

## Weekly Market Update

### Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+0.05%) gained 3.27 points and closed the week at 6,272.43 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-0.47%) lost -10.39 points and stood at 2,194.35 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.34%) gained 4.63 points and stood at 1,372.00 points. The large cap index CDSET (-0.06%) lost -0.71 points and closed at 1,211.77 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +1.06%, -0.04%, +0.97%, -0.22%, respectively.

**Total Turnover During the Week (DSE):** BDT 39.6 billion (USD 368 million)

**Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV):** BDT 7.9 billion ( $\Delta\%$  Week: -1.4%)

**Market P/E:** 20.9x

### Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed Five sessions during this week. The market started on flat (+0.00%) on Sunday. However, it turned negative on Monday (-0.12%) but recovered on Tuesday (+0.19%) and remained positive on Wednesday (+0.09%). Lastly, the market closed on a negative note (-0.11%) on Thursday.

### Sectoral Performance

• Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. General Insurance booked the highest gain of 1.23% followed by Bank (+0.89%), and NBF1 (+0.03%). Life Insurance experienced the highest loss of 1.39% followed by Mutual Fund (0.00%).

• Non-financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Engineering booked the highest gain of 0.34% followed by Fuel & Power (+0.20%), and Pharmaceutical (+0.16%). Food & Allied experienced the highest loss of 0.50% followed by Telecommunication (0.00%).

### Macroeconomic arena

• PM approves BDT 7640 Bn proposed budget for FY24. G7 nations should end support for LNG to meet fossil fuel phase-out target: CPD. Current account deficit narrows further, reserves inch up to USD 30 Bn. Foreign banks' forex income soars. Bangladesh cuts import reliance for lifesaving vaccines. BDT 2.63 Tn ADP for FY'24 awaits NEC approval. Action plan for SMEs needed to face LDC graduation challenges: Experts. Tax rebate on investment in secondary stock may go. Short-term foreign loans to private sector fall USD 2.34 Bn in 3 months. EPB's enrolment certificate tenure for exporters extended to 5 years. Malaysia keen to conclude FTA with Bangladesh to deepen economic ties. Cenbank gains BDT 277.61 Bn from taka devaluation in 9 months FY23. Next budget business as usual, to see higher interest, subsidy spending. Wide gap in formal-informal exchange rates led to forex reserve slide: WB. Bad loans pile up at state banks, eating away profits. Potato prices go up as production drops.

• Have savers lost appetite for savings certificates? Next budget to be placed on Jun 1. Big-budget infrastructure upgrade planned with WB funding Interbank dollar rate hits record 108, but transactions poor. Tax collection growth halves in March. Shipbuilders back to life with BDT 50 Bn orders. Project directors asked to fully utilise ADP's foreign fund. IT export to Japan surges NBR for no offshore tax amnesty in new budget. Sugar production at state-run mills hits 23-year low. BB to set policies for market-based interest rates. Inflation falls slightly to 9.24% in April. Bank deposits grow BDT 185 Bn in March. Govt to buy 30 Mn blank smart cards for EC, 0.25 Mn tonnes of fertilizer. RMG exports reached USD 38.57 Bn during July-April of FY2022-23. Education, health to get boost in next ADP. More strain on reserves as unrealised export proceeds hit all-time high of USD 3 Bn. Bottled soybean oil price hiked to BDT 199 per litre. Reserves fall below USD 30 Bn after ACU payment. Apparel exports to US fall 13% in Jan-Mar/Interest 'corridor' planned for lending, deposit rates. Social safety-net schemes: Spending likely to rise by 5.0% to BDT 1.19 Tn.

### Stock Market arena

• JAMUNABANK. CITYBANK | City Bank makes BDT 880 Mn profit in Jan-Mar. MTB | MTB wins Global Good Governance Awards. EBL | Eastern Bank's profit declined 10% in Jan-Mar. EXIMBANK | Exim Bank's profit declines 44% in Jan-Mar. CONFIDCEM | Confidence Cement's profit drops 29%. ENVOYTEX | Envoy Textiles sees lower revenue, profit in Jan-Mar. NATLIFEINS | National Life to pay 38% cash dividends. UNILEVERCL | Lower Horlicks sales, yet Unilever profit rises 17%. FIRSTSBANK | First Security Islami Bank's sponsor to sell his entire holding. IPDC | IPDC Finance's profit plunges 93% in Q1. BRACBANK | Brac Bank's profit jumped 25% in Jan-Mar. ROBI | Robi's revenue, profit surge in March quarter. LHBL | LafargeHolcim posts record profit in Jan-Mar. UNILEVERCL | Unilever Consumer Care's profit rises 17%. GREENDELTA | Green Delta Insurance profit drops over 58% in Jan-Mar quarter. QUASEMIND | Quasem Industries posts 20% decline in profit in Q3. EXCHANGE | 4 banks must pay BDT 261.2 Mn in penalty for violating SEC rules. TOSRIFA | Northern Corp Ltd sells 0.3 Mn shares of Tosrifa Industries. SHAHJABANK | Shahjalal Islami Bank posts higher profit in Q1. ALARABANK | Al-Arafah Islami Bank made BDT 2.07 Mn profit in 2022.

May 11, 2023 (Week: May 07, 2023 – May 11, 2023)

**Dhaka Stock Exchange**

**DSEX ended in Green (+0.05%) in the week**

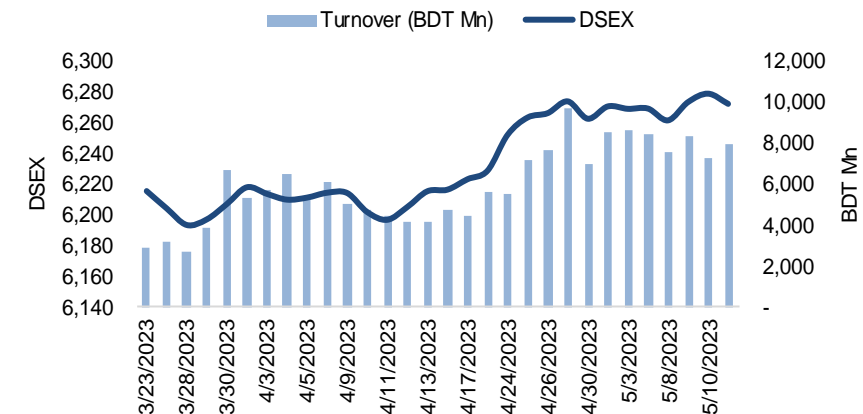
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	$\Delta$ (Pts)	29-Dec-2022	$\Delta\%$ Week	$\Delta\%$ YTD
DSEX	6,272.43	6,269.16	+3.27	6,206.81	+0.05%	+1.06%
DS30	2,194.35	2,204.75	-10.39	2,195.30	-0.47%	-0.04%
DSES	1,372.00	1,367.37	+4.63	1,358.84	+0.34%	+0.97%
CDSET	1,211.77	1,212.48	-0.71	1,214.42	-0.06%	-0.22%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
M cap	M n BDT	7,661,067	7,663,175	-0.0%
	M n USD	71,259	71,279	
Turnover	M n BDT	39,574	24,084	+64.3%
	M n USD	368	224	
Average Daily Turnover	M n BDT	7,915	8,028	-1.4%
	M n USD	74	75	
Volume	M n Shares	793	348	+128.1%

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
APEXFOODS	490.1	383.8	+27.7%	2,795	688.1	64.4x	3.9x
HWAWELLTEX	64.4	516	+24.8%	3,606	150.2	NM	18x
MIRACLEIND	319	26.1	+22.2%	1,123	163.1	NM	10x
SIM TEX	18.9	15.5	+21.9%	1,504	185.2	18.9x	0.9x
AGNISYSL	29.1	24.6	+18.3%	2,111	1,146.8	25.8x	18x
SHURWID	17.2	14.6	+17.8%	987	136.5	NM	13x
APEXSPINN	147.7	125.6	+17.6%	1,241	149.7	44.0x	2.5x
INTRACO	39.1	33.4	+17.1%	3,841	1,434.0	25.8x	3.0x
YPL	19.5	16.8	+16.1%	1,437	211.8	NM	3.6x
MIDLANDBNK	15.7	13.6	+15.4%	10,043	489.1	15.9x	12x

**Table 4: Top Ten Losers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
SEAPEARL	211.3	250.6	-15.7%	25,514	1,202.1	51.3x	12.2x
AAMRANET	76.2	84.5	-9.8%	4,723	941.0	23.9x	2.0x
NAVANAPHAR	82.1	88.4	-7.1%	8,819	641.2	20.8x	2.0x
MEGHNALIFE	67.8	73.0	-7.1%	2,875	193.0	NM	NM
MEGHNA PET	28.7	30.9	-7.1%	344	8.7	NM	NM
AL-HAJTEX	151.5	162.0	-6.5%	3,378	103.8	NM	16.7x
UNIQUEHRL	76.4	81.6	-6.4%	22,492	1,087.9	17.0x	0.9x
CLICL	63.8	67.8	-5.9%	2,393	100.0	NM	NM
PRIMELIFE	57.3	60.7	-5.6%	1,749	47.3	NM	NM
BDTHAIFOOD	35.5	37.6	-5.6%	2,893	156.7	75.5x	2.4x

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

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
BSC	130.9	127.2	+2.9%	19,967	1,571.7	8.8x	1.6x
LHBL	67.7	67.2	+0.7%	78,625	1,473.0	17.7x	4.0x
INTRACO	39.1	33.4	+17.1%	3,841	1,434.0	25.8x	3.0x
EHL	115.1	121.0	-4.9%	10,744	1,410.4	18.1x	15x
SEAPEARL	211.3	250.6	-15.7%	25,514	1,202.1	51.3x	12.2x
AGNISYSL	29.1	24.6	+18.3%	2,111	1,146.8	25.8x	18x
UNIQUEHRL	76.4	81.6	-6.4%	22,492	1,087.9	17.0x	0.9x
GEMINISEA	912.1	870.5	+4.8%	5,569	986.2	65.0x	35.9x
AAMRANET	76.2	84.5	-9.8%	4,723	941.0	23.9x	2.0x
GENEXIL	92.3	95.4	-3.2%	10,690	917.1	27.9x	4.8x

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

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
HEIDELBCEM	304.4	+70.0%	17,200	NM	4.5x
OLYMPIC	167.7	+35.2%	33,530	218x	3.4x
UNIQUEHRL	76.4	+32.4%	22,492	17.0x	0.9x
ADNTEL	130.7	+14.5%	8,450	38.8x	4.7x
UNILEVERCL	2,036.0	+14.3%	39,243	53.7x	13.0x
BATASHOE	1,024.7	+7.6%	14,018	34.2x	4.1x
BRACBANK	38.5	+7.5%	61,940	10.3x	1.0x
JAMUNAOIL	178.0	+6.4%	19,656	7.5x	0.9x
BERGERPBL	1,804.3	+4.7%	83,680	28.3x	7.0x
LHBL	67.7	+4.5%	78,625	17.7x	4.0x

\*BDT

\*\*BDT Mn

**Table 7: Sector Indices**

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,455.6	1,442.7	1,427.09	+0.89%	+2.00%
NBFI	1,918.6	1,917.9	1,927.24	+0.03%	-0.45%
Mutual Fund	825.5	825.5	852.07	-	-3.12%
General Insurance	3,112.3	3,074.6	3,177.87	+1.23%	-2.06%
Life Insurance	2,539.9	2,575.7	2,492.91	-1.39%	+1.88%
Telecommunication	4,945.6	4,945.6	4,945.60	-	-
Pharmaceutical	3,690.5	3,684.5	3,754.47	+0.16%	-1.70%
Fuel & Power	1,701.6	1,698.1	1,694.29	+0.20%	+0.43%
Cement	2,545.8	2,565.2	2,319.67	-0.76%	+9.75%
Services & Real Estate	2,080.8	2,251.0	1,782.23	-7.56%	+16.75%
Engineering	4,495.5	4,480.1	4,503.40	+0.34%	-0.18%
Food & Allied	21,582.6	21,691.1	21,247.80	-0.50%	+1.58%
IT	3,357.6	3,423.0	3,004.33	-1.91%	+11.76%
Textile	1,617.2	1,589.5	1,621.87	+1.74%	-0.29%
Paper & Printing	10,733.5	10,886.4	10,388.08	-1.40%	+3.32%
Tannery	3,252.6	3,093.43	3,093.43	+0.83%	+5.14%
Jute	15,346.2	15,592.3	14,850.17	-1.58%	+3.34%
Ceramics	687.2	685.0	704.74	+0.32%	-2.49%
Miscellaneous	4,184.2	4,138.4	4,071.46	+1.11%	+2.77%

**Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix**

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	202.3	191.8	+5.48%	+2.71%	114x	0.7x
NBFI	112	14.4	-22.34%	+0.15%	NM	4.3x
Mutual Fund	13	2.5	-47.06%	+0.02%	NM	0.7x
General Insurance	184.4	151.6	+21.57%	+2.47%	15.8x	14x
Life Insurance	315.2	460.1	-31.50%	+4.22%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	11	13	-15.83%	+0.01%	16.8x	4.3x
Pharmaceutical	746.9	569.0	+31.27%	+10.01%	18.5x	2.3x
Fuel & Power	480.5	226.7	+111.92%	+6.44%	18.0x	11x
Cement	464.2	469.7	-1.17%	+6.22%	60.9x	2.6x
Services & Real Estate	815.6	1,162.4	-29.84%	+10.93%	39.2x	11x
Engineering	402.8	213.1	+89.01%	+5.40%	56.3x	18x
Food & Allied	966.8	1,245.7	-22.39%	+12.95%	20.7x	8.2x
IT	1,051.4	941.8	+11.65%	+14.09%	32.6x	3.2x
Textile	633.1	135.5	+367.29%	+8.48%	44.0x	11x
Paper & Printing	347.0	481.5	-27.94%	+4.65%	40.8x	2.1x
Tannery	152.4	166.7	-8.62%	+2.04%	46.0x	3.4x
Jute	125.6	82.9	+51.42%	+1.68%	NM	6.0x
Ceramics	49.1	47.6	+3.15%	+0.66%	41.6x	19x
Miscellaneous	512.8	326.8	+56.92%	+6.87%	13.5x	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
PRIMEBANK	18.8	-2.1%	21,287	5.3x	0.6x
MTB	16.6	-0.6%	14,836	6.3x	0.7x
IDLC	46.5	-	19,330	10.1x	11x
IPDC	57.6	-	21,375	23.7x	3.1x
LANKABAFIN	26.0	-	14,010	21.5x	13x
ACI	260.2	-	19,829	NM	2.0x
LINDEBD	1,397.7	-	21,271	24.1x	3.5x
UPGDCL	233.7	-	135,475	15.4x	4.4x
SUMITPOWER	34.0	-	36,308	10.7x	0.9x

## Important News: Business & Economy

### PM approves BDT 7640 Bn proposed budget for FY24

- The proposed budget for the fiscal 2023-24, amounting to BDT 7640 Bn, has received the nod from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. During the presentation of the budget allocation estimates at Ganabhaban on Wednesday evening, the prime minister advised taking appropriate steps to ensure stability in the overall economy of the country.
- She emphasised the importance of allocating necessary funds to continue ongoing development activities and adopting a strong fiscal policy to keep the prices of goods at a bearable level. Officials present at the meeting stated that the prime minister also directed to continue austerity in public expenditure, control inflation, and ensure macroeconomic stability by overcoming the existing instability in the external sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/pm-approves-tk764-lakh-crore-proposed-budget-fy24-629658>

### G7 nations should end support for LNG to meet fossil fuel phase-out target: CPD

- The member countries of the Group of Seven (G7) should end all direct and indirect support for liquefied natural gas (LNG) fuel and infrastructure within their own territories and overseas, including developing countries like Bangladesh, in order to meet the fossil fuel phase-out target by 2030, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a think tank, said on Wednesday. "Promoting liquefied natural gas as a transitional fuel will further disrupt the process of fossil fuel phase-out by the targeted time because LNG itself is a carbon-based fuel," the think tank noted at a dialogue at a hotel in Dhaka.
- G7 is an intergovernmental political forum comprising Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada, France, the UK and the US. The group members had committed to abandoning coal by 2030 and to ending new direct public support for the international unabated fossil fuel energy sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/g7-nations-should-end-support-lng-meet-fossil-fuel-phase-out-target-cpd-629530>

### Current account deficit narrows further, reserves inch up to USD 30 Bn

- Bangladesh's current account balance – which comprises primary and secondary income through trade, services, and remittances – kept narrowing slowly in the first nine months of the current fiscal year thanks to a fall in imports, providing the Bangladesh Bank with breathing space in managing the external position. The current account deficit slightly

narrowed in March to stand at USD 3.6 Bn in the July-March period of FY23, down from USD 3.74 Bn in July-February, according to the Bangladesh Bank's data.

- Furthermore, Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves increased to USD 30.36 Bn on Wednesday, up from USD 29.78 Bn just a day earlier. This rebuilding of reserves was made possible as the country received USD 507 Mn in budget support from the World Bank, as per Bangladesh Bank Spokesperson Mezbaul Haque.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/current-account-deficit-narrows-further-reserves-inch-30b-629694>

### Foreign banks' forex income soars

- The earnings of foreign banks operating in Bangladesh rocketed in 2022 buoyed by their incomes from the dealings of international currencies. The income from foreign exchange dealings, particularly sales, surged 151% year-on-year to BDT 19.21 Bn for the nine multinational banks that have a presence in the country. The income was fuelled by the depreciation of the taka against the US dollar that affected import costs but benefitted exporters.
- The taka has been under pressure for nearly a year after the Russia-Ukraine war-induced fallout sent the prices of commodities higher. As a result, import-dependent nations such as Bangladesh were forced to pay more to clear import bills. The foreign banks' profit and loss reports were dominated by investment income and income from commissions and charges while interest income grew marginally.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-banks-forex-income-soars-3316691>

### Bangladesh cuts import reliance for lifesaving vaccines

- Bangladesh has cut its reliance on the global markets for lifesaving vaccines as a number of local manufacturers are producing quality jabs, saving a significant volume of foreign currencies, industry people say. Currently, Bangladesh is almost self-sufficient in manufacturing regular and specialised vaccines thanks to the efforts of local manufacturers. Three local pharmaceutical companies -- Incepta Pharmaceuticals, Popular Pharmaceuticals and Globe Biotech -- are involved in the manufacturing of more than 14 types of vaccines, including those for antivenom, Hepatitis B, inactivated influenza, rabies, tetanus and typhoid.
- SM Shafiuzzaman, secretary-general of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (Bapi), says the dependency on the overseas markets for vaccines has reduced in the last one decade as local manufacturers produce quality products.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-cuts-import-reliance-lifesaving-vaccines-3315731>

**BDT 2.63 Tn ADP for FY'24 awaits NEC approval**

- The National Economic Council (NEC) of Bangladesh is likely to approve the Annual Development Programme of BDT 2.63 trillion for the new fiscal year, FY2023-24. Under the new plan, at least 20% of the funds will go into ten mega projects, including the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, mostly bankrolled by Russia. An amount of BDT 528.95 Bn will be allocated to 10 mega-projects in the 2023-24 fiscal year which is 32% higher than in the current revised outlay. The ten mega-projects include an extension of the MRT line-6, the first metro rail in the country, to Motijheel, the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Karnaphuli Tunnel, rail track construction from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar, and the Padma Rail Link Project.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/tk-263-trillion-adp-for-fy24-awaits-nec-approval>

**Action plan for SMEs needed to face LDC graduation challenges: Experts**

- The small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country need specific action plans to meet the challenge of Bangladesh's transition from a least developed country (LDC) to the developing country status, said experts at a seminar in Dhaka. Abu Hena Reza Hasan, professor of the Department of International Relations at Dhaka University, emphasised the need for specific action plans to address the challenges facing Bangladesh's SME sector in light of the country's transition from an LDC to a developing country. He pointed out that the lack of skilled manpower, managers, and technology is a major hurdle that needs to be addressed. To tackle this issue, he recommended that the government invest in producing skilled human resources for the manufacturing and service sectors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/action-plan-smes-needed-face-ldc-graduation-challenges-experts-629646>

**Tax rebate on investment in secondary stock may go**

- The government is contemplating removing tax rebates on investments made in the secondary stock market, while at the same time enhancing benefits for savers in banks – a measure that could increase government revenues but may have the unintended consequence of diverting funds from the capital markets to the banking system. At present, taxpayers are eligible for a 15% rebate on their investments up to a maximum of 20% of their taxable income in the stock market, deposit pension schemes (DPS), life insurance, etc.
- Finance ministry officials have indicated that the government is planning to propose the withdrawal of rebates on investments in the secondary market in the budget for the upcoming fiscal 2023-24. The tax benefits would be limited only to investments made in initial public offerings (IPOs).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tax-rebate-investment-secondary-stock-may-go-629718>

**Short-term foreign loans to private sector fall USD 2.34 Bn in 3 months**

- Bangladesh's private sector has been compelled to pay off its short-term foreign loans despite the high cost of the US dollar compared to the taka, mainly to avoid additional payments arising from interest rate hikes and geopolitical tension. In the March quarter, the private sector's short-term foreign debt decreased by USD 2.34 Bn compared to that of December of the previous year, thanks to a continuous increase in the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) that serves as the international base interest rate.
- The data from the Bangladesh Bank reveals that the outstanding amount of short-term foreign debt in the private sector stood at USD 16.42 Bn in December, but within just three months, it decreased to USD 14.08 Bn. "Foreign debt has become expensive due to the rise in the international base interest rate, so borrowers are in a rush to repay their loans. Even many are repaying short-term foreign debts before maturity," explained Bangladesh Bank Spokesperson Md Mezbaul Haque.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/short-term-foreign-loans-private-sector-fall-234b-3-months-629682>

**EPB's enrolment certificate tenure for exporters extended to 5 years**

- The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) has extended the validity period of its registration certificate (enrolment certificate) for exporters from the existing one year to five years in a bid to facilitate trade. Businessmen of various sectors have been demanding extension of the tenure of this registration certificate, which is mandatory for individual and institutional exporters, for a long time.
- In view of that, the EPB made the decision in a board meeting held last March and formally announced the development in an order on 27 April. According to the EPB order, exporters, as per their requirements, can apply for issuance or renewal of this certificate with any validity period ranging from one to five years. The validity period will be calculated from the date of issuance or renewal of the certificate.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/epbs-enrolment-certificate-tenure-exporters-extended-5-years-628626>

**Malaysia keen to conclude FTA with Bangladesh to deepen economic ties**

- Malaysia is keen to conclude a free trade agreement (FTA) with Bangladesh in order to further deepen and accelerate the bilateral economic partnership of the two countries. Dato Norman Muhamad, deputy secretary general (bilateral affairs) of Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made the disclosure while paying a courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam on Tuesday (9 May).
- Bangladesh has been Malaysia's second-largest commercial partner in South Asia in recent years as a result of growing commerce between the two countries. Pointing to the rapidly changing socio-economic development and configuration in the South Asian and the South East Asian neighbourhood, Shahriar Alam emphasised on further deepening the regional integration and partnership to reap the optimum benefits from the ongoing Asian momentum.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/malaysia-keen-conclude-fta-bangladesh-deepen-economic-ties-628982>

**Cenbank gains BDT 277.61 Bn from taka devaluation in 9 months FY23**

- The Bangladesh Bank earned BDT 277.61 Bn in foreign currency revaluation gain in the first nine months (July to March) of FY23 – the highest ever in a single fiscal year – as taka has been depreciated largely against the dollar, officials familiar with the matter told The Business Standard. The revaluation gain was BDT 263 Bn in FY22, according to the Bangladesh Bank annual report, riding on which the central bank's profit amounted to BDT 292.47 Bn that year. The trend has been continuing amid rising greenback prices.
- The central bank built up the country's foreign exchange reserves by buying dollars from banks at the rate of BDT 86-BDT 93 previously, which has been being sold at BDT 100-104 to banks in this fiscal year amid a dollar scarcity, causing huge exchange gains for the authorities. Although the profit from the taka devaluation came at the cost of the entire country's sufferings, the earning has no use as the exchange gain is not distributable profit and the Bangladesh Bank keeps the earnings in its permanent account.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-gains-tk27761-cr-taka-devaluation-9-months-fy23-629118>

**Next budget business as usual, to see higher interest, subsidy spending**

- Interest payments for foreign loans, subsidies, and social safety nets are set to increase in the upcoming budget despite the IMF's conditions to reduce them for better fiscal management. The total budget outlay is projected to be BDT 7.64 Tn and will be officially presented to the prime minister on Wednesday. While there will be a 14% increase in overall budget allocations, it does not resemble an election-year budget as the allocation for the

Annual Development Programme (ADP) is expected to grow by only 11%.

- Of the 122 programmes running under the social safety net, the allocation for the next fiscal year will only increase by BDT 50 Bn, a portion of which will be used to pay pensions to government employees. Even so, there will be no new measures in the financial policy to combat high inflation, except for providing assistance to the poor through existing programmes of the social safety net. The finance ministry is fully relying on monetary policy to keep inflation under control.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/next-budget-business-usual-see-higher-interest-subsidy-spending-629134>

**GE to offer advanced gas turbines**

- General Electric (GE) is planning on offering use of advanced gas turbine technologies, capable of burning blends of hydrogen and natural gas, to lead an energy transition in Bangladesh and decarbonise it further, according to its senior officials in Dhaka yesterday. "We are prioritising introduction of policy interventions that can support the development of clean energy infrastructure in Bangladesh," said Md Habibur Rahman, power secretary. "... and contribute towards economic growth of the country by effectively meeting the power demand in future," he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ge-offer-advanced-gas-turbines-3315561>

**Govt buying sugar, edible oil to sell at subsidised rates**

- The government will procure 12,500 tonnes of sugar and 11 Mn litres of soybean oil from foreign markets so that low-income groups in Bangladesh can buy the commodities at subsidised rates, according to Sayeed Mahub Khan, additional secretary of the Cabinet Division. The move comes as global inflationary pressure stemming from global crises, namely the Russia-Ukraine war, has driven up domestic prices of edible oil and sugar. The price of each kilogramme (kg) sugar will be BDT 82.94 and each litre of soybean oil will be BDT 146.10, Khan told reporters after the meeting.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-buying-sugar-edible-oil-sell-subsidised-rates-3315726>

**Wide gap in formal-informal exchange rates led to forex reserve slide: WB**

- A wide gap in formal and informal exchange rate has been one of the factors behind the sharp fall in the foreign exchange reserves in Bangladesh as it shifts remittances from official channels to unofficial routes and impedes repatriation of export proceeds, said the World Bank. The observation comes as the country's foreign exchange reserves dropped 29.45% to USD 29.77 Bn in a span of one year owing to higher import bills against moderate export and remittance earnings, Bangladesh Bank data showed.
- "The widening of the exchange rate gap and the uncertainty about exchange rates, in general, diverted remittance inflows away from official channels, especially as remitters can obtain more favourable market rates through unofficial channels," the WB said in a report.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/wide-gap-formal-informal-exchange-rates-led-forex-reserve-slide-wb-3315741>

**Bad loans pile up at state banks, eating away profits**

- Four state-run commercial banks registered 29% year-on-year spike in bad loans in 2022 as the central bank's relaxed classification rules introduced in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak ended and their inefficient lending persisted. This forced Sonali, Janata, Agrani and Rupali banks to set aside higher provisions. As a result, their collective profits declined more than 24% to BDT 7.03 Bn last year.
- The bad loans at the four banks surged to BDT 421.61 Bn last year from BDT 326.18 Bn a year ago, according to their financial statements. The loan loss provision, an income statement expense set aside as an allowance for uncollected loans and loan payments, rocketed 35% to BDT 35.43 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bad-loans-pile-state-banks-eating-away-profits-3314761>

**Potato prices go up as production drops**

- Potato prices have skyrocketed in Bangladesh amid a drop in production as farmers are increasingly turning to more profitable crops while poor weather conditions also lowered supply, according to market players. Traders at kitchen markets in Dhaka say the tuber is now selling for BDT 35 to BDT 40 per kilogramme (kg), up from BDT 22 to BDT 25 ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr on April 22 earlier this year. Acreage dropped to a seven-year low of 0.455 Mn hectares in the current fiscal year (FY) from 0.464 Mn hectares in FY2021-22, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/potato-prices-go-production-drops-3314731>

**bKash posts BDT 358.5 Mn net profit in first quarter**

- The country's leading mobile financial service provider bKash has reported a net profit of BDT 358.5 Mn in the January-March quarter of 2023. At the same time of the previous year, it incurred a loss of BDT 287.8 Mn. The mobile financial service provider had been in profit until 2018 since its inception in 2011, but it suffered significant losses between 2019 and 2021. According to its financial report, it bounced back to profit in the July-September quarter of 2022 after incurring loss for three years – 39 months to be exact – as it saw a higher revenue and earned a significant amount from government securities and fixed deposits.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bkash-posts-tk3585-crore-net-profit-first-quarter-628402>

**BGMEA urges Customs to simplify short shipment certification process**

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has urged customs authorities to simplify the process of issuing certificates related to short shipments of goods in exports. Sources said work is underway to update all information regarding post-export short shipment of goods in the Asycuda Word System – an integrated customs management system for international trade and transport operations in a modern automated environment, and the Bangladesh Bank's website, but the process has been hindered by various problems.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bgmea-urges-customs-simplify-short-shipment-certification-process-628422>

**Introducing digital currency can reduce money laundering: Economists**

- Introducing the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) can help reduce the amount of money smuggled out of the country every year to a large extent, said economists and accountants at a seminar. CBDC is a form of digital currency issued by a country's central bank. It is similar to cryptocurrencies, except that their value is fixed by the central bank and equivalent to the country's fiat currency.
- Speakers at the seminar said CBDCs have been introduced in many countries. It is time to raise awareness about this issue in Bangladesh as well. However, before that more focus should be made on building a cashless society. The government must have the political will to launch a CBDC and ensure the protection and security of consumer interests.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/introducing-digital-currency-can-reduce-money-laundering-economists-628490>

### **Have savers lost appetite for savings certificates?**

- While deposits in the banking system are increasing, savers are withdrawing more from savings tools than depositing despite lower interest rates in banks, shows the central bank data. The Bangladesh Bank data shows that the withdrawal tendency continued along the FY23. From the July-March period of the current fiscal year, the savings certificate saw a new deposit of BDT 626.58 Bn and withdrawal of BDT 668.19 Bn. In other words, people have taken out BDT 41.6 Bn more than what they have invested over the first nine months of the fiscal. Bankers and economists say the appeal of the saving tools waned due to inflationary pressure, reduced interest rate and a limit to buy savings certificates.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/have-savers-lost-appetite-savings-certificates-627942>

### **Next budget to be placed on Jun 1**

- Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal is scheduled to present the national budget for 2023-24 fiscal year on June 1. The finance division published a document today as a part of the preparation for the next national budget. The budget of the 2023-24 financial year will be around BDT 7.5 Tn, which will be the highest-ever budget in the history of Bangladesh. The National Economic Council is scheduled to announce the new annual development programme of BDT 2.74 Tn on May 11, according to an official of the planning commission.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/next-budget-be-placed-jun-1-3314381>

### **Big-budget infrastructure upgrade planned with WB funding**

- A big-budget project costing BDT 20 Bn is framed to upgrade infrastructures of customs and VAT offices to enable them to meet growing demand for trade and transit facilitation, officials say. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has framed the project to strengthen capacity of customs and VAT administration with fund support from the World Bank (WB).
- Officials feel that the investment in customs and VAT infrastructures has become imperative as the government is offering transit facilities to neighbouring countries and striving for Bangladesh to graduate to a middle-income country by 2026. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has sought nearly BDT 16.53 Bn worth of fund support from the World Bank for the upgrading to meet growing demand for domestic revenue mobilisation and trade facilitation.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/big-budget-infrastructure-upgrade-planned-with-wb-funding>

### **Idra, insurers call for measures to narrow protection gap**

- Insurers, regulators, and experts emphasise the importance of addressing and narrowing the insurance protection gap through various measures, including improving insurance awareness, transparency, digitisation, affordability, accessibility, and product innovation. Mohammad Jainul Bari, chairman of the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra), said that Bangladesh's insurance penetration remained low at 0.40 in 2022, despite the country's economic success. However, he said the sector's gross premium income increased by 17% to BDT 168.15 Bn from BDT 144.07 Bn in the previous year.
- According to him, the total insurance protection gap in Bangladesh stood at around BDT 180 Tn, which is around five times the country's GDP. To combat this gap, Bari stressed the need for a collaborative effort among all stakeholders in the insurance ecosystem.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/idra-insurers-call-measures-narrow-protection-gap-628502>

### **Interbank dollar rate hits record 108, but transactions poor**

- The interbank dollar rate, at which one bank sells dollars to another, rose to a record BDT 108, but transactions on the platform were poor due to a shortage of greenbacks in the country. And the country's foreign currency reserves have dipped to USD 29.78 Bn. According to data from the central bank, banks on Sunday transacted dollars among themselves between BDT 107.30 and BDT 108. According to bankers, the interbank dollar rate has risen mainly due to an increase in remittance rates. Earlier on 30 April, the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB) and Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (Bafeda) raised the dollar rate by BDT 1 to BDT 108 for remitters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/interbank-dollar-rate-hits-record-tk108-transactions-poor-628514>

### **Unions for BDT 23,000 minimum wage for RMG sector**

- The first meeting of a newly formed wage board for garment workers is scheduled to be held on May 24 on a proposal of major trade unions for offering workers a minimum monthly payment of BDT 23,000. The amount has been proposed considering the needs of a four-member family alongside other major factors such as the current high inflationary pressure, house rent, medical allowance, transport costs and the overall cost of living. It is very difficult to run a family below the proposed amount as inflation is high, said Amirul Haque Amin, president of National Garment Workers Federation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/unions-tk-23000-minimum-wage-rmg-sector-3314756>

### **Tax collection growth halves in March**

- Revenue collection growth reduced by half in March this year from a year ago, suffered by decline in income and customs tax receipts amid falling corporate earnings and a downturn in imports, which analysts say is likely to weigh on the government's budget spending, especially for development. Value-added tax (VAT), the biggest source of revenue for the state, was the only saviour that helped the National Board of Revenue (NBR) log 4.3% higher growth in overall revenue to BDT 294.73 Bn in March from BDT 282.54 Bn a year ago, according to preliminary data released by the NBR yesterday.
- On the other hand, income tax collection decreased 2.8% year-on-year. In March, taxmen logged BDT 106.48 Bn, down from BDT 109.58 Bn a year ago. Customs duty collection from imported items declined 1.37% year-on-year to BDT 81.82 Bn this March.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tax-collection-growth-halves-march-3314741>

### **Shipbuilders back to life with BDT 50 Bn orders**

- The country's shipbuilding industry is witnessing a significant boost as three of its largest companies have secured orders to build around two dozen vessels worth approximately BDT 50 Bn. This surge in orders comes after a year of increased inquiries by buyers, which has expanded the industry's potential for acquiring additional orders. Khulna Shipyard, one of the country's leading shipbuilders, has secured orders valued at around BDT 23 Bn, while Karnaphuli Shipyard has orders worth nearly BDT 20 Bn.
- Captain Al Amin Chowdhury, general manager (Design and Planning) of Khulna Shipyard, told TBS, "We got work orders to build a 70-meter cruise ship, two tugboats for Payra Port, four 24-inch dredgers for the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), five 60-meter patrol craft, three landing craft tanks for the Navy, three diving vessels, a modern floating crane with a 70-tonne capacity for the Coast Guard, two diving boats for the Coast Guard, two ferries, and a survey boat."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/shipbuilders-back-life-tk5000cr-orders-627450>

### **Bangladesh may face impediments in RMG export in post-LDC era:**

#### **Commerce secretary**

- Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh has said that Bangladesh may have to face different impediments in exporting readymade garments (RMG) in the post-LDC (least developed country) graduation era. "So, we have to ensure some policy supports to continue the trend in RMG exports as well as competitiveness in the global market," he said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-may-face-impediments-rmg-export-post-ldc-era-commerce-secretary-627862>

### **Project directors asked to fully utilise ADP's foreign fund**

- With less than two months left, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) has directed project directors to completely utilise the foreign fund allocated for their projects in the revised Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the current fiscal year. The ministries and divisions managed to spend only 31.49% of the total foreign fund allocations in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, according to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) data.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/project-directors-asked-fully-utilise-adps-foreign-fund-627890>

### **IT export to Japan surges**

- Local software and other information technology-enabled services (ITES) exports to Japan have witnessed a surge in recent times as Bangladeshi companies have established a foothold in the East Asian country. Export of information technology to Japan jumped by over 35% to USD 120 Mn year-on-year in fiscal year 2021-22, according to the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS). In 2016-17, it was at only USD 56 Mn. Japan accounts for about 8% of Bangladesh's total annual IT exports of over USD 1.4 Bn, according to the top trade body for software and ITES industry of Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/it-export-japan-surges-3313856>

### **Cenbank asks for short shipment info to fix export data mismatch**

- As unrepatriated export money keeps growing, the Bangladesh Bank has asked banks and exporters for data on short shipment of goods to calculate the actual amount of unrealised and overdue export proceeds. Reports suggest that incidents of delayed arrival of export proceeds have increased in recent months, with USD 3 Bn of export proceeds out of the total value of goods exported from Bangladesh between July and February of the current fiscal year 2022-23 not yet arriving in the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-asks-short-shipment-info-fix-export-data-mismatch-627902>

**Foreign aid commitments fall 43%, disbursement 21%**

- The year-on-year disbursements and commitments of foreign loans from development partners have decreased in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, which may intensify pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves. According to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of finance ministry data, foreign aid disbursement has decreased to USD 5.36 Bn in the July-March period of FY23, registering a 21% fall compared to USD 6.79 Bn in the same period of FY22. In addition, commitments of foreign aid declined by 43% to USD 3.07 Bn in the nine months of this fiscal year, down from USD 5.43 Bn in the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-aid-commitments-fall-43-disbursement-21-627898>

**BGMEA, Taiwan to collaborate on manmade fibre**

- The BGMEA and Taiwan Textile Research Institute (TTRI) will work together to enhance the capacity of Bangladesh's garment industry, especially in manufacturing high-end products made with manmade fibre (MMF). The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with TTRI in Taipei of Taiwan on May 4 to this end, according to a press release issued yesterday. The MoU also aims to foster collaboration on building capacity of the industry through sharing knowledge and expertise in technology adaptation, skills development, innovation, resource efficiency and circularity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bgmea-taiwan-collaborate-manmade-fibre-3312921>

**NBR for no offshore tax amnesty in new budget**

- The much-discussed opportunity to bring home unreported money or assets held by Bangladeshi nationals outside the country paying 7% tax is likely to be cancelled in the forthcoming national budget, according to NBR sources. The government's maiden offshore tax amnesty, which aimed to bring back laundered money home, has not yielded any significant results, as hardly any Bangladeshis have taken advantage of the facility, the sources added.
- Economists have also voiced their support for cancelling this amnesty in the upcoming budget. Dr Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute, commented, "There is no point in keeping this opportunity. As we have said before, no money will come through this. This is because people are looking forward to laundering money abroad. Why would they bring money back?"

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbr-no-offshore-tax-amnesty-new-budget-627910>

**IMF team warns of potential export decline, calls for steps to cut external deficit**

- The International Monetary Fund's loan review mission has left Dhaka with a happy note at the policy measures taken to meet the June deadline for most of the agreed reforms except for the net foreign exchange reserves threshold, finance officials have said. Citing concerns of a potential decline in the country's export earnings due to growth slowdown and inflation in major markets, the team suggested that Bangladesh needs to take initiatives to reduce balance of payments deficit to reach the agreed target of net reserves of USD 25.32 Bn by September, they said.

- According to finance officials, the IMF expressed satisfaction with the policy measures that Bangladesh has taken to meet the conditions with a June deadline. However, the lender has concerns about whether the country can raise its net foreign exchange reserves to USD 24.46 Bn by the June deadline.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-team-warns-potential-export-decline-calls-steps-cut-external-deficit-627930>

**RMG exporters face fresh pressure as buyers seek discounts**

- International clothing retailers and brands are demanding up to 5% discounts from Bangladesh's apparel exporters, adding another challenge for the suppliers who are already grappling with multiple issues amid volatile global economic scenario. "Suppliers are being compelled to accept the lower prices since retailers will not continue placing orders with them if they don't agree to the new prices. Sometimes, the prices are lower than the production cost," said Mohammad Hatem, executive president of the BGMEA.
- Under the current cost of production situation, local manufacturers need a profit margin of 20% to 25% instead of the current 10% to 15%, Hatem said. "If the profit margin ranges between 20% and 25%, manufacturers can pay a living wage to workers. But the net profit goes down to 2% if the gross profit stands at 10% to 15%."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rmg-exporters-face-fresh-pressure-buyers-seek-discounts-3312956>

### **Sugar production at state-run mills hits 23-year low**

- With sugar currently retailing for as much as BDT 140 per kilogramme (kg), production at mills of the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) has hit a 23-year low due to reduced supply of sugarcane. The state-run mills produced 21,313 tonnes of sugar so far in the ongoing fiscal year (FY), down by some 13% from 24,509 tonnes in FY2021-22. The BSFIC had produced 48,000 tonnes of the sweetener in FY2020-21, when it shut down six mills in a bid to curb losses. The corporation still suffered provisional losses of BDT 8.8 Bn in FY2021-22 but it was around 15% less than the BDT 10.36 Bn registered the previous year, according to the Bangladesh Economic Review 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/sugar-production-state-run-mills-hits-23-year-low-3312951>

### **BB to set policies for market-based interest rates**

- Bangladesh Bank today said it would roll out a set of policies on the implementation of market-based interest rates and uniform exchange rates and disclosing net and gross reserves following the suggestions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Md Mezbaul Haque, the spokesperson of the central bank, said the policies might be implemented from July this year and the next monetary policy will give a roadmap to this end.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-set-policies-market-based-interest-rates-3313541>

### **Inflation falls slightly to 9.24% in April**

- The overall inflation in Bangladesh stood at 9.24% in April, which was 9.33% in March, the highest in the last eight months, according to the latest data of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) released on Wednesday. Earlier in August last year, inflation in the country hit a record 9.52%. According to BBS data, food inflation stood at 8.84% in April, down from 9.09% in March, while non-food inflation remained the same as the previous month at 9.72%. The global economy was hit by a recession following the global pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. Bangladesh's economy is also affected by the recession and has been witnessing high inflation rates for the past few months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/inflation-falls-slightly-924-april-625766>

### **Bank deposits grow BDT 185 Bn in March**

- Banks have witnessed growth in deposits for three consecutive months, which indicates that people's confidence in the country's banking sector is coming back. Data from the Bangladesh Bank show a BDT 185.29 Bn increase in deposits in March compared to the previous month. At the same time, loan disbursements also reported an increase of BDT 121.55 Bn. According to bankers, people are getting their confidence back in the banking system, although not all banks are experiencing a similar response. Banks that have fewer non-performing loans and good governance are in a better position for deposit collection.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bank-deposits-grow-tk18500cr-march-625938>

### **Govt to buy 30 Mn blank smart cards for EC, 0.25 Mn tonnes of fertilizer**

- The government will buy 30 Mn blank smart cards for the Election Commission (EC) at a cost of BDT 4.06 Bn. Under the "Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (2nd Phase)" project, the Armed Forces Division of the Prime Minister's Office will purchase the cards from the Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory Limited (BMTF) managed by the Bangladesh Army. It will also procure some 0.26 Mn tonnes of fertiliser and 13.6 Mn MMBtu LNG to meet the growing demand of the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-buy-3cr-blank-smart-cards-ec-265-lakh-tonnes-fertiliser-625706>

### **RMG exports reached USD 38.57 Bn during July-April of FY2022-23**

- RMG exports reached USD 38.57 Bn during the July-April of 2022-23 fiscal year, reflecting a 9.09% increase compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). A detailed breakdown of the various categories indicated that knitwear exports reached USD 20.96 Bn, while woven garment exports became USD 17.60 Bn with 8.97% and 9.24% year-over-year growth respectively. Overall, it's a sign of a steady growth in Bangladesh's overall RMG export earnings. Regardless of the overall positive trend, a more detailed inspection of single month statistics reveals a recent decline in apparel export growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-exports-reached-3857bn-during-july-april-fy2022-23-626014>

### **Education, health to get boost in next ADP**

- The education sector is set to receive a 62% higher ADP allocation for the upcoming fiscal 2023-24, with the aim of recovering from the impact of Covid-19 by preventing dropouts, enhancing education quality, and developing infrastructure and higher education. Sources within the Planning Commission have revealed that BDT 298.89 Bn has been proposed for the education sector in the next Annual Development Programme (ADP), up from BDT 184.31 Bn in the revised ADP for this year. The increased allocation represents 11.36% of the total proposed ADP, making it the third-highest allocation among all sectors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/education-health-get-boost-next-adp-626450>

### **More strain on reserves as unrealised export proceeds hit all-time high of USD 3 Bn**

- When the country's reserve is under pressure amid slowdown in foreign currency inflow, the volume of unrealised export proceeds increased to a highest ever amount of USD 3 Bn in the July-February period of the current fiscal year, triggering concern of the Bangladesh Bank. Though Bangladesh's export continued to grow in the first nine months till March of the current fiscal year even in global headwinds, it could not reduce the pressure on balance of payment due to the shortfall in realised export value.
- The country's balance of payment statement for the current fiscal year's July-February period was prepared considering export shipment value of USD 34.96 Bn, the realised export proceeds were USD 3 Bn short at USD 31.96 Bn, according to the central bank's data.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/more-strain-reserves-unrealised-export-proceeds-hit-all-time-high-3b-625970>

### **Bottled soybean oil price hiked to BDT 199 per litre**

- Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association today hiked the price of bottled soybean oil by BDT 12 per litre to BDT 199. "Since the government-provided VAT exemption period for the import of edible oil ended on 30 April, the Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association decided to increase the price of edible oil in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and the Bangladesh Tariff Commission," the press release added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bazaar/bottled-soybean-oil-price-hiked-tk199-litre-626094>

### **Reserves fall below USD 30 Bn after ACU payment**

- The country's foreign exchange reserves are set to come down to the USD 29 Bn mark as the Bangladesh Bank is clearing import bills of USD 1.18 Bn to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU). In a SWIFT message on Wednesday afternoon, the central bank gave its approval to the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States to process the ACU payment, Bangladesh Bank Spokesperson Md Mezbaul Haque told The Business Standard.
- Earlier in March, the Bangladesh Bank cleared USD 1.05 Bn in import bills to the Union, which brought down the reserves to USD 31.15 Bn. With the latest payment, the reserve may stand at approximately USD 29.8 Bn. On 2 May, it was USD 30.98 Bn, according to available latest central bank data.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/reserves-fall-below-30b-after-acu-payment-625930>

### **Ctg Customs' revenue keeps falling for 5 straight months**

- Chattogram customs has experienced a decline in revenue collection for five months in a row, up until April this year, mainly due to a decrease in imports caused by the ongoing dollar crisis and a global economic slowdown triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In April, the collection in customs duty stood at BDT 45.59 Bn, which is 14.45% down from a year ago and 33.34% short of the target set for that month.
- According to data from the country's largest customs station, revenue collection dropped in six of the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, including a 0.17% decline in September. It has resulted in a drop in overall growth in customs duty collection.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-customs-revenue-keeps-falling-5-straight-months-626626>

### **Apparel exports to US fall 13% in Jan-Mar**

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the US shrank by 13.34% in the first quarter (January to March) of 2023 as this key market is going through an overall slowdown in demand for garment products. Bangladesh's apparel shipment to the US was valued at USD 2.14 Bn in the first three months of this year, which was USD 2.46 Bn in the same period last year, according to the US Department of Commerce's Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA). The overall apparel demand in the US is seeing a downturn due to an economic slowdown induced by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, exporters said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/apparel-exports-us-fall-13-jan-mar-627322>

### **Foreign funding for startups in Bangladesh still low**

- Startups in Bangladesh raised about USD 35.58 Mn in the first three months of 2023, according to LightCastle Partners, a Dhaka-based research and business consulting firm. Of that, e-commerce platform ShopUp alone raised about USD 30 Mn of the amount from UK-based lender Lendable and the local City Bank as debt financing, which is not typical startup funding, according to industry people.
- So, the overall inflow of global funding for startups in the country remained very low in the first quarter of the year as the local and global economic downturn continued, they said. Global inflationary pressures, macroeconomic disruptions and increased geo-economic fragmentation are causing shockwaves for economies across the world.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-funding-startups-bangladesh-still-low-3311376>

### **Interest 'corridor' planned for lending, deposit rates**

- Bangladesh Bank plans to introduce a much-hyped 'interest rate corridor (IRC)' following India's model to ensure coordinated lending and deposit rates under a financial-reform package. This is believed to be part of the central bank's monetary-policy-modernisation framework suiting an IMF condition to be executed from the next fiscal year prior to getting second tranche of its USD 4.7 Bn loan needed to stabilise the country's forex-market volatility. In fact, the interest-rate corridor is minimum and maximum interest-rate ceilings. Once the corridor is applied, there is a guarantee that the short-term interest rates will not go above or below a certain limit.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/interest-corridor-planned-for-lending-deposit-rates>

### **Social safety-net schemes: Spending likely to rise by 5.0% to BDT 1.19 Tn**

- The government is likely to allocate 5.0% higher funds in the upcoming national budget for expanding coverage of the social safety-net programmes, taking the total allocation for the poor and vulnerable to BDT 1.19 Tn, officials said. Besides, the current allowance amounts for the old-age populations and widows are likely to be boosted from the next fiscal year (FY), 2023-24, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) officials told the FE on Friday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/social-safety-net-schemes-spending-likely-to-rise-by-50pc-to-tk-119t>

### **Bangladesh to overtake China in GDP growth rate in current fiscal**

- Bangladesh is likely to overtake China in GDP growth rate in the current fiscal year, according to a report by the Internal Monetary Fund (IMF) on the Asia-Pacific region. The report also predicts that Bangladesh will be in second place, after Vietnam, in terms of GDP growth rate in Asia-Pacific in the next fiscal year, reports UNB. According to the IMF's Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific May 2023 report, Bangladesh is expected to surpass both China and India in terms of growth in 2024.
- The IMF report suggests that the recently approved Extended Fund Facility for Bangladesh will help address economic challenges caused by Russia's war in Ukraine, and the Resilience and Sustainability Facility arrangement will expand fiscal space to finance climate investment priorities and build resilience against long-term climate risks.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-to-overtake-china-in-gdp-growth-rate-in-current-fiscal>

### **Growth in monthly wages still below inflation**

- Monthly wage growth for workers in Bangladesh has remained below the inflation rate for 15 months consecutively, suggesting that many people are having to reduce consumption to cope with increased financial stress. In April, wages of low paid skilled and unskilled workers grew 7.23%, which was 2.01% points below the inflation rate of 9.24% that month, shows the Wage Rate Index (WRI) of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
- The average monthly wage rate of low paid skilled and unskilled labourers is estimated from the pay scale of 44 occupations, including 11 in the agriculture sector, 22 in the industry sector and 11 in the service sector. "This indicates that there are depletions in their real income," said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue. As a result, the purchasing capacity of low paid skilled and unskilled workers is falling and so, they are compromising on food and non-food expenditures, he added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/growth-monthly-wages-still-below-inflation-3311436>

## **Bangladesh sees foreign debt buildup**

- Bangladesh sees foreign-debt buildup as the government opted for increased external borrowing largely to meet budget deficit and foreign-exchange needs amid lower incomes, sources say. Official statistics show the borrowing in terms of the US currency in the second quarter of the financial year 2022-23 grew over USD 3.55 Bn on average compared to the previous three months of the fiscal. Officials concerned said need for financing the deficit budget and coping with lower earnings from export and remittance necessitated escalating external borrowings.
- Meanwhile, the country's debt liabilities are poised to be pushed up by some recent big loans from two major multilateral lenders—the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). The borrowing by government rose over USD 3.55 Bn to USD 96.25 Bn in the October-December quarter of FY 2022-23 from USD 92.69 Bn in the previous quarter (July-September), according to latest figures available with Bangladesh Bank (BB).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-sees-foreign-debt-buildup>

## **15 banks account for two-thirds of total CSR spending**

- One-fourth of the 61 banks in Bangladesh accounted for 72% of the total BDT 11.29 Bn spending on Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) in 2022, according to a Bangladesh Bank report released last week. The remaining banks spent the rest 28%, the data showed. Bankers say they spent most of the money for education, health and disaster management and climate change adaptation as per the guideline. As per the rule, banks have to invest 30% of their CSR fund in education, 30% in health and 20% in disaster management and climate change adaptation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/15-banks-account-two-thirds-total-csr-spending-3311441>

## Important News: Capital Market

### **JAMUNABANK | Jamuna Bank posts 3% profit growth in Jan- Mar**

- Jamuna Bank Limited posted a 3% year-on-year profit growth in the January to March quarter of 2023 owing to an increase in net interest income as well as investment income. The private sector lender made a consolidated net profit of BDT 1.3336 Bn for the first three months of this year, which was BDT 1.2887 Bn in the same period of the previous year. From January to March quarter, its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 1.78, which was BDT 1.72 one year ago. The bank recommended a 17.50% cash and 8.50% stock dividend for its shareholders for the year ended 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/jamuna-bank-posts-3-profit-growth-jan-mar-629302>

### **CITYBANK | City Bank makes BDT 880 Mn profit in Jan-Mar**

- The City Bank Ltd made a BDT 880 Mn profit in the first quarter of the current financial year. The private commercial bank reported a similar profit in the January-March quarter of 2022 as well. Thus, the consolidated earnings per share were BDT 0.74 in January-March of 2023, unchanged from the same three-month period of 2022, according to the unaudited financial statements. Higher cash outflows for loan disbursements than cash inflows for acquiring deposits and borrowings resulted in the change in the NOCFPS, said City Bank

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/city-bank-makes-tk-88cr-profit-jan-mar-3316661>

### **MTB | MTB wins Global Good Governance Awards**

- Mutual Trust Bank (MTB) Limited recently won the Global Good Governance (3G) Awards for its excellence in sustainability reporting. This recognition highlights the bank's commitment to transparent reporting and responsible business practices, solidifying its position as a leading organisation promoting sustainability and social responsibility, said a press release. The Global Good Governance Awards is an international recognition of organisations demonstrating excellence in governance, social responsibility and sustainability.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/mtb-wins-global-good-governance-awards-3316596>

### **EBL | Eastern Bank's profit declined 10% in Jan-Mar**

- Eastern Bank Ltd (RBL) posted a 10% year-on-year profit decline in the January to March quarter of 2023. The private sector lender made a consolidated net profit of BDT 1.0731 Bn for the first three months of this year, which was BDT 1.1911 Bn in the same period of the

previous year. From January to March quarter, its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 1, which was BDT 1.11 one year ago. The bank recommended a 12.50% cash and 12.50% stock dividend for its shareholders for the year ended 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-banks-profit-declined-10-jan-mar-629234>

### **EXIMBANK | Exim Bank's profit declines 44% in Jan-Mar**

- Exim Bank Ltd posted a 44% year-on-year profit decline in the January to March quarter of 2023 due to an increase in provision for investments and other assets. The private sector lender made a consolidated net profit of BDT 202.7 Mn for the first three months of this year, which was BDT 361.9 Mn in the same period of the previous year. From January to March quarter, its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 0.14, which was BDT 0.25 one year ago. The bank recommended a 10% cash dividend for its shareholders for the year ended 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/exim-banks-profit-declines-44-jan-mar-629314>

### **CONFIDCEM | Confidence Cement's profit drops 29%**

- Confidence Cement Limited, a concern of the Chottagram-based Confidence Group, reported a 29.59% year-on-year profit decline for the January to March quarter of the current fiscal year owing to foreign exchange loss, an increase in bank interest and charges. From January to March quarter, the consolidated net profit of the company stood at BDT 143.6 Mn, which was BDT 203.9 Mn in the same period of the previous year. From January to March quarter, its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 1.84, which was BDT 2.61 one year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/confidence-cements-profit-drops-29-629254>

### **ENVOYTEX | Envoy Textiles sees lower revenue, profit in Jan-Mar**

- Envoy Textiles Ltd, a publicly listed textile company, has witnessed a decline in its revenue and profit in the January to March quarter of the current fiscal year, compared to the same quarter of the previous fiscal. In the first three months of 2023, the company's revenue fell 24% to BDT 2.5783 Bn, compared to the same period of the previous year. Its net profit during the quarter fell by 29% to BDT 125.3 Mn year-on-year. According to the company's disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website on Wednesday, its net profit dropped mainly because of a decrease in export orders, and currency fluctuation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/envoy-textiles-sees-lower-revenue-profit-jan-mar-629282>

**NATLIFEINS | National Life to pay 38% cash dividends**

- National Life Insurance Company's board of directors has recommended 38% cash dividends or BDT 3.8 against each share having a face value of BDT 10, according to a stock exchange filing. The dividend proposed for 2022 will be subject to shareholders' approval in the annual general meeting set to be virtually held on 26 June at 12.00pm. In 2022, the company's earnings per share grew to BDT 5.78 from BDT 3.84 in the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/national-life-pay-38-cash-dividends-628790>

**UNILEVERCL | Lower Horlicks sales, yet Unilever profit rises 17%**

- Sales of Horlicks – the most popular health food drink product in the country – dropped in the first quarter of this year owing to high inflation, but the company's profit rose by 16.66%, riding on increased financial income and reduced operating expenses. In the January-March quarter, the multinational company's net profit increased to BDT 201.3 Mn from BDT 172.6 Mn in the same period of the previous year. Its revenue declined by 10% during the same period.
- The company's operating expense was BDT 233 Mn in the first quarter this year – 23% less than BDT 304.2 Mn during the same period a year ago. Its net financial income stood at BDT 41.3 Mn in the first three months of 2023, which was BD 4.5 Mn a year ago. Unilever Consumer Care Chairman Masud Khan told TBS, Horlicks was not prioritized over essentials like rice, eggs, milk by the inflation-hit consumers and also the price increase of BDT 2 per BDT 10 small packs slowed down the sales.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/lower-horlicks-sales-yet-unilever-profit-rises-17-629098>

**EMERALDOIL | Emerald Oil's new husk boiler to run from 11 May**

- Emerald Oil Industries – the producer of an almost forgotten rice-bran Spondon branded oil – is going to start a new husk boiler and extend its existing refining capacity. The company, whose share price witnessed a big jump in recent times, made the announcement on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website on Tuesday. According to the disclosure, the new boiler will be started from 11 May and will run 24 hours daily without interruption.
- In 2021, Minori Bangladesh, a subsidiary of Japanese farming company Minori Co Limited got the stock market regulator's nod to bring the company back into production by investing more than BDT 400 Mn. The new owner invested over BDT 310 Mn and resumed production in January last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/emerald-oils-new-husk-boiler-run-11-may-629106>

**FIRSTSBANK | First Security Islami Bank's sponsor to sell his entire holding**

- Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, who is a sponsor of the First Security Islami Bank, has expressed his intention to sell his entire holding in the bank. According to a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Tuesday, at present, the sponsor holds 2,425,500 shares of the bank out of the total 1.046 Bn shares. As per the disclosure, he will sell his entire holding of the bank at the prevailing market price in the block market through the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) within the next 30 working days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/first-security-islami-banks-sponsor-sell-his-entire-holding-629122>

**IPDC | IPDC Finance's profit plunges 93% in Q1**

- IPDC Finance Limited reported a 93% year-on-year fall in profit to BDT 14.8 Mn in the first quarter of the current financial year. The non-bank financial institution made BDT 222.6 Mn profit in January-March of 2022. So, IPDC Finance's earnings per share plummeted to BDT0.04 in the first three months of 2023 from BDT 0.60 posted in the same period of 2022, according to a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange. The net operating cash flow per share stood at BDT 13.25 negative in January-March against BDT 13.28 negative in the identical period last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ipdc-finance-profit-plunges-93-q1-3315706>

**BRACBANK | Brac Bank's profit jumped 25% in Jan-Mar**

- Brac Bank's profit jumped by 25% in the January-March quarter of 2023, according to its financial disclosure filed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). During the first quarter, its earnings per share were BDT 0.96, which was BDT 0.77 at the same time a year ago. Besides, it also bagged consent from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) for raising paid-up capital through the issuance of a 7.50% stock dividend for the year ending 31 December 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brac-banks-profit-jumped-25-jan-mar-628130>

**ROBI | Robi's revenue, profit surge in March quarter**

- Robi Axiata Limited – the country's second largest mobile network operator – has reported growths in both its revenue and profit in the January to March quarter of the ongoing 2022-23 fiscal year, compared to the same quarter of the previous fiscal. According to its unaudited financial statement for the March quarter, that the company revealed after its board meeting on Monday, its mobile services revenue including voice, non-voice traffic, data, subscriptions and connection fees surged by 17.64% to BDT 21.71 Bn. And, its net profit grew by 5.49% to BDT 420 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/robi-posts-tk41-crore-profit-january-march-628254>

**LHBL | LafargeHolcim posts record profit in Jan-Mar**

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh Limited has made a strong start to the year, posting a net profit of BDT 1.9 Bn in the first three months, the highest in a particular quarter for the company. The net profit jumped over 102% year-on-year, and earnings per share stood at BDT 1.64, up from BDT 0.81 a year ago. In a press release, the company said its sales increased by 37% to BDT 8.54 Bn in the January-March quarter compared to BDT 6.25 Bn in 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/lafargeholcims-profit-jumps-over-100-jan-mar-628322>

**UNILEVERCL | Unilever Consumer Care's profit rises 17%**

- Unilever Consumer Care Ltd (UCL), the maker of Horlicks, said its profit soared 17% in the first three months of this year despite the consumer goods company recorded a fall in sales. The UCL logged BDT 201.3 Mn in profits in January-March this year up from BDT 172.6 Mn a year ago. The earnings per share (EPS) of the company, a part of Unilever's group of companies, rose to BDT 16.72 in the first quarter of this year from BDT 14.33 the same period a year ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/unilever-consumer-cares-profit-rises-17-3314616>

**GREENDELTA | Green Delta Insurance profit drops over 58% in Jan-Mar quarter**

- Green Delta Insurance's profit dropped over 58% in the January-March quarter of 2023 as the general insurer paid higher claims during the quarter. During the first quarter, its earnings per share was BDT 0.74, which was BDT 1.78 at the same time a year ago. Earlier, it had paid its shareholders a 25% cash dividend for the year ending on 31 December 2022. During the last year, its earnings per share was BDT 7.30, which was 13% lower than the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/green-delta-insurance-profit-drops-over-58-jan-mar-quarter-628126>

**BRACBANK | Brac Bank rated 'AAA' again**

- Brac Bank again got the highest credit rating "AAA" by the Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB) for showing its solid financial strength and stability. CRAB has reaffirmed "AAA" for long-term and ST-1 for the short-term with "Stable" outlook for Brac Bank, said a press release. "This unique achievement has resulted from the bank's continuous efforts towards improving and maintaining an industry-above capital base, better asset quality, exemplary corporate governance and superior liquidity position," said Selim RF Hussain, managing director of the bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/brac-bank-rated-aaa-again-3314621>

**QUASEMIND | Quasem Industries posts 20% decline in profit in Q3**

- Quasem Industries Ltd reported a 20% year-on-year decline in profit to BDT 8.727 Mn in the third quarter of the current financial year owing to a rise in the cost of production and expenses. The battery manufacturer made a BDT 10.9 Mn profit in January-March of the previous financial year of 2021-22. Its earnings per share rose to BDT 0.12 in the January-March quarter of 2022-23 against BDT 0.15 in the similar quarter a year earlier, according to the unaudited financial statements.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/quasem-industries-posts-20-decline-profit-q3-3314351>

**EXCHANGE | 4 banks must pay BDT 261.2 Mn in penalty for violating SEC rules**

- Four banks are facing a penalty of BDT 261.2 Mn for not providing cash dividends, instead giving bonus dividends only, which is a violation of the rules of the stock market enlistment. The banks are Arab-Bangladesh Bank or AB Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, One Bank, and First Security Islami Bank Limited. According to the law, AB Bank will have to pay BDT 17.2 Mn, Mutual Trust Bank BDT 89.4 Mn, One Bank BDT 50 Mn, and First Security Islami Bank BDT 104.6 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/4-banks-must-pay-tk2612cr-penalty-violating-sec-rules-628434>

**TOSRIFA | Northern Corp Ltd sells 0.3 Mn shares of Tosrifa Industries**

- Northern Corporation Limited, a corporate director of Tosrifa Industries, has completed its sale of 0.3 Mn shares out of its total holding of over 10.9 Mn shares, according to a regulatory disclosure issued by the company on Wednesday (3 May). The shares were sold at the public market through the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) as per the pre-announcement the company made on 14 March.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/northern-corp-ltd-sells-3-lakh-shares-tosrifa-industries-625582>

**AL-HAJTEX | Alhaj Textile's deadlock prolongs amid internal discords**

- The securities regulator's efforts to put the years-long legal battle of Alhaj Textile Mills with its lender to an end and to bring the company back to regular business are facing hiccups because of internal discords among the company's reconstructed board members. It appears they are divided on the question of should the company solve the decade-long problems with the bank immediately to better focus on core business or continue with its legacy of litigations and inefficient operations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/alhaj-textiles-deadlock-prolongs-amid-internal-discords-627906>

**SHAHJABANK | Shahjalal Islami Bank posts higher profit in Q1**

- Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd's profit rose 4.25% year-on-year BDT 1.0589 Bn in the first quarter of 2023. The profit stood at BDT 1.0157 Bn in the January-March quarter of 2022. Thus, the consolidated earnings per share of the bank were BDT 0.98 in January-March against BDT 0.94 reported in the same quarter of the previous financial year, according to the unaudited financial statements. The consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) surged to BDT 12.84 from BDT 2.15. The consolidated net asset value per share (NAVPS) rose to BDT 21.20 on March 31 this year from BDT 18.33 on the same day last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/shahjalal-islami-bank-posts-higher-profit-q1-3313816>

**EXCHANGE | Mutual funds association to launch impact fund for businesses in south region**

- The Association of Asset Management Companies & Funds (AAMCMF) is going to launch an impact fund for financing food security, healthcare, green initiatives and digitalisation of small and micro businesses in Khulna, Gopalganj, and other southern districts of the country. The "Bangladesh Impact Fund - South Region" will have a target size of BDT 2 Bn, and can grow with success, said the association's President Dr Hasan Imam at an event held at Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mutual-funds-association-launch-impact-fund-businesses-south-region-627938>

**BRACBANK | More lending, borrowing helps BRAC Bank profit grow 32%**

- BRAC Bank has achieved a 32% growth in its net profit after taxes for 2022 on a consolidated basis. The top tier private sector lender's Managing Director and CEO Selim R F Hussain thanked the strong growth in its balance sheet that referred to more deposit mobilisation and more lending or investing. BRAC Bank's consolidated net profit for the challenging year of 2022 was BDT 6.12 Bn, up from BDT 4.65 Bn in the previous year, according to its annual financial statement. The lender on a standalone basis secured a 3.9% increase in its annual net profit that grew to BDT 5.76 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/more-lending-borrowing-helps-brac-bank-profit-grow-32-625830>

**ACMELAB | Acme's muscle relaxant tablet 'Chlorzoxazone 500' gets US FDA approval**

- The Acme Laboratories Limited has got US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) approval for its centrally acting muscle relaxant tablet "Chlorzoxazone 500 mg", according to a regulatory disclosure by the company. The company last week informed its shareholders that the tablet manufactured in its Solid Dosage Unit two was submitted to the US FDA and it obtained the prestigious accreditation from the world's most stringent drug authority.
- Over the first nine months of the fiscal year, Acme Laboratories has had an earnings per share of BDT 7.98, up from BDT 7.55 during the same period of the previous fiscal year. At the end of March, net asset value per share of the company stood at BDT 107.48.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/acmes-muscle-relaxant-tablet-chlorzoxazone-500-gets-us-fda-approval-627302>

**EMERALDOIL | BSEC for probing Emerald Oil shares' 'suspicious' jumps**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has advised the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to investigate the "unusual and suspicious" jumps in Emerald Oil Industries shares. "It appears that the share price of the listed company has changed from BDT 30.8 to BDT 52.30 (increased by 69.81%) from 2 April to 26 April 2023, which seems unusual and suspicious," the market regulator stated in a letter to the DSE last month. The country's premier bourse has been asked to submit the probe report to the commission within the 15 working days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-probing-emerald-oil-shares-suspicious-jumps-627306>

**ALARABANK | Al-Arafah Islami Bank made BDT 2.07 Mn profit in 2022**

- Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd made a BDT 2.07 Bn profit in the financial year that ended on December 31. It was slightly down from the BDT 2.08 Bn profit the Shariah-based bank made in 2021. Al-Arafah Islami Bank, thus, reported consolidated earnings per share of BDT 1.95 for 2022 compared to BDT 1.96 a year earlier. Consolidated net asset value per share rose slightly to BDT 22.75 in the last financial year from BDT 22.73 in 2021 while the consolidated net operating cash flow per share returned to a positive territory of BDT 10.28 from a negative BDT 9.21 during the period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/al-arafah-islami-bank-made-tk-207cr-profit-2022-3311396>

## IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

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