

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.36%) lost -22.91 points and closed the week at 6,261.72 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-0.13%) lost -2.70 points and stood at 2,137.66 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-0.28%) lost -3.79 points and stood at 1,355.82 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.09%) gained 1.12 points and closed at 1,209.40 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +0.88%, -2.63%, -0.22%, -0.41%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 23.4 billion (USD 211 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 4.7 billion (Δ% Week: +3.0%)

Market P/E: 18.5x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note (-0.31%) on Sunday but turned positive on Monday (+0.13%). Later, the market reverted to negative on Tuesday (-0.17%) and closed positive on Wednesday (+0.01%). Finally, the market closed on a negative note on Thursday (-0.02%).

Sectoral Performance

- All the financial sectors registered negative performance this week. General Insurance experienced the highest loss of -3.88% followed by Life Insurance (-2.32%), Mutual Fund (-0.17%), Bank (-0.04%), and NBF1 (0.00%).
- Non-financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Engineering booked the highest gain of 0.13% followed by Pharmaceutical (+0.07%), and Telecommunication (+0.00%). Food & Allied experienced the highest loss of 0.46% followed by Fuel & Power (-0.06%).

Macroeconomic arena

• World Bank to give USD 500 Mn budget support. ADB to provide USD 120 Mn for community resilience, livelihoods in rural Bangladesh. IMF satisfied on achievement of reform measures: Bangladesh Bank. ERD, FAO sign technical assistance project agreement. 'Bangladesh should reform labour laws for EU's GSP Plus regime'. External deficit widens further, mounting pressure on reserves. Bangladesh Bank's measures failed to control inflation: IMF. State banks' default loan surges. Dollar shortage, energy security big concerns for EU investors in Bangladesh. A sharp rise in policy rate. What it means for you. Inflation slightly drops to 9.63% in September. World Bank lowers Bangladesh's economic growth projection to 5.6%. IMF to check compliance with loan conditions. Financial sector vulnerabilities may worsen: WB. Leather footwear exports fall to five-year low. External debt nears USD 100 Bn.

• Bangladesh's growth still lowest in South Asia: expert. Eight banks' provision shortfall jumps to BDT 261.33 Bn on mounting default loans. BB sets max interest rate of 10.20% on industrial loans for six months. No source tax can be deducted from IT freelancing sector: Cenbank. Some banks get more remittance. Is it for extra efforts, or higher dollar rates?. Exports fetch USD 4.31 Bn in September, lowest since April. Remittance inflow from USA almost halves in Jul-Aug. Default loans rise by BDT 244.18 Bn in three months. Big drops in remittance, exports make reserves struggle harsher. Treasury heads of 10 banks face fine. Lack of skilled recipients limits tech transfers. Forex reserves fall to USD 21.15 Bn. Harsher bilateral loans set to make external debt repayment tougher. Nearly 11,000 Bangladeshi firms members of Dubai chamber. BDT as headline currency in airfares: BD defers decision until mid-January. BB imposes 10% source tax on inward remittance.

Stock Market arena

• APEXFOODS | Apex Foods profit jumps 73%, thanks to pricey dollar, cost cutting. DESHBANDHU | Deshbandhu Polymer declares 2.5% cash dividend. UNIQUEHRL | Borak Real Estate going public to raise BDT 4 Bn, roadshow on 18 OctEXCHANGE | Mutual funds' dividend payment falls amid market turmoil. EXCHANGE | Defrauded investors to receive BDT 250 Mn from protection fund. INTECH | Intech Limited declares no dividend for FY22. INTRACO | BSEC greenlights Intraco's BDT 500 Mn bond. APEXFOOT | Apex Footwear makes record sales in FY23 on stronger footing at home and abroad. BATBC | British American Tobacco asked to pay BDT 20.54 Bn in 'evaded tax'. PLFSL | People's Leasing unveils three-year financials. PHOENIXFIN | Phoenix Finance's quarterly losses deepen by an awful lot. EXCHANGE | ICB Capital's new product: It is to secure high return tapping into bonds. LINDEBD | Linde to invest USD 17 Mn to build oxygen plant at BSMSN. LHBL | LafargeHolcim launches rain water harvesting project. OIMEX | Oimex Electrode allowed to issue 6 Mn new shares for current directors. BBS, BBSCABLES, NAHEEACP | Three cos of BBS Group see income wiped out.

October 05, 2023 (Week: October 01, 2023 – October 05, 2023)

Dhaka Stock Exchange

DSEX ended in Red (-0.36%) in the week

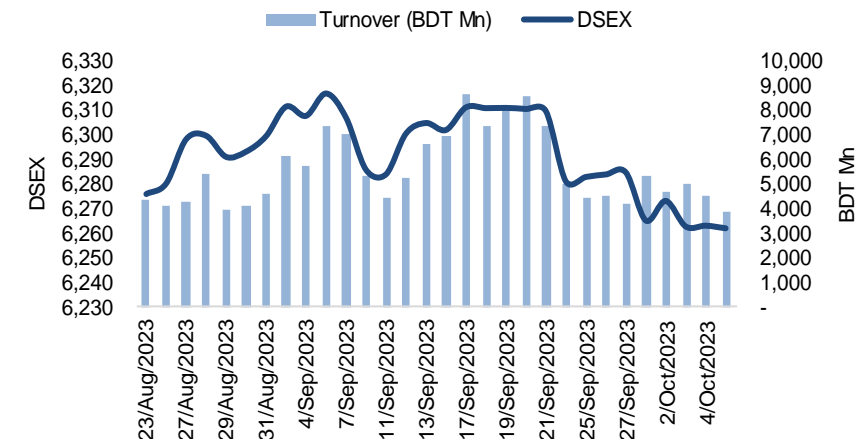
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	29-Dec-2022	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	6,261.72	6,284.63	-22.91	6,206.81	-0.36%	+0.88%
DS30	2,137.66	2,140.36	-2.70	2,195.30	-0.13%	-2.63%
DSES	1,355.82	1,359.60	-3.79	1,358.84	-0.28%	-0.22%
CDSET	1,209.40	1,208.28	+1.12	1,214.42	+0.09%	-0.41%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
M cap	M n BDT	7,767,772	7,774,755	-0.1%
	M n USD	70,297	70,360	
Turnover	M n BDT	23,357	18,143	+28.7%
	M n USD	211	164	
Average Daily Turnover	M n BDT	4,671	4,536	+3.0%
	M n USD	42	41	
Volume	M n Shares	431	335	+28.7%

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
DESHBANDHU	29.8	22.5	+32.4%	1829	574.2	85.1x	16x
LIBRAINFU	1,054.2	848.5	+24.2%	1,583	198.7	NM	0.8x
AMBEEPFA	887.1	770.1	+15.2%	2,129	166.2	NM	46.6x
RENWICKJA	861.1	753.4	+14.3%	1,722	53.6	NM	NM
SHYAMP SUG	155.4	139.1	+11.7%	777	86.6	NM	NM
NTC	437.9	405.6	+8.0%	2,890	26.8	NM	216.8x
BEACHHATCH	45.8	42.7	+7.3%	1,896	170.2	44.0x	4.3x
KPPL	10.2	9.6	+6.3%	745	317	NM	NM
BENGALWTL	24.6	23.4	+5.1%	2,250	45.6	50.2x	0.9x
BSC	117.0	111.4	+5.0%	17,847	506.7	7.5x	15x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
EMERALDOIL	111.1	136.8	-18.8%	6,634	391.5	NM	NM
APEXFOODS	367.0	427.1	-14.1%	2,093	408.7	41.2x	2.7x
PARAMOUNT	62.9	71.1	-11.5%	2,558	191.5	42.2x	2.3x
IMAMBUTTON	131.3	147.0	-10.7%	1,011	46.5	NM	27.3x
CONTININS	41.5	46.2	-10.2%	1,727	194.2	69.2x	1.9x
AIL	70.9	78.7	-9.9%	3,137	176.4	44.3x	3.1x
UNIONINS	62.0	68.6	-9.6%	3,001	540.1	25.2x	3.4x
MEGHNALIFE	75.7	83.3	-9.1%	3,210	165.5	NM	NM
RDFOOD	36.9	40.5	-8.9%	2,803	226.9	30.0x	2.3x
TILIL	54.0	21.2	-8.8%	2,160	74.1	NM	NM

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
SONALIPAPR	615.1	641.1	-4.1%	20,265	1,094.3	65.8x	3.6x
LHBL	70.0	69.4	+0.9%	81,296	922.9	13.8x	4.1x
SEAPEARL	192.1	187.9	+2.2%	23,196	884.0	27.8x	11.1x
FUWANGFOOD	30.0	30.2	-0.7%	3,325	760.6	NM	7.6x
REPUBLIC	56.6	53.9	+5.0%	2,949	699.5	28.4x	3.3x
DESHBANDHU	29.8	22.5	+32.4%	1,829	574.2	85.1x	16x
UNIONINS	62.0	68.6	-9.6%	3,001	540.1	25.2x	3.4x
GEMINISEA	803.3	817.6	-1.7%	4,904	538.1	38.3x	317x
KBPPWBIL	26.6	27.0	-1.5%	2,609	521.6	NM	2.2x
BSC	117.0	111.4	+5.0%	17,847	506.7	7.5x	15x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
HEIDELBCEM	256.8	+43.4%	14,510	32.3x	3.8x
OLYMPIC	152.4	+22.9%	30,471	18.5x	3.1x
UNIQUEHRL	66.3	+14.9%	19,519	10.3x	0.7x
UNILEVERCL	2,024.5	+13.7%	39,021	45.1x	22.2x
LHBL	70.0	+8.0%	81,296	13.8x	4.1x
ADNTEL	122.5	+7.4%	7,920	30.6x	4.0x
JAMUNAOIL	176.7	+5.6%	19,512	6.5x	0.9x
PIONEERINS	71.3	+4.7%	6,339	13.0x	1.6x
PRIMEBANK	20.1	+4.7%	22,759	5.2x	0.7x
EBL	29.4	+4.0%	35,493	6.7x	1.0x

*BDT

**BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1442.3	1443.0	1427.09	-0.04%	+1.07%
NBFI	1,916.8	1,916.8	1,927.24	-0.00%	-0.54%
Mutual Fund	825.7	827.1	852.07	-0.17%	-3.09%
General Insurance	3,720.0	3,870.2	3,177.87	-3.88%	+17.06%
Life Insurance	2,620.1	2,682.2	2,492.91	-2.32%	+5.10%
Telecommunication	4,945.6	4,945.6	4,945.60	+0.00%	-0.00%
Pharmaceutical	3,702.7	3,700.0	3,754.47	+0.07%	-1.38%
Fuel & Power	1,696.8	1,697.7	1,694.29	-0.06%	+0.15%
Cement	2,558.7	2,555.2	2,319.67	+0.14%	+10.30%
Services & Real Estate	1,880.0	1,900.0	1,782.23	-1.05%	+5.49%
Engineering	4,486.8	4,480.8	4,503.40	+0.13%	-0.37%
Food & Allied	21,399.2	21,498.4	21,247.80	-0.46%	+0.71%
IT	3,058.2	3,155.6	3,004.33	-3.08%	+1.79%
Textile	1,609.6	1,613.7	1,621.87	-0.26%	-0.76%
Paper & Printing	9,996.7	10,305.0	10,388.08	-2.99%	-3.77%
Tannery	3,156.5	3,175.2	3,093.43	-0.59%	+2.04%
Jute	16,050.7	15,954.0	14,850.17	+0.61%	+8.08%
Ceramics	679.9	679.9	704.74	-	-3.52%
Miscellaneous	4,137.1	4,132.5	4,071.46	+0.11%	+1.61%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	43.2	51.8	-16.50%	+1.06%	12.1x	0.7x
NBFI	0.9	2.2	-56.93%	+0.02%	NM	18.8x
Mutual Fund	3.2	2.0	+58.28%	+0.08%	NM	0.7x
General Insurance	1,135.5	1,397.9	-18.77%	+27.94%	20.1x	17x
Life Insurance	163.7	227.7	-28.14%	+4.03%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	0.4	0.3	+28.83%	+0.01%	15.6x	4.4x
Pharmaceutical	237.3	288.0	-17.60%	+5.84%	19.2x	2.3x
Fuel & Power	57.5	61.7	-6.83%	+1.41%	23.6x	1.1x
Cement	208.5	89.9	+132.05%	+5.13%	27.1x	2.7x
Services & Real Estate	304.6	302.0	+0.87%	+7.50%	23.1x	12x
Engineering	229.5	118.7	+93.32%	+5.65%	60.9x	18x
Food & Allied	586.8	525.6	+11.63%	+14.44%	19.9x	7.5x
IT	205.8	379.1	-45.72%	+5.06%	27.9x	2.8x
Textile	151.6	142.3	+6.57%	+3.73%	78.5x	1.1x
Paper & Printing	289.9	128.9	+124.81%	+7.13%	37.1x	19x
Tannery	89.8	87.2	+2.96%	+2.21%	44.1x	3.1x
Jute	35.8	12.7	+181.53%	+0.88%	NM	-1363.1x
Ceramics	0.1	0.1	+39.21%	+0.00%	53.4x	19x
Miscellaneous	319.9	307.7	+3.98%	+7.87%	15.9x	18x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
EGEN	45.2	-13.2%	3,390	312x	2.0x
ISLAMIBANK	32.6	-1.2%	52,486	8.4x	0.7x
TRUSTBANK	31.7	-0.1%	27,142	9.9x	1.1x
BRACBANK	35.8	-0.0%	57,596	8.3x	0.9x
IDLC	46.5	-	19,330	11.2x	1.1x
IPDC	57.6	-	21,375	38.4x	3.3x
LANKABAFIN	26.0	-	14,010	27.4x	1.4x
ACI	260.2	-	19,829	NM	2.0x
LINDEBD	1,397.7	-	21,271	33.7x	3.7x
UPGDCL	233.7	-	135,475	16.7x	4.4x

Important News: Business & Economy

World Bank to give USD 500 Mn budget support

- The World Bank is considering a USD 500 Mn budget support for Bangladesh in the current fiscal year under two programmes, said its Country Director Abdoulaye Seck today. In the last fiscal year that ended on June 30, the development lender gave USD 500 Mn in budget support as well. The fund was part of the green and climate-resilient development policy credit.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/world-bank-give-500-million-budget-support-3434776>

ADB to provide USD 120 Mn for community resilience, livelihoods in rural Bangladesh

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Bangladesh on Wednesday signed a loan agreement for USD 120 Mn to improve access to basic services and climate resilience of remote and rural communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh. Sharifa Khan, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, and Edimon Ginting, ADB Country Director for Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of Bangladesh and ADB, respectively.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/adb-to-provide-120m-for-community-resilience-livelihoods-in-rural-bangladesh>

IMF satisfied on achievement of reform measures: Bangladesh Bank

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expressed satisfaction over the achievement of some reform measures Bangladesh Bank (BB) has taken in line with the IMF's suggestions for its USD 4.7 Bn loan programme. The IMF team will assess the overall condition of the economy before sitting with the central bank again and share the outcomes of the meetings, said Md Mezbaul Haque, Bangladesh Bank (BB) executive director and spokesman.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-satisfied-achievement-reform-measures-bangladesh-bank-712198>

ERD, FAO sign technical assistance project agreement

- The Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance has announced the formalisation of a technical assistance project agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The primary objective of this collaboration is to ensure utilising bio-pesticides as nature-based solution, reads a press release.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/erd-fao-sign-technical-assistance-project-agreement-712442>

New drug act to take pharma sector to greater heights

- The new Drugs and Cosmetics Act 2023 will help the pharmaceuticals sector of Bangladesh get rid of adulterated and substandard medicines and climb to the next heights, manufacturers say. The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) will establish the Department of Drug Prosecution to enforce laws.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/new-drug-act-take-pharma-sector-greater-heights-3434721>

Financial reforms needed to achieve macroeconomic stability: WB country director

- Bangladesh needs to reform its financial sector in a variety of areas including exchange rate policy, inflation, and monetary policy, to achieve macroeconomic stability, said World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh Abdoulaye Seck on Wednesday (4 October). He further said the World Bank will continue supporting the reform programmes in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/financial-reforms-needed-achieve-macroeconomic-stability-wb-country-director-712218>

'Bangladesh should reform labour laws for EU's GSP Plus regime'

- Bangladesh's market access to the European Union under the proposed GSP Plus regime depends on the alignment of the south Asian country's labour law with the international standards, EU Ambassador in Bangladesh Charles Whiteley said today. If Bangladesh does not fulfil the BLA revision according to the action plan, this would be a major setback for the implementation process, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-should-reform-labour-laws-eus-gsp-plus-regime-3434656>

Further contraction of monetary, fiscal policies needed to control inflation: Atiur Rahman tells BB

- The central bank needs to take steps towards further contracting the monetary and fiscal policies in order to control inflation, former central bank governor and emeritus professor Atiur Rahman told the Bangladesh Bank today. At a policy review meeting with the central bank on Wednesday, he opined that macroeconomic stability is more important right now than growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/further-contraction-monetary-fiscal-policies-needed-control-inflation-atiur-rahman-tells-bb>

External deficit widens further, mounting pressure on reserves

- Deficit in the country's financial account balance swelled to USD 2.02 Bn at the end of August from USD 946 Mn a month ago, putting further pressure on the dwindling forex reserves. According to the Bangladesh Bank data, the trade deficit widened in August to stand at USD 1.01 Bn, up from USD 0.64 Bn in July. At the end of September, the country's reserves stood at USD 21.15 Bn, down from USD 23.26 Bn at the end of August.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/external-deficit-widens-further-mounting-pressure-reserves-712486>

Bangladesh Bank's measures failed to control inflation: IMF

- IMF has said the Bangladesh Bank's monetary policy has failed to control inflation, pointing to the central bank's failure to fix the exchange rate based on the actual market situation and to set a sufficiently high lending rate to reduce money supply. According to the central bank's policy, the lending rate is determined based on the six-month moving average rate of treasury bills (SMART) plus an additional 3%. Currently, the SMART rate is 7.20%. So, the maximum lending rate charged by banks is 10.20%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-banks-measures-failed-control-inflation-imf-712394>

State banks' default loan surges

- Default loans in the banking sector shot to a historic high at the end of June this year owing to rising non-performing loans (NPLs) at state-owned commercial banks, said Bangladesh Bank yesterday. The amount of NPLs at the state banks stood at BDT 744.5 Bn, up 28.45% from that three months ago, said the central bank in its quarterly report.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/state-banks-default-loan-surges-3434881>

Govt moves to set minimum monthly wages for 12 new sectors

- The government has taken steps to set minimum monthly wages for workers in 12 new sectors to bring them under regulations, according to sources. Earlier, the Department of Labour and the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments collected information from the field level and recommended that the Ministry of Labour and Employment include these sectors in the wage board.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/govt-moves-to-set-minimum-monthly-wages-for-12-new-sectors>

Dollar shortage, energy security big concerns for EU investors in Bangladesh

- European investors in Bangladesh raised concerns over the ongoing dollar shortage and energy security challenges in the country to run their businesses. In the panel discussion, foreign investors addressed frequent changes in tax and VAT laws, lack of infrastructure and bureaucratic problems in getting business licences as issues creating bottlenecks for future investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dollar-shortage-energy-security-big-concerns-eu-investors-bangladesh-712402>

A sharp rise in policy rate. What it means for you

- The Bangladesh Bank has increased its key policy rate by 75 basis points to 7.25%, the highest hike in the last one decade, aiming to make money costlier to curb inflation. This is the second hike in three months and sixth since May last year when inflation just shot over 8% from below 6% in January 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/sharp-rise-policy-rate-what-it-means-you-712490>

Inflation slightly drops to 9.63% in September

- Inflation in September slightly decreased to 9.63%, but economists say the suffering of ordinary people will not be significantly alleviated given the current market conditions. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data released on Tuesday, food inflation also fell to 12.37% from 12.54% in August, highest in over a decade. Non-food inflation also eased to 7.82%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/inflation-drops-963-after-months-escalation-711498>

World Bank lowers Bangladesh's economic growth projection to 5.6%

- The World Bank has projected a 5.6% economic growth in Bangladesh for the current fiscal year. Earlier in April this year, it had projected a 6.2% GDP growth for Bangladesh in the current fiscal year. The projection comes from the October update of the Bangladesh Development report by the World Bank, released during a press briefing arranged by the Dhaka office of the global development partner.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/world-bank-revises-down-bangladeshs-economic-growth-projection-56-711234>

IMF to check compliance with loan conditions

- An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission is set to assess progress in compliance with the conditions tagged to a USD 4.7-Bn loan package for Bangladesh, pending release of the next tranche. Officials say a programme-review mission of the IMF is scheduled to meet with the country's revenue authority Thursday for the review.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/imf-to-check-compliance-with-loan-conditions>

Ctg customs' revenue grows 7.15% in Q1 on soaring import prices

- The Chattogram Customs House has marked a 7.15% increase year-on-year in its revenue collection in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, mainly on the back of soaring import prices. According to customs data, the country's largest customs station collected BDT 164.8466 Bn in the three months through September.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-customs-revenue-grows-715-q1-soaring-import-prices-711698>

BB lowers age limit to 14 years for MFS account opening

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has lowered the age limit to 14 years from 18 for applicants to open mobile financial services (MFS) accounts, such as bKash and Nagad. The relaxation applies to those between the ages of 14 -18 who hold Bangladeshi nationality and whose parents, or legal guardians, also have Bangladeshi nationality, as per a BB circular.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bb-lowers-age-limit-to-14-years-for-mfs-account-opening>

Financial sector vulnerabilities may worsen: WB

- Bangladesh's financial sector vulnerabilities may worsen due to an increase in bad loans and create further pressure in terms of liquidity in the banking system, warned the World Bank (WB) yesterday. The caution comes due to a rise in total stressed assets, including rescheduled loans, non-performing loans (NPLs) and net written-off loans.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/financial-sector-vulnerabilities-may-worsen-wb-3434336>

Imports thru Bhomra land port decline in first two months of FY24

- Imports through the Bhomra land port in Satkhira have declined by more than 33,000 tonnes in the first two months of the current fiscal year compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. Importers say volatile exchange rates of the dollar in the country and high commodity prices in India have affected imports through the land port during the timeframe.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imports-thru-bhomra-land-port-decline-first-two-months-fy24-711682>

Private sector credit growth hits 22-month low in August

- Private sector credit growth in Bangladesh slumped to 9.75% in August, the lowest in 22 months, as businesses and individuals reined in borrowing amid economic headwinds and uncertainty surrounding the upcoming national elections. According to Bangladesh Bank data, the last time private sector credit growth dipped below this figure was in October 2021 registering a growth of 9.44%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/private-sector-credit-growth-hits-22-month-low-august-711706>

Hopes for USD 30 Bn reserve by June amid concerns to meet IMF threshold

- With an IMF review mission already in Dhaka amid finance officials' concerns about complying with the net reserves threshold to get the lender's second instalment of loans, the government is projecting a USD 30 Bn foreign reserve buildup by June next year. A finance ministry official who preferred anonymity told TBS on Monday that the IMF board would see the staff team's report and decide if the next tranche would be disbursed in December.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/hopes-30b-reserve-june-amid-concerns-meet-imf-threshold-711034>

Cenbank finally moves to make money costlier to fight inflation

- The reference lending rate, also known as SMART (six-month moving average rate of Treasury bill), surged to 7.20% in September, the highest in six months, as Bangladesh has stopped money creation through devolvement for deficit financing to curb money supply amid rising inflation. The surge in the SMART rate indicates that money will be costlier as it is linked with the lending rates of banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-finally-moves-make-money-costlier-fight-inflation-711010>

Govt looks to regain economy's pre-Covid momentum by the end of current fiscal

- The government is hoping to return the country's economy to its pre-Covid momentum in terms of growth by the end of the running 2023-24 fiscal according to the official narrative in a Finance Ministry document. If everything goes according to plan and 'assumptions hold', the document says that 8% GDP growth rate is expected to be achieved in FY 2025-26.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-looks-regain-economys-pre-covid-momentum-end-current-fiscal-710446>

Stakeholders seek NBR clarification over tax exemption on Universal Pension investment

- With the Sixth Schedule of the Income Tax law not mentioning any pension scheme contributions, the Universal Pension Scheme, has raised questions among stakeholders regarding the availability of tax exemptions against the investment. A senior official of the NBR, on the condition of anonymity, told TBS that they would analyse the issue after receiving any formal letter from the National Pension Authority or Ministry of Finance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/stakeholders-seek-nbr-clarification-over-tax-exemption-universal-pension-investment-710394>

BB to form Escrow implementation body soon as part of cleaning up e-commerce

- Bangladesh Bank has taken the initiative to form an implementation committee under its Escrow policy, with the inclusion of stakeholders to regulate the country's e-commerce platforms. It is expected to be helpful to get around the problem whereby many e-commerce firms, whether running deliberate scams or going bust in the heat of competition, end up making off with enormous amounts of money paid to them by customers, against which no goods have been delivered.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bb-to-form-escrow-implementation-body-soon-as-part-of-cleaning-up-e-commerce>

Leather footwear exports fall to five-year low

- Bangladesh's leather footwear industry saw its export earnings fall to a five-year low of USD 141.83 Mn in the first quarter of the current fiscal year due to a decline in export orders from the Eurozone in the face of the ongoing economic crisis. According to data from the Export Promotion Bureau, there was a 32.77% decline in year-on-year export earnings.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/leather-footwear-exports-fall-five-year-low-3433371>

Knitwear's export performance stronger than woven

- Shorter lead times, easy availability of raw materials in the domestic market and changes in global fashion have made knitwear items the top export from Bangladesh. In July-September of the current fiscal year, knitwear item shipments rose 19.70% year-on-year to USD 6.76 Bn compared to the corresponding period in the previous fiscal year, according to data from the EPB.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/knitwears-export-performance-stronger-woven-3433366>

Weak batch of data paints economy's deepening woes

- Bangladesh wrapped up the last fiscal year of 2022-23 with slower economic growth. The growth of export receipts decelerated to 9.5% in the first quarter of 2023-24 from 13.3% in the identical three months of FY23. Remittances dipped 13%. Imports, through which the country brings in industrial raw materials and capital machinery, continue to face downturns as well.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/weak-batch-data-paints-economys-deepening-woes-3433361>

External debt nears USD 100 Bn

- Bangladesh's overall external debt stock nearly hit the USD 100 Bn mark in June driven by increasing appetite for funds from both public and private sectors, central bank figures showed. The debt buildup, which still within the threshold recommended by the IMF, is becoming a headache for the country in view of the unfavourable developments on various economic fronts.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/external-debt-nears-100b-3433356>

Jul-Aug foreign loan repayment rises 38.2% amid disbursement slump

- Bangladesh's foreign loan disbursement has decreased while debt repayment has increased 38.2% year-on-year in the first two months of the current fiscal year. Foreign aid disbursement has dropped 14.48% to USD 739.07 Mn from USD 864.29 Mn a year ago, according to data published by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) on Monday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/jul-aug-foreign-loan-repayment-rises-382-amid-disbursement-slump-710990>

Bangladesh's growth still lowest in South Asia: expert

- Although agricultural productivity is growing in Bangladesh, its rate of progress in this regard remains the lowest among nearby countries in South Asia and beyond, according to an analyst. As per the World Development Indicators (WDI), an index comprising international statistics on global development compiled by the World Bank, Bangladesh's agricultural productivity growth stood at 1% in 2021.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladeshs-growth-still-lowest-south-asia-expert-3433351>

Eight banks' provision shortfall jumps to BDT 261.33 Bn on mounting default loans

- The provision shortfall of eight banks – three state-owned and five private – increased to BDT 261.33 Bn at the end of June 2023, which bankers believe is due to mounting defaulted loans. According to data from the central bank, the eight banks' provision shortfall soared by BDT 59.74 Bn in the April-June quarter. As per the policy, banks are required to keep a provision of 0.50% to 5% against deposits.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/eight-banks-provision-shortfall-jumps-tk26133cr-mounting-default-loans-711026>

Urgent dollar support sought for fuel import

- The Energy Division has urgently reached out to the Bangladesh Bank, seeking assistance for the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to secure the necessary dollars, saying it is crucial to settle overdue import bills that have accumulated over several months. Failure to resolve this issue promptly could potentially lead to increased costs as suppliers may impose penalties for delayed payments.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/urgent-dollar-support-sought-fuel-import-711030>

LPG price hiked by BDT 6.58 per kg, 12kg cylinder to cost BDT 1,363

- The price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has been hiked by BDT 6.58 per kg to BDT 113.58 per kg for the month of October as compared to the previous price of BDT 107 per kg in September. The new price will be effective from 6pm Monday, said Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Chairman Md Nurul Amin while announcing the new price at a press conference at the commission's auditorium.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/lpg-price-hiked-tk658-kg-12kg-cylinder-cost-tk1363-710678>

How China's Belt and Road changing Bangladesh's infrastructures

- According to an estimate by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a US think tank, the total investment from China in Bangladesh is USD 7.07 Bn. In addition, Chinese companies have received construction contracts worth USD 22.94 Bn in different sectors. At a recent programme in Dhaka, the Chinese envoy said the BRI investments in Bangladesh are contributing to the improvement of people's living standards.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-chinas-belt-and-road-changing-bangladeshs-infrastructures-709826>

BB sets max interest rate of 10.20% on industrial loans for six months

- The interest rate on loans from banks in October has been set at 10.20% as per Bangladesh Bank's formula. On the other hand, NBFIs can charge interest against loans by adding a margin at a maximum rate of 5.0%. Their maximum interest rate will be 12.20% and 9.20% on deposits. However, the loan interest rate set in October cannot be changed within the next six months.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-sets-max-interest-rate-of-1020pc-on-industrial-loans-for-six-months>

No source tax can be deducted from IT freelancing sector: Cenbank

- Authorised dealer banks engaged in foreign exchange transactions cannot deduct source tax from the information technology freelancing sector, the Bangladesh Bank clarified in a circular on Sunday (1 October). The new circular has been issued as confusion rose about deducting the source tax from the said sector after the central bank's Foreign Exchange Policy Department issued a circular in this regard on 27 September.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/no-source-tax-can-be-deducted-it-freelancing-sector-cenbank-710314>

Some banks get more remittance. Is it for extra efforts, or higher dollar rates?

- A high-ranking official at the Bangladesh Bank said banks are still competing on remittance dollar rates. At present, banks are supposed to pay a maximum of BDT 110 per dollar for remittances. But, according to bankers, some banks are paying the exchange houses up to BDT 116 to collect remittances. Exchange houses are also competing among themselves to collect remittance dollars. They are collecting remittances at higher rates and selling them to banks. Due to this, the banks that offer official rates are not getting remittances as before.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/some-banks-get-more-remittance-it-extra-efforts-or-higher-dollar-rates-709822>

Exports fetch USD 4.31 Bn in September, lowest since April

- Bangladesh earned USD 4.31 Bn in merchandise exports in September which is the second lowest this year, according to data released by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) today. Earlier in August, exports grew by around 36% YoY to USD 4.61 Bn driven by a number of products including readymade garments, home textiles, leather and jute goods, according to the EPB.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/exports-fetch-431-billion-september-lowest-after-april-710266>

Remittance inflow from USA almost halves in Jul-Aug

- Remittance inflow from the United States fell by nearly 49% in July-August period of the current fiscal year from that of the same period of the last FY apparently due to volatility in the local foreign exchange market. Bangladesh received only USD 370.27 Mn in the first two months of FY 2023-24, which is 48.65% lower than USD 721.07 Mn received YoY

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/remittance-inflow-from-usa-almost-halves-in-jul-aug>

Default loans rise by BDT 244.18 Bn in three months

- Defaulted loans rose by around BDT 244.18 Bn in the three months through June due to the non-availability of deferral and reschedule facilities. According to data from the central bank, the total default loan in the banking sector stood at BDT 1.5604 Tn in June, which was 10.11% of the total outstanding loans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/default-loans-rise-tk24418cr-three-months-710346>

Big drops in remittance, exports make reserves struggle harsher

- Inward remittances dropped to USD 1.34 Bn in September, lowest in 41 months, according to the Bangladesh Bank data released on Sunday, though August saw the highest number of workers going abroad in a single month and a record 1.13 Mn in FY23. When asked why remittances are decreasing, central bank spokesperson Md Mezbaul Haque told TBS, "We need some more time to look into the reasons."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/big-drops-remittance-exports-make-reserves-struggle-harsher-710382>

RMG workers' minimum wage declaration set to face delay

- The third meeting of the minimum wage board for ready-made garment workers ended on Sunday without any concrete proposals from either party to declare minimum wages. Meanwhile, the board, tasked with declaring a new wage structure within six months after assuming responsibility on 9 April.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-workers-minimum-wage-declaration-set-face-delay-710338>

Treasury heads of 10 banks face fine

- Bangladesh Bank has imposed a fine of BDT 0.1 Mn each on the treasury heads of 10 banks due to their alleged involvement in US dollar rate manipulation. The treasury heads of Social Islami Bank, Al-Arafah Islami, Mercantile, Modhumoti, Midland, Brac, Exim, Premier, Shahjalal Islami and Trust will face the fine.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/treasury-heads-10-banks-face-fine-3432151>

Banks, bourses far off sustainable financing towards green growth

- Policy inadequacies and lack of right incentives are key constraints on expansion of sustainable financing towards green growth in both banks and the capital market in Bangladesh while the world economy is on fast transition. Also among the drawbacks is a lack of coordination among authorities towards sustainable finance that involves green transition in production and consumption patterns.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/banks-bourses-far-off-sustainable-financing-towards-green-growth>

AIIB to lend Bangladesh USD 4.5 Bn in 5 yrs

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide USD 4.5 Bn to Bangladesh during the next five years, the ministry of finance said Tuesday. The loan is expected to help finance efforts to face climate change-induced problems, and play a pivotal role in creating a bridge between public-and private-sector investments, said a press release, issued after the eighth annual meeting of the bank in Egypt Monday-Tuesday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/aiib-to-lend-bangladesh-45b-in-5-yrs>

Japanese, Chinese firms to build 370MW solar power plants

- Two Japanese companies and one Chinese firm have received approval from Bangladesh to invest in three solar-based power plants. The plants will have a combined capacity to produce 370 megawatts of electricity. The government will purchase power for 20 years. Currently, Bangladesh's power generation capacity stands at 23,871MW. Of the amount, 1,194 MW comes from renewable energy sources.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/japanese-chinese-firms-build-370mw-solar-power-plants-3429696>

Japan to provide USD 1,500 Mn more for Matarbari power plant

- Japan will provide JPY 217.56 Bn (approximately USD 1.5 Bn) more in 7th tranche under the 44th Japanese Loan Package (2nd batch) for the Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal-Fired Power Project. Under the project, 'Exchange of Notes' and 'Loan Agreement' for 7th tranche of Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal-fired Power Project under the 44th Japanese ODA Loan Package (2nd batch) were signed today between the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Japan.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/japan-to-provide-1500m-more-for-matarbari-power-plant>

Exporting mango trees to Dubai: Bangladeshi farmers tap into afforestation programmes in Gulf countries

- According to data from the Bangladeshi government, Qatar has been the largest export destination for Bangladeshi fruit saplings, but the UAE is rapidly gaining ground. "The UAE is a big potential... Especially saplings of mangoes are very popular," said Kamrul Hasan, commercial counsellor at the Bangladesh Consulate General in Dubai.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/exporting-mango-trees-dubai-bangladeshi-farmers-tap-afforestation-programmes-gulf-countries>

Bangladesh again tops in ship recycling despite 65% decline

- Bangladesh maintains the position as the top ship recycling nation despite a 65% decrease in its shipbreaking activities, reports the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Accounting for over one-third of global ship recycling, the country saw a reduction from 8.02 Mn tonnes in the previous year to 2.8 Mn tonnes in the 12 months leading up to January 2023.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-again-tops-ship-recycling-despite-65-decline-708262>

Govt allows trade unions in economic zones

- In response to international pressure, the government has finally decided to allow trade unions in the factories within the country's economic zones to ensure labour rights. Stakeholders say the government's decision has been influenced by pressure from the United States, the European Union, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), despite objections from both domestic and foreign entrepreneurs who have invested in the economic zones.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-allows-trade-unions-economic-zones-708534>

Amusement parks turn over BDT 50 Bn annually

- Investment in Bangladesh's amusement and theme park segment is on the rise as investors are pumping money into the fast-expanding industry to serve visitors, according to industry people. About BDT 120 Bn has been invested in the sector in the last two decades and about 0.6 Mn people have been employed directly, according to the Bangladesh Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (BAAPA).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/amusement-parks-turn-over-tk-5000cr-annually-3429701>

Largest private data centre for financial sector opens today

- Felicity IDC Limited (FIDC) -- a tier 3, PCI-DSS-certified internet data centre (IDC) -- is going to open for cloud service today (Saturday). It is specially designed for the country's financial sector. The data centre, located in Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City in Gazipur's Kaliakoir, has over 100,000 square feet of space, 5MW power and 500 racks, which is ten times greater in capacity and size than the second-largest data centre in the private sector, claims the CEO of Felicity.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/largest-private-data-centre-for-financial-sector-opens-today>

BB moves to stem slide in reserve

- The Bangladesh Bank will not be making any drastic policy changes ahead of the national election scheduled for January, putting all its focus on tackling the depleting foreign exchange reserves and refraining from printing money to give loans to the government. But after the polls, the banking regulator will be embarking on its long-term plan to reform reserve management and the banking sector under the new government.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bb-moves-stem-slide-reserve-3429601>

Govt goes slow on AIIB project loans, opts for budget support

- The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved loans worth USD 4.62 Bn for Bangladesh, but the government seems cautious about project loans from the organisation considering repayment pressure amid dollar crisis. The government instead is willing to secure budget support to replenish the fast-depleting reserves.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-goes-slow-aiib-project-loans-opts-budget-support-709398>

Bank's CSR spending in health rises by BDT 1.52 Bn in Jan-June

- The corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure of banks and NBFIs in the health sector has increased more than threefold in the first half of 2023, compared to the spending in the second half of last year. According to a Bangladesh Bank report on CSR spending released yesterday, the banking sector spent BDT 2.16 Bn on the health sector from January to June, up by 238% or BDT 1.52 Bn, from BDT 640 Mn during the last six months of 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banks-csr-spending-health-rises-tk152cr-jan-june-708606>

BB asks 15 banks to improve financial health

- Bangladesh Bank yesterday passed directives on 15 banks through its observers and coordinators to improve their financial health. At the end of 2017, the bank's bad loans stood at BDT 58.18 Bn. Then it rose to BDT 149.5 Bn, which is about 11.4% of the banking sector's total default loans, at the end of March of this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-asks-15-banks-improve-financial-health-3429881>

Lack of skilled recipients limits tech transfers

- A major lift in digital technologies has happened in Bangladesh for absorption of technical know-how from Chinese technical assistance and investments, although the technology transfer remains limited for skills deficiency. Investment promoters and industry people are of such view in evaluation of the spinoffs that could be derived from the execution of megaprojects in the country with China's capital investment and application of high technologies in implementation works.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/lack-of-skilled-recipients-limits-tech-transfers>

New law permits taxmen to disclose undeclared assets

- Taxmen now have the authority to disclose information about undeclared assets and income of tax-evaders in the current financial year, as the restrictions on taxpayer-information privacy have been eased under the new tax law. This new provision, integrated into the Income Tax Law-2023, grants tax officials the unprecedented authority to release data regarding undeclared income and assets of taxpayers once these have been identified through investigation or inspection.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/new-law-permits-taxmen-to-disclose-undeclared-assets>

Forex reserves fall to USD 21.15 Bn

- Macroeconomists and policy analysts have listed paying deferred dues, the tendency of FDI profits being taken abroad by investors, declining inward remittance flow, capital flight, and money laundering as reasons behind Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves slipping to USD 21.15 Bn. According to the central bank, a week ago on September 21, the reserve was USD 21.45 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/forex-reserves-fall-2115-billion-708690>

Harsher bilateral loans set to make external debt repayment tougher

- Bangladesh is facing the prospect of an increased pressure on its balance of payment from a surge in debt repayment burden in coming years as foreign borrowing is seeing a rapid shift from flexible multilateral loans to stricter bilateral ones. According to data from the Economic Relations Division (ERD), by the end of the fiscal year 2022-23, multilateral lenders' share in Bangladesh's foreign loans was 59%, which was 69% in the fiscal year 2018-19.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/harsher-bilateral-loans-set-make-external-debt-repayment-tougher-709266>

Nearly 11,000 Bangladeshi firms members of Dubai chamber

- The number of new Bangladeshi companies joining the Dubai Chamber of Commerce has surged 47% year-on-year to 1,044 in the first half of this year, said the chamber. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) chamber unveiled the list of nationalities behind new member companies amidst widespread allegations in Bangladesh of illegal fund transfers abroad. The transfers are allegedly being made mainly through trade misinvoicing and hundi, an informal mechanism of money transfer to redirect remittances sent by Bangladeshis abroad.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nearly-11000-bangladeshi-firms-members-dubai-chamber-3429691>

BDT as headline currency in airfares: BD defers decision until mid-January

- The government has once again deferred a decision to use taka as headline currency in fixing airfares in Bangladesh until next January 16. According to officials, this is for the second time the deadline has been extended due to "procedural delays". In an April 16 circular, civil aviation and tourism ministry asked all local and foreign airlines operating in Bangladesh to charge airfares in taka, effective from July 01.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bdt-as-headline-currency-in-airfares-bd-defers-decision-until-mid-january>

BB imposes 10% source tax on inward remittance

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Wednesday said banks will deduct tax at source from inward remittance against service and revenue sharing. The banks will deduct the tax at the rate of 10%. The Foreign Exchange Policy Department of the BB issued the circular. It's worth noting that workers' remittances will be exempt from this source tax.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-imposes-10pc-source-tax-on-inward-remittance>

Six months on, still no progress in setting new wages for RMG workers

- Garment factory owners have yet to prepare their proposal to set new wages for workers with only a few days remaining to fix wages within stipulated time after the formation of the wage board on 9 April. According to labour law, new wages have to be fixed within six months after the formation of a wage board. But the owners say they could not make their proposal as they need more time to review their business situation amid the ongoing global economic slowdown.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/six-months-still-no-progress-setting-new-wages-rmg-workers-709734>

Paperfly aborts flight

- In a heartbreaking turn of events, Paperfly, a third-party logistics e-commerce firm, ceased its operations just last week, painting a sombre picture of what could have been the torchbearer of last-mile delivery excellence across the nation. This abrupt halt has left a staggering 1,000 individuals at a risk of being jobless.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/paperfly-aborts-flight-709738>

Important News: Capital Market

APEXFOODS | Apex Foods profit jumps 73%, thanks to pricey dollar, cost cutting

- When the country's shrimp industry was grappling with dwindling exports, publicly listed shrimp exporter Apex Foods Limited posted a remarkable year-on-year growth in annual profit in the fiscal 2022-23. Reason, dollar appreciation coupled with the company's effective cost minimisation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/apex-foods-profit-jumps-73-thanks-pricey-dollar-cost-cutting-712482>

RNSPIN, FARCHEM | BSEC okays RN Spinning-Samin Food, Far Chemical-SF Textile mergers

- The securities regulator, at the beginning of this month, approved the mergers of Samin Food and Beverage Industries and Textile Mills Limited with RN Spinning Mills Limited, and SF Textile Industries Limited with FAR Chemical Industries Limited. Last year, the High Court approved both the listed firms to merge with their non-listed subsidiaries. After the amalgamation, the new entities will be known as FAR Chemical and RN Spinning.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-okays-rn-spinning-samin-food-far-chemical-sf-textile-mergers-712450>

RINGSHINE | Ownership transfer of 38% stake in Ring Shine gets regulator's nod

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) approved of a proposal put forward by Wise Star for transfer of 190.03 Mn shares of Ring Shine Textiles, including those held by sponsors and directors, according to a stock exchange filing on Tuesday. In the ownership transfer process, Wise Star has been representing the Singaporean companies too.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/ownership-transfer-of-38pc-stake-in-ring-shine-gets-regulators-nod>

DESHBANDHU | Deshbandhu Polymer declares 2.5% cash dividend

- Deshbandhu Polymer Limited has declared a 2.5% cash dividend for its shareholders for the financial year 2022-23 which ended on 30 June. During FY2022, its earnings per share was BDT 0.59, which was 25% higher than the previous fiscal.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/deshbandhu-polymer-declares-25-cash-dividend-711222>

LBSL | How much can LankaBangla clients earn from primary treasury bonds?

- LankaBangla Securities, on behalf of its brokerage clients, successfully participated in the maiden primary auction of treasury bonds through beneficiary owner (BO) accounts. The top-tier brokerage firm's treasury trading desk on Tuesday secured up to over 9% yield for its clients at the auction of the two-year government bonds and the value was BDT 11 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/how-much-lankabangla-brokerage-clients-will-earn-primary-treasury-bonds-712370>

UNIQUEHRL | Borak Real Estate going public to raise BDT 4 Bn, roadshow on 18 Oct

- Borak Real Estate Limited — a subsidiary of the publicly listed Unique Hotel and Resorts Limited — is set to conduct a roadshow this 18 October with the aim of raising BDT 4 Bn through an initial public offering (IPO). On the roadshow, the real estate company's management will explain the firm's financial strength and future opportunities to the investors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/borak-real-estate-going-public-raise-tk400cr-roadshow-18-oct-711678>

INTECH | Intech crushed under a pile of losses for 'fictitious assets' shown by former board

- Nearly two years after the new management took over Intech, it made earnings disclosure for FY22 to the despair of shareholders. The IT firm said it made a loss of BDT 36 Mn in the year for having to comply with provisioning requirement against assets, which had been shown in the financial statements prepared by the previous management but were found non-existent by the new board.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/intech-crushed-under-a-pile-of-losses-for-fictitious-assets-shown-by-former-board>

EXCHANGE | Mutual funds' dividend payment falls amid market turmoil

- Dividend payment by the country's mutual fund industry has decreased significantly year-on-year in the fiscal 2022-23, owing to the multifaceted challenges the industry is facing. This has affected the income of asset management companies – which operate mutual funds – in fund management. The companies paid a dividend of BDT 2.83 Bn to investors in fiscal 2022-23, compared to BDT 6.3 Bn a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mutual-funds-dividend-payment-falls-amid-market-turmoil-711674>

EXCHANGE | Defrauded investors to receive BDT 250 Mn from protection fund

- The securities regulator has directed the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to pay BDT 250 Mn as the first-phase claim settlement to the defrauded clients of four brokerage houses that embezzled investors' money. The brokerage houses are Tamha Securities, Banco Securities, Crest Securities, and Shah Mohammad Sagir & Co Limited, and the total claim of their defrauded clients is nearly BDT 2 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/defrauded-investors-receive-tk25cr-protection-fund-711666>

INTECH | Intech Limited declares no dividend for FY22

- Intech Limited, an IT sector company, decided not to pay any dividends to its shareholders for the fiscal year of 2021-22 ended on 30 June. The company, in a disclosure on the Dhaka bourse, reported a loss per share of BDT 1.15, which was BDT 2.75 a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/intech-limited-declares-no-dividend-fy22-710474>

INTRACO | BSEC greenlights Intraco's BDT 500 Mn bond

- The stock market regulator has given consent to Intraco Refueling's proposal to raise BDT 500 Mn through the issuance of a seven-year coupon-bearing bond. In an official consent letter, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) specified that the bond's coupon rate is fixed at 7%, ensuring semiannual payouts to investors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-greenlights-intracos-tk50-crore-bond-710486>

APEXFOOT | Apex Footwear makes record sales in FY23 on stronger footing at home and abroad

- Apex Footwear witnessed record sales and sales growth in FY23. The country's leading shoemaker's export soared more than 35% year-on-year to USD 7.14 Bn while domestic sales jumped 22.25% to USD 9.40 Bn in FY23, compared to the previous fiscal year. The reason why the company recorded higher sales in the domestic market was that the year saw three Eid festivals, which was an exception, said Dilip Kajuri, deputy managing director and chief financial officer of Apex Footwear.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/apex-footwear-makes-record-sales-in-fy23-on-stronger-footing-at-home-and-abroad>

EGEN | eGeneration's placement shareholder to sell 2 Mn shares

- eGeneration Solutions — a placement shareholder of the publicly listed eGeneration Ltd — has announced to sell 2 Mn eGeneration Ltd shares through the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). At the end of the fiscal 2022-23, its earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 1.45, meagrely higher than the EPS in the previous fiscal. In FY23, the company recommended a 10% cash dividend for its general shareholders only.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/egenerations-placement-shareholder-sell-20-lakh-shares-711002>

BATBC | British American Tobacco asked to pay BDT 20.54 Bn in 'evaded tax'

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has served a notice on British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB), asking the country's largest tobacco manufacturer to pay BDT 20.54 Bn in "evaded tax". According to sources, the NBR has found evidence that BATB in 2016 evaded value-added tax (VAT) and supplementary duty of the said amount by concealing information.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/top-tobacco-company-asked-pay-tk2054cr-evaded-tax-710414>

EXCHANGE | BSEC moves to stop embezzlement via back-office software

- The securities regulator, on Monday, has finally issued an order to the bourses in a move to prevent further embezzlement of investors' funds by brokerage houses using back-office software. In its order, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) said that the back-office software most brokerage firms use are editable.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-moves-stop-embezzlement-back-office-software-711006>

EGEN | eGeneration profit hits four-year high on growing demand for IT services

- eGeneration Ltd posted a profit of BDT 108.75 Mn in fiscal year 2022-23, the highest in four years, driven by the increasing demand for software and IT-enabled services, as more and more local business entities are embracing automation. The IT company reported EPS of BDT 1.45 for the FY'23 as against BDT 1.43 a year ago, according to a filing with the stock exchange.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/egeneration-profit-hits-four-year-high-on-growing-demand-for-it-services>

PLFSL | People's Leasing unveils three-year financials

- People's Leasing and Financial Services Limited, a troubled NBFI, published its last three years financials and dividend on Sunday. The loss per share of the NBFI and investment narrowed in 2021 compared to the previous year. The loss per share stood at BDT 14.40 in 2021, which was BDT 22.32 in 2020.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/peoples-leasing-unveils-three-year-financials-710334>

PHOENIXFIN | Phoenix Finance's quarterly losses deepen by an awful lot

- Poorly performing Phoenix Finance and Investments Limited incurred a loss as gigantic as BDT 806.1 Mn in the April to June quarter of 2023, which was 69 times the loss incurred in the same quarter previous year. In the second quarter of 2022, the non-bank financial institution (NBFI) turned a loss of BDT 11.6 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/phoenix-finance-quarterly-losses-deepen-awful-lot-710354>

EXCHANGE | ICB Capital's new product: It is to secure high return tapping into bonds

- ICB Capital Management has designed an investment product, in which individuals, institutions, and registered funds will be able to inject money to get, as it has forecast, an annual return of more than 8%. The product named Term Investment Plan (TIP) has already been approved by the regulator this month and is set to be launched on Sunday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/icb-capitals-new-product-it-is-to-secure-high-return-tapping-into-bonds>

LINDEBD | Linde to invest USD 17 Mn to build oxygen plant at BSMSN

- Linde Bangladesh Ltd – a leading medical and industrial gas producer in the country – will set up an oxygen plant on five acres of land at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN). The company will invest about USD 17 Mn to set up the plant that will employ 70 people and produce medical oxygen as well as other industrial gases.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/linde-invest-17m-build-oxygen-plant-bsmsn-708430>

LHBL | LafargeHolcim launches rain water harvesting project

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh Ltd (LHBL), a building material solution provider of the country, recently launched a project styled "Rain Water Harvesting for Safe Drinking Water for the Community" near its plant in Chhatak, Sunamganj.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/lafargeholcim-launches-rain-water-harvesting-project-3431226>

OIMEX | Oimex Electrode allowed to issue 6 Mn new shares for current directors

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has permitted Oimex Electrode Limited to issue 6 Mn fresh shares for its existing directors in order to increase the company's paid-up capital. Currently, the company's paid-up capital is BDT 670.9 Mn. The shares will be issued at BDT 10 each against a share money deposit.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/oimex-electrode-allowed-issue-60-lakh-new-shares-current-directors-709706>

BBS, BBSCABLES, NAHEEACP | Three cos of BBS Group see income wiped out

- FY23 seems to have gone very badly for the BBS Group as its two companies experienced a sharp decline in profit while another company suffered a huge loss. Of the companies, the profit of BBS Cables and Nahee Aluminum Composite Panel nosedived 88% and 72% respectively year-on-year while BBS incurred a loss of BDT 54.69 Mn in FY23, according to stock exchange filings on Wednesday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/three-cos-of-bbs-group-see-income-wiped-out>

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