. Most of the banks are offering interest rates below 6% while many of the NBFIs are offering around 10% interest against their deposit products.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/157993/deposits-in-nbfis-contract-in-july-sept>

Country's largest solar project in Mongla set to begin operations 25 December

- The country's largest solar park in Mongla is all set to begin supplying 134.3 MW peak (solar power measuring unit) of electricity to the national grid from 25 December. Energon Renewables, a subsidiary of the industrial conglomerate Orion Group, has built the plant on a 350-acre site that had originally been developed for a coal power project in 2014. The Orion Group shelved the coal project and struck a deal with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) in February 2019 on building the solar park at the cost of USD 196 million.
- The Power Development Board will purchase electricity from this solar plant for 20 years under a "no electricity, no payment" term. A kilowatt-hour of electricity will cost 13.8 cents. Bagerhat is now home to Bangladesh's largest solar PV plant after overtaking the 73MW Mymensingh solar power facility. Orion Group has five fuel-based power plants with a capacity to generate 511MW of electricity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/countrys-largest-solar-project-mongla-set-begin-operations-25-december-347596>

Denmark, PPPA sign MoU to enhance Bangladesh's economic growth

- The Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA), an autonomous government agency of Bangladesh, and Denmark have signed an MoU to enhance green infrastructure cooperation for Bangladesh's sustainable economic growth. The Danish envoy said concretely, they foresee this as an opportunity to match Bangladeshi needs with Danish strongholds in maritime and logistics, to develop sustainable maritime and port infrastructure that will ensure stronger integration of Bangladesh into global supply chains as it continues its growth. "Bangladesh welcomes investors from Denmark and looks forward to opportunities to work together on green technologies and innovative industrial methods. Collaboration paves the path for green transition for both our economies in a positive and fruitful way."

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/denmark-pppa-sign-mou-to-enhance-bangladeshs-economic-growth-1640088551>

Bangladesh, Korea sign USD 100 million loan agreement

- A agreement on "Program Loan for Sustainable Economic Recovery Program (Subprogram)" has been signed between Bangladesh and Korea to provide budget support to mitigate the adverse impact of Covid-19. Under the agreement, the Korea Eximbank will provide USD100.00 million to Bangladesh government to implement the project. The loan will bear simple interest rate of 0.05% per annum while maturity period will be 40 years, including a grace period of 15 years. The loan is aimed at recovering the economy by implementing various reforms in revenue collection system and design schemes to support entrepreneurs who have been adversely affected by Covid-19.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-korea-sign-100-million-loan-agreement-346756>

19 banks release below 20% in 5 months

- Bangladesh Bank officials said that as nine other banks disbursed in the five months more than 60% of their respective annual targets, the banking sector achieved higher disbursement in the period. Banks disbursed BDT 25,511.35 crore in FY21. In FY21, banks had missed the farm loan disbursement target for the second consecutive year. Of the 19 banks, disbursement by six banks was less than 1.0% against their targets, said BB officials. The six banks are Citi Bank NA, Commercial Bank of Ceylon, Woori Bank, Bengal Commercial Bank, Modhumoti Bank and Union Bank.
- The 13 other banks whose disbursement was less than 20% of their respective targets are BASIC Bank, AB Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, First Security Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, IFIC Bank, Jamuna Bank, National Bank, Shahjalal Islami Bank, Shimanto Bank, Social Islami Bank, Standard Bank and The City Bank. The nine banks which disbursed in the five months above 60% of their annual agricultural loan disbursement targets are Bangladesh Development Bank, Bank Al-Falah, Habib Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, State Bank of India, Meghna Bank, Mercantile Bank, Midland Bank and Trust Bank. In terms of amount, the farm loan issuance by Bangladesh Krishi Bank was the highest, BDT 3,152.26 crore, in July-November against its BDT 6,000 crore lending target for the entire fiscal year. The issuance of farm loans by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited was the second highest.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/157914/19-banks-release-below-20pc-in-5-months>

BKMEA demands government to reevaluate depreciation rate

- Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) has demanded that the government should increase the limit of wastage rate in apparel production. "The order set a depreciation rate of 27% for basic knit items, 30% for special items and 4% for

sweaters and socks, which cannot be considered realistic under any circumstances," says BKMEA Vice President Mohammad Hatem.

- In keeping with modern fashion, the depreciation rate of dyeing and finishing in the production of basic net items should be at least 12% but in the issued order this rate is only 9%. Therefore, considering it as 12%, it is necessary to fix the depreciation rate of basic items at 30% (i.e. knitting and dyeing 13% and from cutting to shipment 17%). The depreciation rate of dyeing and finishing in the production of fabrics used for making special items needs to be increased from 9% to a minimum of 14%, meaning that the total depreciation rate for making special items will be 35% (i.e. knitting and dyeing 16% and from cutting to shipment 19%). Special items do not include special fabrics like yarn dye, fleece/brushing, all over print etc.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bkmea-demands-government-reevaluate-depreciation-rate-346729>

Ctg port inks deal with Thailand's Ranong port to enhance maritime connectivity

- Chattogram port of Bangladesh and Ranong port of Thailand on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance maritime connectivity and facilitate trade between the two friendly countries. Md Zafar Alam, member (admin and planning) of the Chittagong Port Authority and Chamnan Chairith, RTN of the Port Authority of Thailand, inked the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations at a virtual platform on Monday, said a press release. Top officials of the two countries were present at the event. The foreign ministry's release said the move was a part of the vision of Bangladesh to enhance connectivity with its neighbouring countries. "Under the agreement, both ports will be benefited through collaboration in port management, operations, bilateral communication, port connectivity, coastal shipping, port-related industry and investment promotion," it reads.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/trade/ctg-port-inks-deal-thailands-ranong-port-enhance-maritime-connectivity-347044>

MFS cash-in hits fresh record at BDT 21,049cr in Oct

- The monthly mobile financial service cash-in transactions reached a fresh all-time high in October as the MFS operators added a number of new services which, in turn, prompted customers to recharge their accounts to enjoy the services. In Oct'21, cash-in amount increased to BDT 21,049.4 crore from BDT 19,777.1 crore in Sep'21. The number of cash-in transactions was 5.92 crore in Oct'21 against 5.57 crore in Sep'21. The float-amounts in MFS accounts inched down to BDT 6,916.1 crore in October from BDT 7,020.4 crore in the previous month. Total cash-out transactions stood at BDT 17,681.7 crore in Oct'21 against BDT 16,463.8 crore a month ago.

- Besides the existing services, leading MFS operator bKash has introduced a micro loan facility for its customers in collaboration with The City Bank. BKash data showed that total 2,689 customers of bKash have received total BDT 68,27,799 as nano loans since the launch of the service on December 15 till Sunday afternoon.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/157836/mfs-cash-in-hits-fresh-record-at-tk-21049cr-in-oct>

Govt to procure 1.6m tonnes of crude oil, 1.29m tonnes of fuel oil, 90,000 tonnes of fertilizer

- The government has approved separate proposals for procuring some 1.60 million tonnes of crude oil, 1.29 million tonnes of fuel oil, and some 90,000 tonnes of fertilizer to meet the growing demand of the country.
- Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) would procure some 1.60 million tonnes of crude oil from ADNOC, Abu Dhabi and Saudi ARAMCO for the 2022 calendar year with around BDT 74.67 billion. BPC would procure another 1.29 million tonnes of fuel oil from Petro China International, Singapore, Unipac Singapore Pte Ltd, Vito Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore with around BDT 76.27 billion for the January to June period of the next year.
- Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) would procure some 90,000 tonnes of granular urea fertilizer from Fertiglobe Distribution Ltd (UAE), KAFCO (Bangladesh), and Muntajat (Qatar) at the cost of BDT 7.26 billion.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-to-procure-16m-tonnes-of-crude-oil-129m-tonnes-of-fuel-oil-90000-tonnes-of-fertilizer-1640004049>

Bangladesh outdoes China, Vietnam in apparel export growth in US

- Bangladesh has outnumbered China, Vietnam and Indonesia in terms of growth in apparel exports to the United States in January-October this year, with many US buyers shifting orders to the supplier country from the three competitors that are going through production disruptions.
- Bangladesh now ranks third in RMG exports to the US, as it fetched USD 5.7 billion from the destination in 10MCY21, up by 27% YoY. China's exports to the US market amounted to USD 16 billion with a 25% growth, followed by Vietnam 14% and Indonesia 10%.
- Industry insiders say Bangladesh apparel makers have been receiving an additional flow of work orders because of a drastic fall in China's factory outputs fuelled by energy shortages, and pandemic-led supply chain disruptions in Vietnam and Indonesia. Executive president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) told The Business Standard that the buyers' sourcing inquiry from the western country has further

paced up. He expects the exports will go up all the more in the coming months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladesh-outdoes-china-vietnam-apparel-export-growth-us-346099>

Costly yarn throws weaving industry off balance

- Struggling to tide over the escalating cost of the key raw material, many weaving mills have already cut down the production drastically. The abnormal rise in yarn prices on top of losses induced by the coronavirus pandemic and flooding is pushing away around eight lakh weavers in Sirajganj, Pabna, Tangail, and Kushtia – the major garment-manufacturing hub for the domestic market – from their age-old profession.
- Many weaving mills have reportedly stopped production because of mounting losses as they could not hike the prices of clothes in line with the rise in yarn prices.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/costly-yarn-throws-weaving-industry-balance-346105>

Leather sector gets wider benefits

- Export-oriented leather, footwear and tannery operators can now import the raw materials required by multiple production units based on a single bonded warehouse licence, according to a recent notification from the National Board of Revenue (NBR).
- General secretary of the Bangladesh Tanners Association told that 37 tanners at present import chemicals and other raw materials used to process animal hides under the bonded warehouse benefit. However, the firms with more than one unit face difficulty to import as they were only allowed to import the quantity required by one factory, he said. The new measure would enable them to import the required amount of chemicals for production, as tanners process 27 lakh to 30 lakh square feet of skins and hides each year, he added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/news/leather-sector-gets-wider-benefits-2922196>

In pandemic time local shippers added 32 vessels to fleet

- Bangladesh spends at least USD 9 billion in freight charges per annum. Protection, tax benefits and rising freight charges – all these have encouraged new entrepreneurs to sign up in the ocean-going shipping sector with intent to take a bigger slice of freight charges that now largely go to foreign ship operators.
- Now it has the opportunity to retain at least 20% or USD 2.0 billion annually with the number of flag-carrier ships increasing, according to businessmen and Mercantile Marine Office of the shipping department.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/pandemic-time-local-shippers-added-32-vessels-fleet-346582>

IMF enhances growth projection for Bangladesh for FY'22

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has enhanced the economic growth projection for Bangladesh to 6.6 % for the current fiscal year (FY) from its October projection of 6.5 %. The projection is lower than the government's target of GDP (gross domestic product) growth 7.2 % for FY'22.
- Earlier on October 12 this year, Washington-based global monetary watchdog cut the economic growth forecast for Bangladesh to 6.5 % for the current fiscal year from its April projection of 7.5 % mainly due to the worsening coronavirus pandemic dynamics.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/imf-enhances-growth-projection-for-bangladesh-for-fy22-1639899379>

Repayment policy for NBFIs eases

- Under the latest relaxations, the borrowers will get a fresh chance to remain unclassified if they repay minimum 25% instead of 50% earlier of the total outstanding amounts of loans or lease for the months of January to December of 2021, even if the payment is made on the last working day of the calendar year, according to a notification issued by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Sunday.
- However, the remaining 75% of the outstanding loans or leases from January 2021 to December 2021 will be payable within one year from the date of expiry of the loans or leases. Besides, all the NBFIs have been asked to keep additional 2.0% special general provisioning against loans.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/repayment-policy-for-nbfis-eases-1639937656>

Phase out interest caps

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) advised the government not to extend general forbearance to banks and corporations. IMF also called for phasing out the interest rate caps on lending and deposits.
- The IMF also suggested the government widen its tax to GDP ratio, ensure exchange rate flexibility and strengthen the business-friendly environment to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/phase-out-interest-caps-2921506>

Govt decides 30% maximum RMG wastage ceiling

- The commerce ministry has increased the maximum wastage rate in producing apparel items from raw materials to 30%. As per the latest decision by the commerce ministry, maximum wastage rates will be 27% for basic items, 30% for specialised items and 4% for sweaters and socks, according to a circular issued by the ministry on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/govt-decides-30-maximum-rmg-wastage-ceiling-346069>

CMSME loan disbursement rises 8.75%

- The loan disbursement to cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSME) rose 8.75% year-on-year in the third quarter of the calendar year 2021, thanks to the growing economic activities amid the ease of the Covid-19 situation.
- As the economic activities have now bounced back with the pandemic situation turning the corner, the small-scale entrepreneurs, along with others, have been returning to their full-swing operation. As a result, the credit flow increased.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cmsme-loan-disbursement-rises-875-345565>

Insurers' profits grow despite decline in core business

- Industry insiders said the marine insurance business declined around 10% in the third quarter although the economy got back to almost normal. They said currently, marine business especially the shipment of equipment for megaprojects and machinery for factories at the export processing zones are settled abroad, depriving the local insurance companies of these businesses.
- But well-known insurers made an impressive profit from their core business, they added. Insurers said the firms have been able to make an impressive profit due to an increase in investment returns and a reduction in operational costs. The companies have moved their investments to the capital market instead of parking them into fixed deposit receipts (FDRs).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/insurers-profits-grow-despite-decline-core-business-345556>

BTMA demands duty-free import of all types of fibre

- The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association has demanded that the government allow duty-free import of all types of fibres to ensure product and market diversification as different types of fibres with cotton are being used in the primary textile sector to produce yarns as per the global buyers' demand.

- BTMA president Mohammad Ali Khokon in a letter on December 14 to the National Board of Revenue placed four-point demands, including equal value-added tax at the rate of BDT

3.0/kilogram on the sales of all kinds of yarns based on the certification from the trade body. The trade body has proposed that the government should monitor yarn import through three land ports - Benapole, Bhomra and Sonamasjid - and opposed the partial import of yarns through the land ports.

- BTMA also requested to ensure required infrastructure with installation of yarn measurement equipment and skilled manpower to effectively deal with the raw materials import activities in the ports. The BTMA also demanded 1 % import duty on the spare parts which are used in spinning, fabric manufacturing and dyeing, printing and finishing mills. Import duty on capital machinery is at 1.0% but the import duty is up to 104% on the spares of the machinery.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/157647/btma-demands-duty-free-import-of-all-types-of-fibre>

Cotton consumption to climb this year: USDA

- Bangladesh has been receiving more orders since January 2021, the USDA said in its updated forecast for cotton and cotton product consumption released last week. The USDA's forecast for the marketing year, which begins on September 1 and ends on August 31, is based on higher yarn and fabric demand from domestic garment factories.
- Bangladesh is the world's second largest buyer of cotton after China as the local garment industry is highly import dependent. Of the country's total garment exports, more than 74 % is made from cotton, contrary to the global scenario where 78 % of garments are of manmade fibres.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/cotton-consumption-climb-year-usda-2920736>

Bangladesh scales up might in mobile manufacturing

- Local handset production has made an impressive stride in recent years, aided by the government's huge tax benefits unveiled in the fiscal year of 2017-18. Since then, 14 plants have been set up, and another four are in the pipeline, creating jobs for around 15,000 people.
- Of the total 4.12 crore handsets manufactured and imported in the last fiscal year, about 63 % were produced in Bangladesh. Local assemblers and manufacturers are not stopping there as they plan to employ another 10,000 as many of them expand.
- It came amid signs of economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Sales rebounded strongly in July, reversing from a slowdown in early 2021. The industry grew around 15 % since the pandemic struck the country, according to an industry estimate.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-scales-might-mobile-manufacturing-2920741>

BTRC to declare Edotco as SMP soon

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is going to declare mobile tower company Edotco Bangladesh as a significant market power (SMP) soon. To this end, the telecoms regulator sent a set of recommendations to post and telecommunications ministry to slap SMP regulations on Edotco. The decision has been made in the recent BTRC meeting, according to a BTRC source. According to the BTRC, Edotco has already had a 92-% share in the tower market, posing a threat to newer players in the tower-sharing sector.
- The initiative has been made as part of the commission's move to implement the SMP Regulations-2018 in the sector in question. As part of the BTRC move to execute the regulations in the mobile telecoms sector, it has already declared Grameenphone as an SMP.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/btrc-to-declare-edotco-as-smp-soon-1639797901>

Policy drafted to allow private investment in air-cargo handling

- Bangladesh's air-cargo handling is opening for private investment as the government has drafted maiden policy on its privatisation amid an upturn in the country's global air-route trade, sources say. Aiming to introduce the global practice of engaging regulated agents in air-cargo handling, the draft policy has set a number of compliance requirements and fixed tariffs as cargo-handling charges.
- Once private-sector investment allowed, aviation experts say, exporters and importers would enjoy competitive tariffs on air-cargo handling that is currently centralized to only Biman Bangladesh. The policy, framed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, has fixed service charges for Regulated Air Cargo Agents (RACA) operators as tariffs, security deposit, royalty and fees.
- The draft policy has kept provision for joint-venture investment with 51-% local share. The joint-venture investors would be able to sell their share after at least seven years of RACA operations. Paid-up capital for Bangladeshi companies should be at least BDT 100 million while for joint venture with foreign companies is minimum BDT 150 million.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/policy-drafted-to-allow-private-investment-in-air-cargo-handling-1639847024>

IOCs again allowed to enjoy VAT waiver

- The international oil companies (IOCs) operating in Bangladesh are again granted VAT waiver as the government revives the fiscal incentive two and a half years after the scrapping of the provision. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has reinstated the VAT waiver that lapsed on implementation of a new VAT law on July 1, 2019.
- In a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO), the VAT (value-added tax) wing of the NBR allows the IOCs to enjoy again this tax holiday from December 13, 2021 on local production and supply of gas and import of services as per their production-sharing contract (PSC) with the state-owned corporation Petrobangla.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/iocs-again-allowed-to-enjoy-vat-waiver-1639846905>

Important News: Capital Market

BSEC speeds up IPO approval process

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) can approve a company's proposal to raise funds from the capital market within two weeks, provided the firms produce the required documents, according to a senior official of the regulator.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsec-speeds-ipo-approval-process-2923791>

UCB to issue BDT1,000cr subordinated bond

- The United Commercial Bank (UCB) will issue a bond worth BDT 1,000 crore and use the proceeds to increase the private sector lender's capital base. The unsecured, non-convertible and redeemable subordinated bond is expected to help the bank fulfil its Basel-III requirements. The bank has set the tenure of the bond for seven years, which will be implemented after getting approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/ucb-issue-tk1000cr-subordinated-bond-347557>

Navana Pharma holds IPO road show for raising BDT 750m

- Navana Pharmaceuticals Ltd held a road show for raising BDT 750 million from the capital market through initial public offering (IPO) under the book-building method to expand its business. The company will utilize the IPO proceeds for construction of new general production building (BDT 232.40 million), construction of new utility and engineering building (BDT 97.30 million), refurbishment of cephalosporin unit (BDT 178.50 million), partial loan repayment (BDT 211.80 million) and IPO related expenses (BDT 30 million), according to its red-herring prospectus.

- According to its audited financial report for the year ended on June 30, 2021, the net profit of the company stood at BDT 202.29 million, which was BDT 137.39 million in the previous year. During the period, the revenue of the company was BDT 3.60 billion, which was BDT 3.15 billion in the previous year. The company has reported earnings per share of BDT 2.52 for the year ended on June 30, 2021, which was BDT 1.71 for the year ended on June 30, 2020. The company's net asset value (NAV) per share stood at BDT 41.19 as of June 30, 2021.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/navana-pharma-holds-ipo-road-show-for-raising-tk-750m-1640187477>

IBBL and SJIBL set debut trading dates for their perpetual bonds

- Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd (IBBL) and Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd (SJIBL) have announced the debut dates for the trading of each of their perpetual bonds at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Of the two bonds, IBBL 2nd Perpetual Mudaraba Bond will commence at DSE from 23 December, and SJIBL Mudaraba Perpetual Bond from 26 December. Shahjalal Islami Bank raised BDT 500 crore and Islami Bank BDT 800 crore through issuing perpetual bonds to strengthen their additional Tier-I capital.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ibbl-and-sjibl-set-debut-trading-dates-their-perpetual-bonds-347563>

Union Capital MD barred from joining Islamic Finance

- The central bank has asked Islamic Finance and Investment Ltd (IFIL) not to recruit Chowdhury Manzoor Liaquat as its managing director, who has recently resigned from the Union Capital. Islamic Finance and Investment in September requested the central bank to inform it whether it had any objection to the lender hiring Liaquat. The BB gave its reply on December 21.
- Officials of the BB said Union Capital was now facing a lack of corporate governance and Liaquat was one of the persons responsible for its current state. The central bank has recently unearthed that Union Capital had waived loans given to a subsidiary of the NBF, violating banking norms. The total outstanding loans extended to the subsidiary stood at BDT 500 crore.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/union-capital-md-barred-joining-islamic-finance-2923776>

RFL achieves unsatisfactory growth

- The tube-well and irrigation pump business of Rangpur Foundry Ltd, widely known as RFL, recorded growth in fiscal 2020-21, but the growth could not reach the expected target due to government restrictions imposed to contain the Covid-19 outbreak. RFL's tube-well sales rose by 2.34% to BDT127.29 crore in fiscal 2020-21. But they did comparatively better in the irrigation pump business that year, recording a 168% growth with sales value at BDT9.56 crore in this segment.
- The company officials explained that farmers were reluctant to buy irrigation pumps in the fiscal year 2019-20 as they could not gain profit by harvesting crops. Besides, supply disruption was one of the major reasons behind the business slump. But, in the last year, the government introduced several new facilities for the farmers and the company, which helped the company to achieve such growth. After the regulator's direction, RFL's share price jumped 27% since 29 November at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). At the end of Tuesday's trading, its share price closed at BDT167.20 each.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/rfl-achieves-unsatisfactory-growth-347098>

Sonali Paper seeks exemption from rule to issue right shares

- Sonali Paper and Board Mills, a concern of Younus Group of Industries, has applied to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) seeking relaxation of a rule relating to issuing right shares in order to comply with the regulatory obligation to maintain a minimum paid-up capital of BDT30 crore. As per the guidelines, a company cannot issue right shares within three years of listing on the main board of the stock exchanges but Sonali Paper got relisted on the bourses only one year ago. Currently, the paid-up capital of the company is BDT21.96 crore.
- The company has also applied to the commission to issue the right share at a ratio of 1R:2 (1 right share against 2 existing shares held) at BDT10 per right share. The share price of the company witnessed an unusual hike of around 337% over the last six months. The company has focused on the capital market instead of the manufacturing business. In the July-September period this year, its operating income increased by 23% when compared to the same period of the previous year. As profit rose significantly, the company recommended the highest 40% dividends in the last decade for its shareholders; of which 20% was cash and 20% stocks. After 17 years of acquiring, the new management has applied for bringing the company back to the mainboard in 2020. The BSEC approved the application and it was re-listed on the stock exchange.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sonali-paper-seeks-exemption-rule-issue-right-shares-347008>

BSEC to appoint 4 independent directors at Zaheen Spinning

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has suggested the appointment of four independent directors at Zaheen Spinning Ltd. Independent directors are not shareholders or executives of a particular company. Instead, they join the board with their expertise intending to protect the interest of minority shareholders. According to the BSEC's letter to the loss-making company's managing director (MD) dated 20 December, Dhaka University's (DU) Tourism and Hospitality Management Department's Associate Professor Dr Saud Ahmed, MD of Jermatz Ltd Ismat Jerin Khan, DU Banking and Finance Professor Dr Shahidul Islam, and Jagannath University's Associate Professor Dr Taslima Akter are going to join the company's board of directors.
- Currently, the Zaheen Spinning board has seven members and two of them are independent directors. In the July-September quarter, its loss per share stood at BDT0.24. Its annual loss per share was BDT 2.52 in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The company in its last quarterly report said due to a January 2021 fire incident, its production was disrupted, revenue was hurt, and costs increased impacting its accounts. Zaheen Spinning shares closed at BDT8.8 per share in the Dhaka Stock Exchange on Tuesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-appoint-4-independent-directors-zaheen-spinning-347032>

Govt Sukuk auction Dec 29 to raise BDT 50b

- The government will raise BDT 100 billion by issuing two Islamic bonds, the first one worth BDT 50 billion on December 29, to finance public-sector development projects, officials say. As per the BB criteria, Shariah-based Islamic banks, NBFIs and insurance companies will be eligible for getting 70% Sukuk certificates while conventional banks and other financial institutions will be entitled to receive 15% of the bonds.
- Investors will receive a profit of 4.65% on their investment in the Islamic bonds. Profits will be paid on a half-yearly basis. A client will have to invest a minimum of BDT 10,000 in the security, and there is no upper limit. Banks, corporate institutions and individuals will be permitted to invest in securities.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-sukuk-auction-dec-29-to-raise-tk-50b-1640019459>

Capital market key to bridge infrastructure financing gap: DCCI president

- Current trend indicates that Bangladesh will be able to meet USD 417 billion investment in the infrastructure sector, leaving the financing gap of USD 192 billion from 2016-2040. The capital market can play a pivotal role to reduce the investment gap in Bangladesh, said

Rizwan Rahman, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI).

- The capital market has a huge potential to address the CMSME financing gap as well as encourage businesses to source long-term capital reducing dependence on banks and NBFIs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/capital-market-key-bridge-infrastructure-financing-gap-dcci-president-345973>

Stocks nosedive on BB-BSEC tension

- "Investors are suffering from a confidence crisis due to the deteriorating situation between two regulators regarding some issues," said a top official of a merchant bank preferring anonymity.
- A few weeks back, the BSEC ordered all listed companies, including banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), to deposit their undistributed dividends to the stock market stabilisation fund. It also allowed banks and NBFIs to declare dividends from the current year's profits despite having cumulative losses. However, the central bank ordered them to disregard BSEC's orders.
- The dispute arose when, after a meeting with Bangladesh Bank, the BSEC said the central bank would change its bank exposure policy by allowing cost-based exposure instead of market value. However, the central bank refuted this, saying no such decision was not taken at the meeting.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/stocks-nosedive-bb-bsec-tension-2921476>

Walton launches e-commerce platform Walcart

- Aiming to bring a positive change in Bangladesh's e-commerce sector, country's leading electronics and technology products manufacturer Walton has launched its e-commerce platform Walcart Limited.
- Walcart.com is a B2B and B2C e-commerce platform on which products and services in over 30 categories, including Walton products can be purchased. Walcart aims to become the top e-commerce platform by providing the best customer service. The platform is expected to contribute to national economic growth.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/walton-launches-e-commerce-platform-walcart-1639922274>

Malek Spinning to shut textile unit of its subsidiary

- Malek Spinning Mills, a listed company, has decided to close down the textile unit of its subsidiary- Salek Textile- due to accumulated losses. The board of directors has approved

the closure of the textile unit with effect from December 31, 2021 due to accumulated losses and expiry of lease agreement of the factory building and premises, the company said in a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange on Sunday.

- Malek Spinning Mills holds 97.92% shares in Salek Textile. The parent company, Malek Spinning Mills, will not be required to provide any funds for closing-down of the RMG unit of Salek Textile. The liabilities of the Unit shall be settled by selling off assets of the unit (Factory plant and machinery and others) and borrowing from Salek Textile.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/malek-spinning-to-shut-textile-unit-of-its-subsiary-1639931256>

Summit closes Madhabdi plant as power deal with BPDB expires

- Summit Power Limited has shut down its Madhabdi Power Plant Unit-2 because of the expiry of the plant's power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).
- According to the disclosure by the company on the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange on Sunday, the PPA of the 24.3 MW gas-fired power plant expired on 15 December. The tenure of the agreement was 15 years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/summit-closes-madhabdi-plant-power-deal-bpdb-expires-346042>

Fund raising through right shares low

- Funds raised by listed companies through issuance of rights shares remained low as only one company raised fund through rights issuance in the outgoing calendar year. Insufficient documents, strict conditions on rights issue rules and the securities regulator's conservative approach in giving approval were main factors behind the low fund collection through rights issuance, market insiders said.
- Only one company -- National Polymer Industries - raised BDT 547.38 million by issuing more than 36.49 million rights shares of BDT 15 each, including BDT 5.0 as a premium per share, according to statistics available with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). The company issued one rights share for existing one share (1R:1) to support the business growth (land purchase and land development, import of capital machinery), finance the increased working capital needed along with repayment of bank loans.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/fund-raising-through-right-shares-low-1639840163>

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