

## Weekly Market Update

### Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+0.12%) gained 7.63 points and closed the week at 6,269.35 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (+0.18%) gained 3.89 points and stood at 2,141.54 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.18%) gained 2.47 points and stood at 1,358.29 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.19%) gained 2.29 points and closed at 1,211.69 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +1.01%, -2.45%, -0.04%, -0.22%, respectively.

**Total Turnover During the Week (DSE):** BDT 20.2 billion (USD 182 million)

**Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV):** BDT 4.0 billion (Δ% Week: -13.7%)

**Market P/E:** 18.6x

### Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note (-0.39%) on Sunday. It remained negative on Monday (-0.12%). It reverted to positive on Tuesday (+0.29) and remained positive on Wednesday (+0.14%). And lastly, the market closed on a positive note (+0.21%) on Thursday.

### Sectoral Performance

• Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Bank booked the highest gain of 0.02% followed by NBFIs (+0.00%). General Insurance experienced the highest loss of 0.55% followed by Life Insurance (-0.04%), Mutual Fund (-0.02%).

• Non-financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Food & Allied booked the highest gain of 0.29% followed by Engineering (+0.07%). Pharmaceutical experienced the highest loss of 0.11% followed by Fuel & Power (-0.06%), and Telecommunication (0.00%).

### Macroeconomic arena

• ADB to provide USD 3 Bn each year till 2026. Bangladesh's exports to Spain rise by 37% in 5yrs. Banks' treasury chiefs seek waiver of cenbank penalty. Bangladesh allows locally manufactured motorcycles up to 375cc. Seven liners started direct shipping, now only 3 remain. 60pc of TIN holders non-compliant. EU offers EUR 395 Mn for renewables. Long-term USD loan facility for exporters. Govt seeks USD 320 Mn NDB loan to expand water coverage. 25 banks keep NPLs below 5%. Bank branches get CIB control before Bangladesh polls. High customs duties challenge for Korean investors: Envoy. IMF lowers Bangladesh's economic growth forecast to 6%. 15% gain tax on sales of land likely to go. Banks asked to encash 50% of exporters' retention deposits. Bangladesh aiming for USD 300 Bn export earnings by 2041: Tipu Munshi. IMF team resents rising NPL at state banks. IMF team asks about plan to cut subsidies. Dollar crunch forces cenbank to sell USD 3.75 Bn from reserves in 3 months.

• NBFIs deposit, lending rates increased by 50 basis points. Dhaka expects up to USD 1 Bn in loan guarantee from World Bank agency. Automobile industry BDT 25 Bn investment. Bepza Economic Zone: Three firms gear up for production. Ctg port container handling up for imports, down for exports in September. Exporters unable to fully benefit from taka devaluation. Apparel exports to US fall 21.77% in Jan-Aug. IMF inquires cenbank about exchange rate mechanism. Capital Shortfall in Q2: 15 banks fall short of BDT 337.44 Bn. 5 economic zones to get boost once Sonargaon roads developed. No more dependence on big brothers – common facility centres to help SME production. Special treasury bills auction resumes for govt fundraising. Reserves deplete as BB feeds dollar-hungry banks. BD's BDT 14.5 Tn govt debt to rise further. Bilateral trade in yuan, rupee fails to ease reserve pressure. Big rise in 10 banks' bad loans. BB raises lending rate to 10.7%, eying inflation. LC settlements hit 35-month low in September.

### Stock Market arena

• MONNOAGML | Monno Agro declares 32% stock, 3% cash dividends. PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank Investment launches 5 products to boost access to investment. DESHBANDHU | Deshbandhu Group plans to merge its food and polymer businesses. ISLAMIBANK | Now IDB pulls out of Islami Bank directorship. MALEKSPIN | Malek Spinning's subsidiary to invest BDT 1.58 Bn for expansion. EXCHANGE | Best holdings' IPO to raise BDT 3.5 Bn approved. EXCHANGE | More than 0.1 Mn dispirited investors cut ties with the stock market. UNIQUEHERL | HC orders status quo on floors 21 to 28 of Borak's building at Banani. SPCL | Shahjibazar Power subsidiary inks deal with Mongla Port for 13-acre land lease. ROBI | Robi completes 2600 band spectrum deployment in 50% sites. ADNTel | ADN Telecom's profit grows 54% due to business expansion. BANKASIA | Bank Asia sponsor Mostafa Steel to sell almost entire holding. BAYLEASING | Bay Leasing incurs BDT 1.2 Bn loss in 2.5 years. EXCHANGE | Techno Drugs plans to raise BDT 100 Bn through IPO. EXCHANGE | Exchanges to begin trading in open-ended MFs this year.

October 12, 2023 (Week: October 08, 2023 – October 12, 2023)

**Dhaka Stock Exchange**

**DSEX ended in green (+0.12%) in the week**

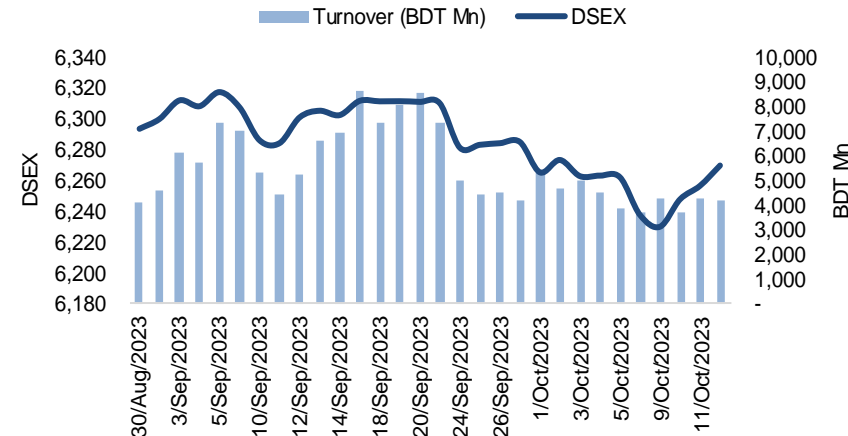
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	29-Dec-2022	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	6,269.35	6,261.72	+7.63	6,206.81	+0.12%	+1.01%
DS30	2,141.54	2,137.66	+3.89	2,195.30	+0.18%	-2.45%
DSES	1,358.29	1,355.82	+2.47	1,358.84	+0.18%	-0.04%
CDSET	1,211.69	1,209.40	+2.29	1,214.42	+0.19%	-0.22%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
M cap	M n BDT	7,771,858	7,767,772	+0.1%
	M n USD	70,334	70,297	
Turnover	M n BDT	20,150	23,357	-13.7%
	M n USD	182	211	
Average Daily Turnover	M n BDT	4,030	4,671	-13.7%
	M n USD	36	42	
Volume	M n Shares	418	431	-3.2%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in last four weeks



**Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan**  
 Senior Research Associate  
 (880) 1708805224  
[hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com](mailto:hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com)

**Billal Hossain**  
 Research Associate  
 (880) 1708805229  
[billal.hossain@bracepl.com](mailto:billal.hossain@bracepl.com)

**Table 3: Top Ten Gainers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
DESHBANDHU	36.4	29.8	+22.1%	2,234	603.7	NM	2.0x
SONALIANS	619.3	535.3	+15.7%	3,359	394.0	NM	5.4x
EMERALDOIL	126.1	111.1	+13.5%	7,530	453.6	NM	NM
UNIONINS	69.0	62.0	+11.3%	3,340	464.8	28.0x	3.8x
NTC	486.9	437.9	+11.2%	3,214	45.6	NM	2410x
CENTRALPHL	12.3	11.1	+10.8%	1474	123.2	NM	2.1x
NFML	14.8	13.5	+9.6%	1382	28.6	77.9x	1.3x
FUWANGFOOD	32.7	30.0	+9.0%	3,624	906.4	NM	8.3x
OIMEX	22.1	20.3	+8.9%	1483	99.7	NM	2.0x
PRAGATILIF	111.8	103.3	+8.2%	3,639	32.8	NM	NM

**Table 4: Top Ten Losers**

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
RENWICKJA	750.1	861.1	-12.9%	1,500	27.8	NM	NM
SHYAMPSUG	139.6	155.4	-10.2%	698	812	NM	NM
HEIDELBCEM	235.1	256.8	-8.5%	13,284	52.8	29.5x	3.5x
MEGHNA PET	33.5	36.2	-7.5%	402	12.1	NM	NM
DAFODILCOM	91.0	98.3	-7.4%	4,542	125.4	NM	6.7x
BGIC	57.1	61.1	-6.5%	3,085	14.9	36.8x	2.7x
ASIAPACINS	54.1	57.5	-5.9%	2,291	80.0	22.6x	2.3x
MIRACLEIND	40.2	42.7	-5.9%	1,416	304.4	NM	2.3x
BNICL	60.2	63.4	-5.0%	2,664	204.0	17.2x	2.4x
ZEALBANGLA	125.8	132.3	-4.9%	755	5.8	NM	NM

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

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
SEAPEARL	205.8	192.1	+7.1%	24,850	1,202.7	29.8x	11.9x
FUWANGFOOD	32.7	30.0	+9.0%	3,624	906.4	NM	8.3x
LHBL	72.0	70.0	+2.9%	83,619	772.0	14.2x	4.2x
GEMINISEA	816.3	803.3	+1.6%	4,984	622.0	38.9x	32.2x
DESHBANDHU	36.4	29.8	+22.1%	2,234	603.7	NM	2.0x
BSC	117.7	117.0	+0.6%	17,953	514.1	7.5x	15x
REPUBLIC	54.6	56.6	-3.5%	2,845	485.5	27.4x	3.2x
UNIONINS	69.0	62.0	+11.3%	3,340	464.8	28.0x	3.8x
EMERALDOIL	126.1	111.1	+13.5%	7,530	453.6	NM	NM
SONALIANS	619.3	535.3	+15.7%	3,359	394.0	NM	5.4x

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

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
HEIDELBCEM	235.1	+31.3%	13,284	29.5x	3.5x
OLYMPIC	151.0	+21.8%	30,191	18.4x	3.0x
UNILEVERCL	2,023.9	+13.7%	39,009	45.1x	22.2x
UNIQUEHRL	64.7	+12.1%	19,048	10.1x	0.7x
LHBL	72.0	+11.1%	83,619	14.2x	4.2x
ADNTEL	124.8	+9.4%	8,069	31.2x	4.1x
JAMUNAOIL	177.0	+5.8%	19,545	6.5x	0.9x
PRIMEBANK	20.1	+4.7%	22,759	5.2x	0.7x
EBL	29.4	+4.0%	35,493	6.7x	1.0x
BATASHOE	989.0	+3.9%	13,530	26.3x	3.5x

**Table 7: Sector Indices**

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1442.6	1442.3	1427.09	+0.02%	+1.09%
NBFI	1916.8	1916.8	1927.24	+0.00%	-0.54%
Mutual Fund	825.5	825.7	852.07	-0.02%	-3.12%
General Insurance	3,699.6	3,720.0	3,177.87	-0.55%	+16.42%
Life Insurance	2,618.9	2,620.1	2,492.91	-0.04%	+5.05%
Telecommunication	4,945.6	4,945.6	4,945.60	-0.00%	-0.00%
Pharmaceutical	3,698.8	3,702.7	3,754.47	-0.11%	-1.48%
Fuel & Power	1,695.7	1,696.8	1,694.29	-0.06%	+0.09%
Cement	2,577.0	2,558.7	2,319.67	+0.72%	+11.09%
Services & Real Estate	1,907.4	1,880.0	1,782.23	+1.46%	+7.03%
Engineering	4,489.9	4,486.8	4,503.40	+0.07%	-0.30%
Food & Allied	21,461.6	21,399.2	21,247.80	+0.29%	+1.01%
IT	3,024.5	3,058.2	3,004.33	-1.10%	+0.67%
Textile	1,607.5	1,609.6	1,621.87	-0.13%	-0.89%
Paper & Printing	9,957.6	9,996.7	10,388.08	-0.39%	-4.14%
Tannery	3,176.1	3,156.5	3,093.43	+0.62%	+2.67%
Jute	17,914.6	16,050.7	14,850.17	+11.61%	+20.64%
Ceramics	679.9	679.9	704.74	-	-3.52%
Miscellaneous	4,153.9	4,137.1	4,071.46	+0.40%	+2.02%

**Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix**

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	37.3	43.2	-13.69%	+1.12%	12.1x	0.7x
NBFI	0.3	0.9	-67.25%	+0.01%	NM	18.8x
Mutual Fund	1.3	3.2	-60.10%	+0.04%	NM	0.7x
General Insurance	728.1	1,135.5	-35.88%	+2.185%	20.0x	17x
Life Insurance	91.3	163.7	-44.22%	+2.74%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	0.2	0.4	-42.14%	+0.01%	15.6x	4.4x
Pharmaceutical	260.2	237.3	+9.62%	+7.81%	19.2x	2.3x
Fuel & Power	63.7	57.5	+10.79%	+1.91%	23.6x	1.1x
Cement	176.0	208.5	-15.58%	+5.28%	27.3x	2.7x
Services & Real Estate	340.1	304.6	+11.64%	+10.21%	23.5x	12x
Engineering	273.9	229.5	+19.32%	+8.22%	61.0x	18x
Food & Allied	599.6	586.8	+2.19%	+18.00%	20.0x	7.5x
IT	173.0	205.8	-15.93%	+5.19%	27.6x	2.8x
Textile	162.7	151.6	+7.35%	+4.88%	78.4x	1.1x
Paper & Printing	53.3	289.9	-81.62%	+1.60%	37.0x	19x
Tannery	45.9	89.8	-48.90%	+1.38%	47.6x	3.2x
Jute	80.2	35.8	+123.78%	+2.41%	NM	NM
Ceramics	0.1	0.1	+2.08%	+0.00%	53.4x	19x
Miscellaneous	244.9	319.9	-23.44%	+7.35%	16.0x	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	31.2x	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

\*BDT

\*\*BDT Mn

## Important News: Business & Economy

### ADB to provide USD 3 Bn each year till 2026

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide USD 338 Mn for vaccine production in Bangladesh. As Bangladesh will not be able to buy cheap vaccines after transitioning from LDC, it is necessary to increase the capacity of vaccine production in the country from now. Half of the loan would be concessional, while the rest would carry 2% interest.
- ADB Country Director said that ADB will try to achieve USD 3.0 Bn financing every year for the next three years for Bangladesh. For this year, ADB has planned to approve USD 2.0 Bn in concessional loans, including financing for vaccine manufacturing. It will also approve close to USD 1.5 Bn in soft-term loans,

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/adb-provide-3b-each-year-till-2026-3440861>

### Bangladesh's exports to Spain rise by 37% in 5yrs

- Bangladesh's exports to Spain grew by 37% in the past five years due mainly to increased shipments of readymade garments. Spain is the 4th largest export destination for Bangladesh and local businesses see huge potential for Bangladesh to grow in the market with diversified products beyond apparel.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/214692/bangladeshs-exports-to-spain-rise-by-37pc-in-5yrs>

### Banks' treasury chiefs seek waiver of cenbank penalty

- Treasury heads of several banks, fined by the Bangladesh Bank for buying and selling dollars at above-official rates, have appealed to the central bank for a waiver of the penalty. A senior official of BB said that some of the fined treasury chiefs have submitted applications to the board of directors of BB seeking a waiver of the penalty.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-treasury-chiefs-seek-waiver-cenbank-penalty-716814>

### Bangladesh allows locally manufactured motorcycles up to 375cc

- Bangladesh government has allowed locally made motorcycles of up to 375cc along with the existing imported motorcycles of up to 165cc to facilitate the expansion of the local industrial sector.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/214728/bangladesh-allows-locally-manufactured-motorcycles-up-to-375cc>

### House rent on the rise

- House rent in different parts of Bangladesh rose by 5.93% in the April-June period of FY23, placing an additional burden on many lower and middle-income households. As per the House Rent Index (HRI), the cost of rent saw quarter-to-quarter growth of 0.12% points from 5.81% in the January-March period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/house-rent-the-rise-3440816>

### Seven liners started direct shipping, now only 3 remain

- Direct shipping from the Chattogram port to major ports worldwide, including those in Europe, is coming to a halt as shipping lines are discontinuing their operations owing to reduced freight charges, export bookings and import orders. The promise that emerged in 2022, featuring at least seven international routes, offered fresh optimism for the country's exporters with prospects of significantly reducing transportation time and expenses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/transport/seven-liners-started-direct-shipping-now-only-3-remain-716834>

### 60pc of TIN holders non-compliant

- 60% of taxpayer identification number holders in the country has remained non-compliant over the years, according to the National Board of Revenue. The number of TIN holders in FY23 was 8.8 Mn, which was 5.0 Mn in FY21. However, only 1.2 Mn TIN holders are submitting their income tax returns with income tax regularly while some 1.5 TIN holders submitted zero tax returns in FY23.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/214694/60pc-of-tin-holders-non-compliant>

### EU offers EUR 395 Mn for renewables

- Bangladesh is set to receive a major boost with a EUR 395 Mn loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB), which would finance green energy projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and combat climate change. Of the total amount, EUR 45 Mn will be provided as a grant by the EU and the remaining EUR 350 Mn will be given as loan

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/eu-offers-eu395m-renewables-716082>

### Long-term USD loan facility for exporters

- Eighteen private commercial banks signed a deal with the Bangladesh Bank (BB) to avail funds from the central bank's long-term financing facility (BB-LTFF) for export-oriented manufacturing companies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/long-term-usd-loan-facility-exporters-3440121>

**Govt seeks USD 320 Mn NDB loan to expand water coverage**

- The government has sought a USD 320 Mn loan from the New Development Bank (NDB), the lending arm of the BRICS, to finance a project aimed at expanding water-supply coverage and reducing system losses of the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa). Dhaka Wasa looks to expand its supply coverage to 16 newly added unions in the city, according to the project documents.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-seeks-320m-ndb-loan-to-expand-water-coverage-cut-losses-1696961716>

**25 banks keep NPLs below 5%**

- 25 out of the 61 commercial banks in Bangladesh are managing to keep their NPL rates below 5%. Additionally, 11 of these 25 lenders registered NPL rates of less than 3% by the end of Jun'23, according to data of Bangladesh Bank.
- During April-June 2023, BRAC Bank, Pubali Bank, Prime Bank, City Bank and Sonali Bank were among the few lenders able to reduce their bad loans while it increased for the majority. The NPL rate of BRAC Bank stood at 3.52% in June, down from 3.83% a year ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/25-banks-keep-npls-below-5-3440111>

**Bank branches get CIB control before Bangladesh polls**

- Bangladesh Bank has handed over control of Credit Information Bureau to banks' branches, allowing banks and non-banking financial institutions' head offices as well as branch offices to upload or update the loan information of a borrower whenever they needed it, without prior approval of the central bank. BB spokesperson told that BB took the decision to make the process fully online and ease its workload.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/214627/bank-branches-get-cib-control-before-bangladesh-polls>

**High customs duties challenge for Korean investors: Envoy**

- South Korean investors are facing challenges in doing business in Bangladesh due to high customs duties on the imports of raw materials and intermediate goods, Ambassador Park Young-sik said on Tuesday at a seminar in Dhaka. "Samsung manufacturing consumer electronic goods, including mobile phones, and Hyundai car assembly are struggling because of high customs duties on raw materials and intermediate goods," he said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/high-customs-duties-challenge-korean-investors-envoy-716030>

**IMF lowers Bangladesh's economic growth forecast to 6%**

- The IMF has lowered the economic growth forecast for Bangladesh to 6% for the current fiscal, down from its April projection of 6.5%. The downward revision came a week after the World Bank lowered its projection for Bangladesh's GDP growth projection to 5.6% from 6.2% projected in April due to high energy cost, import curbs, insufficient dollars in banks and sluggish monetary tightening.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-lowers-bangladeshs-economic-growth-forecast-6-715782>

**15% gain tax on sales of land likely to go**

- The government is likely to withdraw a gain tax of 15% on capital gains or profit from the sales of land, which was imposed by the new income tax law. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is going to issue a Statutory Regulatory Order to waive the tax to reduce the tax burden of individual taxpayers, said sources at the finance ministry.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/15-gain-tax-sales-land-likely-go-715574>

**Banks asked to encash 50% of exporters' retention deposits**

- The Bangladesh Bank has directed banks to encash 50% of the dollars deposited in exporters' retention quota (ERQ) accounts to boost foreign currency liquidity in the market. In a letter sent on Sunday, the central bank asked banks to immediately encash half of the total USD 639 Mn in deposits held by ERQ accounts on 21 September.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-asked-encash-50-exporters-retention-deposits-715382>

**EU offers EUR 395 Mn for renewables**

- Bangladesh is set to receive a major boost with a EUR 395 Mn loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB), which would finance green energy projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and combat climate change. Of the total amount, EUR 45 Mn will be provided as a grant by the EU and the remaining EUR 350 Mn will be given as loan

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/eu-offers-eu395m-renewables-716082>

**Bangladesh aiming for USD 300 Bn export earnings by 2041: Tipu Munshi**

- Bangladesh aims to earn USD 300 Bn in exports by 2041 and the government is working relentlessly to reach the goal, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said today. "The commerce ministry is formulating innovative policies and business-friendly policies to attract foreign buyers, brands and investors in order to consolidate export-oriented growth and diversify exports," Tipu Munshi said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-aiming-300bn-export-earnings-2041-tipu-munshi-715274>



### **NBR to form four new units to prevent tax evasion**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) will form four new units as part of its compliance risk management to prevent tax evasion, said sources. The units will be called – income tax intelligence unit, withholding tax management unit, E-tax management unit and international tax unit. In addition, the NBR has announced some other initiatives to ensure tax compliance, after a closed-door meeting between its Chairman and International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-form-four-new-units-prevent-tax-evasion-715410>

### **IMF team resents rising NPL at state banks**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) team on Sunday inquired about government actions for bringing down non-performing loans at the state-owned banks and progress on automated fuel pricing aimed at relieving Bangladesh's subsidy burden. During a meeting with the Financial Institutions Division (FID) at the Bangladesh Secretariat, the IMF team expressed disappointment over the rising non-performing loans (NPL) at state banks, said sources.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/imf-team-resents-rising-npl-at-state-banks>

### **Now software to select import-export audits, spot irregularities**

- The customs authorities are going to introduce a software-based system to select which imports and exports need to be audited to find irregularities. To accomplish this, at least 27 specific criteria will be set, upon which the software will automatically select import-export files for auditing. A system-based audit manual has been prepared for the first time to this end, which is expected to be published in a gazette this week, according to sources at the NBR.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/now-software-select-import-export-audits-spot-irregularities-714842>

### **Import-export activities come under wider crosscheck**

- Customs sleuths get a free hand to assess real worth of goods even after port clearance of imports and exports under new guidelines meant for preventing revenue leaks, officials say. Businesses fear it would further slow production and trade process and thus cut down industrial throughput, as Bangladesh Customs issued a manual with provision for auditing businesses under more than 200 criteria on their import-export activities after port clearance.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/import-export-activities-come-under-wider-crosscheck>

### **BSTI mark mandatory for 36 more products**

- The use of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution's (BSTI) standardisation mark has been made mandatory for 36 new products, including LPG cylinders, pressure cookers, microwave ovens, personal care products, batteries and related appliances, selected food products, and sweetmeats. BSTI have set standards for 4,200 products so far, with mandatory marking required for 274 products including the new ones.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsti-mark-mandatory-36-more-products-3439276>

### **Net NSC sales rise**

- The net sales of national savings certificates increased to BDT 55.62 Bn in July-August against BDT 4.0 Bn in the same period in the past year. The net sales soared to BDT 32.5 Bn in Jul'23 against BDT 3.93 Bn in Jul'22, while the net sales were BDT 23.12 Bn in Aug'23 against BDT 80.0 Mn in Aug'22.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/214529/net-nsc-sales-rise>

### **Low public investment a bar for BD to UMIC graduation**

- World Bank's South Asia Chief Economist Dr Franziska Lieselotte Ohnsorge on Sunday in Dhaka said Bangladesh will not be able to become an Upper Middle Income Country (UMIC) with its low public investments. Bangladesh's public investment is around 13-14% of the GDP, which is one of the lowest in South Asia.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/low-public-investment-a-bar-for-bd-to-umic-graduation>

### **IMF team asks about plan to cut subsidies**

- The visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission inquired about the government's plans to reduce energy and fertiliser subsidies, which have been increasing in recent years. The IMF mission, led by its chief Rahul Anand, raised the issue during various meetings held with different departments of the finance ministry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imf-team-asks-about-plan-cut-subsidies-3439246>

### **Manpower export in September drops amid remittance worries**

- Amid mounting concerns over a recent decline in remittance inflows, Bangladesh's labour export figures took a significant hit in September, falling to 107,574 – the lowest figure in four months and a 22.42% drop from August. The previous lowest figure was in May when the country exported 101,558 labourers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/manpower-export-september-drops-amid-remittance-worries-714834>

**Dollar crunch forces cenbank to sell USD 3.75 Bn from reserves in 3 months**

- Although the country's forex reserves have been decreasing for the past one and a half years, the Bangladesh Bank could not stop selling the greenbacks from the reserves due to the dollar crisis in the market. According to the central bank, USD 3.75 Bn was sold from reserves to state-owned banks in the first three months of the current fiscal year 2023-24. The central bank had to support dollar-starved banks in settling international payments.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/dollar-crunch-forces-cenbank-sell-375b-reserves-3-months-715402>

**Global reinsurers warn exit as due premiums pile up amid dollar crisis**

- Growing amount of unpaid premiums due to persisting dollar crisis may prompt global reinsurers to exit from the Bangladesh market, leaving major projects and industries out of insurance coverage, industry insiders fear. The outstanding reinsurance premiums owed to foreign companies amounted to BDT 11.73 Bn at the end of Dec'22.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/global-reinsurers-warn-exit-due-premiums-pile-up-amid-dollar-crisis-715422>

**NBFIs deposit, lending rates increased by 50 basis points**

- The Bangladesh Bank has raised the deposit and lending rates for non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) by 50 basis points each. The circular states that from now on, any NBFIs will be able to pay customers interest on deposits at a rate of six months moving average rate of Treasury bill (SMART) + 2.5%. Previously, it could pay SMART + 2%. For October, SMART has been set at 7.20%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/nbfis-deposit-lending-rates-increased-50-basis-points-714742>

**Dhaka expects up to USD 1 Bn in loan guarantee from World Bank agency**

- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) – a member of the World Bank Group – is exploring the possibility of providing guarantees for short-term trade finance facilities to Bangladesh ranging from USD 500 Mn to USD 1 Bn for essential imports, according to an official document. The World Bank agency, which promotes cross-border investment by providing guarantees to investors and lenders, has so far provided support to 12 projects in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dhaka-expects-1b-loan-guarantee-world-bank-agency-713106>

**Automobile industry BDT 25 Bn investment**

- Fresh investment of around BDT 25 Bn has been made in the automobile industry in the past two and half years since the formulation of the Automobile Industry Development Policy 2021, according to industry insiders. That amount could have been as high as BDT 50.0 Bn had the world economy not been adversely affected by the Russia-Ukraine war, they added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/automobile-industry-tk-2500cr-investment-3438131>

**Bepza Economic Zone: Three firms gear up for production**

- Three companies in the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (Bepza) Economic Zone, established in the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar in Chattogram, are gearing up to initiate production this month. Fengqun Composite Material Co (BD) Ltd, a Chinese enterprise, is among the three firms poised to commence manufacturing operations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bepza-economic-zone-three-firms-gear-production-714282>

**Tea auctions in Chattogram see drop in sales, prices**

- Anxiety has gripped tea producers in Bangladesh as both sales and prices at the weekly international tea auction in Chattogram city are experiencing a drastic fall this season. Tea traders say demand is lower as peoples' purchasing power has reduced amid the ongoing inflationary pressure.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tea-auctions-chattogram-see-drop-sales-prices-3439271>

**CPD proposes BDT 17,568 as minimum wage for RMG workers**

- The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has recommended BDT 17,568 as the minimum wage for garment workers in the country. Considering inflation and the living cost of four-member families, the private think tank proposed this wage for workers in grade seven, the entry-level in the sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/cpd-proposes-tk17568-minimum-wage-rmg-workers-714326>

**Ctg port container handling up for imports, down for exports in September**

- Import container handling through the Chattogram port increased in September compared to the previous month, while export handling declined, according to the port's monthly data. Compared to August, some 1,430 more TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of import cargo containers were handled at the Chattogram port.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-port-container-handling-increased-imports-dropped-exports-september-714570>

### **Exporters unable to fully benefit from taka devaluation**

- Exporters in Bangladesh are unable to take the full benefit of the devaluation of the taka against the US dollar amid ongoing inflationary pressure and rising production costs, according to industry people. The devaluation of a country's currency can increase its export earnings as manufacturers can take orders even though buyers offer lower rates than in the past, making them more competitive on the global market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/exporters-unable-fully-benefit-taka-devaluation-3438141>

### **Apparel exports to US fall 21.77% in Jan-Aug**

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the US shrank 21.77% in the first eight months of 2023 as the key market is going through an overall slowdown in demand for garment products. The country's apparel shipments to the US were valued at USD 5.18 Bn in the first eight months of this year against USD 6.62 Bn in the corresponding period of last year, according to the US Department of Commerce's Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/apparel-exports-us-fall-2177-jan-aug-714230>

### **IMF inquires cenbank about exchange rate mechanism**

- A visiting staff mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has wanted to know from the Bangladesh Bank about the present exchange rate mechanism and how the dollar rate is set by the association of banks and their top executives. During the daylong meeting, the IMF officials also asked the central bank to explain the mismatch in different components of the balance of payment, including trade credit and errors and omissions, according to meeting sources.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/imf-inquires-cenbank-about-exchange-rate-mechanism-713070>

### **Capital Shortfall in Q2: 15 banks fall short of BDT 337.44 Bn**

- A record 15 banks, including seven state-run lenders, faced capital shortfall in the second quarter of 2023, in yet another indication of the worrying state of the financial sector. Together, they logged in capital shortfall of BDT 337.44 Bn in the quarter that ended on June 30, according to the latest data from Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/capital-shortfall-q2-15-banks-fall-short-tk-33744cr-3438286>

### **One step closer towards the dream of becoming an aviation hub**

- The aviation stakeholders are considering the construction of the much anticipated third terminal at Dhaka airport as one step advancement towards the dream of making Bangladesh an aviation hub. The country is currently implementing various airport development projects, worth around BDT 326.05 Bn, including the third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/one-step-closer-towards-dream-becoming-aviation-hub-713670>

### **5 economic zones to get boost once Sonargaon roads developed**

- In a bid to enhance connectivity and stimulate economic growth of local industries and tourism in the Sonargaon region of Narayanganj, the government has initiated a road development project. The project to develop four roads spanning approximately 14 kilometres is expected to facilitate transportation and communications with five economic zones in the area.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/5-economic-zones-get-boost-once-sonargaon-roads-developed-713734>

### **NBR beefs up automation to prevent fictitious exports, money laundering**

- The NBR has ordered the parties concerned at customs houses and stations across the country to process the export general manifest (EGM) — a legal document or an export report filed by the carrier of a shipment to validate the export transaction — using the ASYCUDA world system. The move aims to prevent export-related irregularities including fictitious exports — export items that do not exist but are shown on paper only which is a well-known means of money laundering.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbr-beefs-automation-prevent-fictitious-exports-money-laundering-713158>

### **Matarbari power plant first unit goes online next month**

- The authorities have decided to start operation of the first unit of Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal Fired Power Plant next month (November). The project has already been completed and the power plant also witnessed a successful completion of its trial production last month (September). The second unit with 600 MW capacity is expected to start generating power by March 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/matarbari-power-plant-first-unit-goes-online-next-month-1696786319>

**NBR presents plan to cut tax expenditure, raise collection**

- The NBR on Thursday briefed the visiting mission of the IMF an outline of its plan to cut tax expenditure and expedite revenue mobilisation. The mission held separate meetings with the three wings of the NBR - income tax, VAT and customs - at the NBR headquarters in the capital to review the implementation progress of conditions tagged with their USD 4.7 Bn credit support to Bangladesh.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nbr-presents-plan-to-cut-tax-expenditure-raise-collection>

**BGMEA seeks price hike from buyers again**

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday again sought a price hike of garment items as the government is working to implement a minimum wage for 4 Mn garment workers from December this year. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan said in a letter: "Firstly, we need our buyers to understand and internalise the wage dynamics from our respective contexts and priorities, and support us through rational price adjustments."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bgmea-seeks-price-hike-buyers-again-3435616>

**No more dependence on big brothers – common facility centres to help SME production**

- The micro and small entrepreneurs in various parts of the country will gradually get access to technology-based manufacturing as the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Foundation took initiative to set up common facility centres (CFCs) there. As part of the initiative, the first CFC was launched on 18 August in Rajshahi's Kaluhati footwear cluster, comprising 13 state-of-the-art machines.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/no-more-dependence-big-brothers-common-facility-centres-help-sme-production-713150>

**Tax rebate likely on Universal Pension deposits**

- The government is taking steps to offer tax rebates on deposits for the Universal Pension Scheme in a bid to incentivise increased investment in the scheme. The National Pension Authority has already sent a letter to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) requesting necessary action in this regard, official concerned said, adding that the board may issue an order in this regard by this week.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tax-rebate-likely-universal-pension-deposits-714150>

**Special treasury bills auction resumes for govt fundraising**

- The Bangladesh Bank Thursday restarted auctioning the 14-day special treasury bills to meet an exigency, after a pause since January 2020, to avoid 'devolvement' - a byword for 'high-powered money' printed by the BB to lend to government to lower bank borrowings.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/special-treasury-bills-auction-resumes-for-govt-fundraising>

**Reserves deplete as BB feeds dollar-hungry banks**

- Dollar-hungry commercial banks continue banking on drip-feed from the central bank amid the weakening of Bangladesh's forex reserves while imports squeeze for LC constraints, sources say. Slowing remittance and export incomes add up to the pressures on reserves that dropped far below the IMF-set bottom line in its lending tags.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/reserves-deplete-as-bb-feeds-dollar-hungry-banks>

**BD's BDT 14.5 Tn govt debt to rise further**

- An already-disproportionate government debt-to-GDP ratio in Bangladesh will further rise during 2023-2025 period, according to Fitch Ratings, while the total debt buildup stands at BDT 14.5 Tn until March. The Fitch outlook on credit ratings covers some of Asia's fast-growing emerging economies, including Bangladesh.

- Fitch says Bangladesh, having -- BB-/Negative -- is among those markets where it anticipates the debt-GDP ratio to continue to rise through 2023 to 2025, building on increases that were already big during the pandemic.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bds-tk-145t-govt-debt-to-rise-further>

**USD 1 at BDT 120: Individual traders selling dollars through networks; money changers say they're empty-handed**

- The dollar crisis in the kerb market became more acute after the Bangladesh Bank and law enforcers raided money changers with allegations of higher exchange rates. In this situation, a number of individuals are selling dollars through their networks, at BDT 120-121 per dollar. They are becoming the lone source of dollars for those who are traveling abroad for treatment, education, and other emergencies, sources said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/1-tk120-individual-traders-selling-dollars-through-networks-money-changers-say-theyre-empty>



### **Bilateral trade in yuan, rupee fails to ease reserve pressure**

- Bangladesh's efforts to facilitate bilateral trade in the Chinese yuan and Indian rupee are struggling to take any pressure off its fast-depleting US dollar reserves, insiders said on Friday. Economists and bankers primarily attribute this setback to Bangladesh's huge trade gaps with both China and India, resulting in inadequate yuan and rupee stocks for Dhaka to bypass the dollar dominance.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bilateral-trade-in-yuan-rupee-fails-to-ease-reserve-pressure>

### **Capital base up for state-run banks, down for private lenders**

- The capital base of state-owned commercial banks rose while it fell for private lenders at the end of the fourth quarter of 2022-23, Bangladesh Bank data showed. The overall capital-to-risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of private commercial banks stood at 12.82% in April-June, down from 13.08% in the previous quarter.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/top-news/news/capital-base-state-run-banks-down-private-lenders-3436996>

### **Big rise in 10 banks' bad loans**

- The defaulted loans in 10 banks, including four state-run lenders, stood at BDT 696.71 Bn, which is 45% of the record BDT 1.56 Tn of defaulted loans logged in by the banking sector. A year earlier, the ten banks' defaulted loans accounted for 38.2% of the sector's total.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/big-rise-10-banks-bad-loans-3437241>

### **BB raises lending rate to 10.7%, eying inflation**

- The central bank on Thursday raised the interest rate to 10.7% in a bid to tame skyrocketing inflation. The move came a day after Bangladesh Bank hiked the policy rate by 75 basis points to 7.25%, which also aimed at curbing the soaring inflation. In light with what the central bank stated in its notice on Thursday, banks can now add a 3.5% margin to the 7.2% SMART rate, setting the lending rate at 10.70%.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-raises-lending-rate-to-107pc>

### **LC settlements hit 35-month low in September**

- The country's LC settlements registered a 35-month low in September, while LC openings also fell by about 16.1% compared to August, in line with the central bank's effort to discourage imports to ease pressure on dwindling forex reserves. In September, banks opened LCs amounting to USD 4.69 Bn, from USD 5.59 Bn in August.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/lc-settlements-hit-35-month-low-september-713154>

## Important News: Capital Market

### **MONNOAGML | Monno Agro declares 32% stock, 3% cash dividends**

Monno Agro and General Machinery, a publicly listed company in the engineering sector, has announced a 32% stock and 3% cash dividend for the fiscal year that ended on 30 June 2023. This is the highest dividend declared by the company in the last five fiscal years. In the fiscal 2017-18, the company paid a 350% stock dividend.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/monno-agro-declares-32-stock-3-cash-dividends-716786>

### **PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank Investment launches 5 products to boost access to investment**

Prime Bank Investment Limited (PBIL), the investment banking arm of Prime Bank, has recently introduced five products within the framework of its discretionary portfolio management service brand, "PrimeInvest." This initiative aims to broaden access to investments, catering to individuals capable of saving a minimum of BDT 3,000 per month or possessing savings of BDT 0.5 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/prime-bank-investment-launches-5-products-boost-access-investment-716798>

### **DESHBANDHU | Deshbandhu Group plans to merge its food and polymer businesses**

Deshbandhu Group, one of the largest conglomerates in the country, is going to merge its three separate business entities with its publicly listed subsidiary company — Deshbandhu Polymer Ltd — to strengthen its fundamentals. Deshbandhu Polymer, which raised funds from the stock market in 2011, is engaged in manufacturing polypropylene (PP) woven bags for the packaging of wheat flour, food grains, animal feeds and fertiliser.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/deshbandhu-group-plans-merge-its-food-and-polymer-businesses-716778>

### **ISLAMIBANK | Now IDB pulls out of Islami Bank directorship**

- The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), a multilateral development finance institution focused on Islamic finance, has withdrawn its directorship from Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited. The IDB withdrew its representative from the board of directors of Islami Bank, according to the bank's latest monthly shareholding report.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/now-idb-pulls-out-islami-bank-directorship-716046>

### **MALEKSPIN | Malek Spinning's subsidiary to invest BDT 1.58 Bn for expansion**

- JM Fabrics Limited (JMFL), a subsidiary (99.99%) of publicly traded Malek Spinning Mills, has approved to invest nearly BDT 1.58 Bn for business expansion. In a stock exchange filing on Tuesday, Malek Spinning said the board of JM Fabrics had approved a BMRE plan for setting up seamless facilities and yarn texturizing and covering facilities and other facilities.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/malek-spinnings-subsiary-to-invest-tk-158b-for-expansion>

### **EXCHANGE | Best holdings' IPO to raise BDT 3.5 Bn approved**

- The stock market watchdog of Bangladesh has approved of Best Holdings' proposal to collect BDT 3.5 Bn through an initial public offering. Best Holdings, the owning entity of Le Méridien Dhaka, will invest this money in extending hospitality business outside the capital, according to a press release issued by the BSEC.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/best-holdings-ipo-to-raise-tk35b-approved-1696960022>

### **EXCHANGE | BSEC selects 14 auditors to audit 50 firms' unclaimed dividend payouts**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has selected 14 auditors to conduct audits of 50 listed companies to address unclaimed dividend disbursement issues. In a directive issued on Monday, the commission has instructed the Capital Market Stabilisation Fund (CMSF) to appoint auditors from the list of the selected 14 for the first phase audit.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-selects-14-auditors-audit-50-firms-unclaimed-dividend-payouts-715438>

### **EXCHANGE | BSEC issues cyber threat warning to bourses**

- Amid a myriad of cyber threats, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has directed the stock exchanges to follow some guidelines to ensure security of their network infrastructure. The suggested measures to combat cyber threats include 24/7 strict monitoring of user activity, deploying web application firewalls, implementing load balancer solutions, and more.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-issues-cyber-threat-warning-bourses-715430>

**EXCHANGE | Capitec's close-ended growth fund undersubscribed**

- Some 44% units of Capitec Grameen Bank Growth Fund have remained unsold in the public portion, reflecting a further erosion of investor confidence in the mutual fund sector. The subscription of the MF took place between September 24 and October 1 this year, intended to raise BDT 1.0 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/capitecs-close-ended-growth-fund-undersubscribed-1696872370>

**EXCHANGE | More than 0.1 Mn dispirited investors cut ties with the stock market**

- Dismayed by various factors, with the floor price mechanism being the primary concern, around 0.1 Mn investors chose to withdraw from the stock market, closing their beneficiary owners (BO) accounts altogether in a mere three months. Stockbrokers said because of losses from stock market investments, most investors were reluctant to pay a yearly fee even as small as BDT 500 to keep their accounts active.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/techno-drugs-plans-raise-tk100cr-through-ipo-714142>

**UNIQUEHRL | HC orders status quo on floors 21 to 28 of Borak's building at Banani**

- The High Court on Monday asked to maintain status quo on the floors 21 to 28, a part of the unauthorized extension, of a 28-storey building of Borak Real Estate Limited constructed on the land of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) at Banani in the capital.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/hc-orders-status-quo-on-floors-21-to-28-of-boraks-building-at-banani-1696873187>

**SPCL | Shahjibazar Power subsidiary inks deal with Mongla Port for 13-acre land lease**

- Petromax Refinery Ltd — a subsidiary of the publicly listed Shahjibazar Power Company Ltd — has recently signed an agreement with Mongla Port Authority for leasing a 13-acre land for business expansion. The tenure of the lease agreement will be 30 years, according to a stock exchange filing by Shahjibazar Power on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/shahjibazar-power-subsiidiary-inks-deal-mongla-port-13-acre-land-lease-714766>

**ROBI | Robi completes 2600 band spectrum deployment in 50% sites**

- Robi Axiata has completed deployment of spectrum in 2600 band in 50% of its sites that deal with higher data traffic. The spectrum came from 60 MHz in the 2600 band that the operator bought last year for BDT 33.61 Bn. The network optimization activities directly contributed towards reducing call drop rate by around 60% over the last year for users of both- Robi and Airtel brand users.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/robi-completes-2600-band-spectrum-deployment-50-sites-3437976>

**ADNTEL | ADN Telecom's profit grows 54% due to business expansion**

- ADN Telecom, one of the major sister concerns of ADN Group, posted 54% profit growth in the fiscal year 2022-23 compared to the previous fiscal year owing to business expansion with the launching of new products and services. The company achieved BDT 258.6 Mn net profit in FY23, which was BDT 167.4 Mn in the previous fiscal year, according to a disclosure.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/adn-telecoms-profit-grows-54-due-business-expansion-713054>

**MTB | MTB wins Global Climate Partnership Award**

- Mutual Trust Bank Ltd (MTB) has won this year's Global Climate Partnership Award, according to a statement. Chosen by external experts from 14 applications, the private commercial bank of Bangladesh stood out for its innovative approach to linking smallholder farmers with cost-effective electric vehicle (EV) solutions through accessible finance.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/mtb-wins-global-climate-partnership-award>

**BANKASIA | Bank Asia sponsor Mostafa Steel to sell almost entire holding**

- Mostafa Steel Galvanizing, a corporate sponsor of Bank Asia, has declared to sell 98.3% of its holding in the bank. But the reason behind selling such a huge portion was not disclosed on the CSE website. Seeking anonymity, Bank Asia officials said they did not know the reason either.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bank-asia-sponsor-mostafa-steel-sell-almost-entire-holding-713046>

**BAYLEASING | Bay Leasing incurs BDT 1.2 Bn loss in 2.5 years**

- Bay Leasing and Investment Limited, a non-bank financial institution (NBFI), reported a loss of BDT 1.2 Bn over a two-and-a-half-year period till 30 June 2023. Bay Leasing faced a loss for the first time in 2021, and since then, it has been unable to return to profitability in any subsequent quarters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bay-leasing-incurs-tk120cr-loss-25-years-714158>

**EXCHANGE | Techno Drugs plans to raise BDT 100 Bn through IPO**

- Techno Drugs Ltd plans to raise BDT 1 Bn through an initial public offering (IPO) under the book-building system. According to company sources, they intend to allocate BDT 250 Mn for upgrading and renovating their Narsingdi factory, BDT 150 Mn for construction works at its factory in BK Bari, Gazipur, BDT 270 Mn for machinery procurement, BDT 300 Mn for loan repayment, and BDT 30 Mn to cover IPO expenses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/techno-drugs-plans-raise-tk100cr-through-ipo-714142>

**EXCHANGE | Exchanges to begin trading in open-ended MFs this year**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has already geared up for trading in the Open-ended mutual funds on its ATB, while the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) has completed preparation for the launching of ATB shortly. Fund managers oppose the proposition, saying that trading on the main boards would give rise to price volatility, while they would like to see transactions in open-ended MF units remain unchanged - between AMCs and unitholders.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/exchanges-to-begin-trading-in-open-ended-mfs-this-year-1696695507>



## IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

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

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

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

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

### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

#### Research

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

#### International Trade and Sales

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

FOR SERVICE RELATED QUERIES, REACH OUT TO

 [care@bracepl.com](mailto:care@bracepl.com)

 Call 16285



Website

Address

E-Mail

Contact

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

Symphony, Plot No. S.E. (F) - 9, Road No. 142,  
Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Research: [research@bracepl.com](mailto:research@bracepl.com)  
Sales : [ftrader@bracepl.com](mailto:ftrader@bracepl.com)

Phone: +880 2 985 2446-50  
Fax: +880 2 985 2451