

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.31%) lost -19.42 points and closed the week at 6,254.54 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-0.60%) lost -12.78 points and stood at 2,126.80 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-0.05%) lost -0.70 points and stood at 1,359.82 points. The large cap index CDSET (-0.63%) lost -7.47 points and closed at 1,178.28 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +0.13%, +1.57%, -0.32%, -2.04%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 35.1 billion (USD 319 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 8.8 billion (Δ% Week: +4.1%)

Market P/E: 17.9x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed four sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note (-0.23%) on Sunday and turned positive on Tuesday (+0.21%). Again, it changed to a negative note on Wednesday (-0.07%) respectively. Lastly, the week ended on a negative note (-0.22%) on Thursday.

Sectoral Performance

• Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Life Insurance booked the highest gain of 1.84% followed by Mutual Fund (+0.31%), and General Insurance (+0.10%). NBFIL experienced the highest loss of 1.78% followed by Bank (-1.31%).

• Non-financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Food & Allied booked the highest gain of 0.53% followed by Telecommunication (+0.02%). Fuel & Power experienced the highest loss of 2.04% followed by Pharmaceutical (-0.85%), and Engineering (-0.72%).

Macroeconomic arena

• Bangladesh up 7 notches on economic freedom index, score unchanged. Why industries urgently need long-term policies over short-term incentives. BANK | Currency swap: BB supplies over BDT 65 Bn to banks in just 3 days. INSURANCE | Insurance claim settlement up 4% in 2023: IDRA. TEXTILE | Textile workers' minimum wage set at BDT 10,000. RMG | Climate-induced disruptions could cost Bangladesh USD 700 Bn in apparel exports by 2050. Currency swapping continues to replenish reserves. Private universities must pay 15% tax: Appellate Division. Record low 27% ADP implementation in Jul-Jan. How much trade deficits Bangladesh currently has with various countries?. BANK | BB sets age limit, bad loan recovery target for aspirant CEOs of banks. CERAMIC | Ceramic producers aim for USD 12 Mn sanitaryware export in 5 years. BANK | Banks asked to ease opening forex accounts to boost USD inflows. POWER | Hefty power bill to weigh on consumers. USD 7 Bn pledged in foreign funds. Japan grants USD 2.7 Mn each to Unicef, IOM for Rohingya refugees.

• World Bank suggests unified exchange rate, further monetary tightening. LDCs may enjoy trade benefits for three years after graduation. Govt to cut ADP size by 7%. RMG | Garment export grows in non-traditional markets. Revised ADP: Block allocation for special needs up 283%. TRADE | Incentives for service proceeds as draft policy targets USD 110 Bn exports. TELECOM | Mobile internet subscribers drop in Jan. Smart investors loving T-bonds, bills for secured double-digit returns. Cash transactions creep up despite digital push. Financial sector sees stunted growth for underperformance. Poverty, inequality, food insecurity rise in urban areas: Sanem. RMG | RMG exports to EU up 1.32% in Jul-Jan. BANK | Currency swap pays both ways. TELECOM | BTRC allows mobile operators to offer wireless broadband. AUTOMOBILE | Rancon Motor Bikes gets nod for BDT 1.5 Bn bond. BANK | Bank lending slows amid subdued economic activity, import. POWER | Gas, power price hikes likely in tandem.

Stock Market arena

SIBL | Moody's upgrades Social Islami Bank's outlook to stable. UNITEDINS | United Insurance's profit rises slightly in 2023. AIL | Alif Industries acquiring Royal Denim, Diamond Dredging for expansion. MERCANBANK | Mercantile Bank's authorised capital to rise to BDT 20 Bn. SEAPEARL | Sea Pearl's bond conversion into equity hinges on ICB's stance on its conditions. EXCHANGE | Regulator asks 26 firms to comply with 30% shareholding rule. STANCERAM | Standard Ceramic extends losses by 146% in Jul-Sep. NRBANK | NRB Bank makes stock debut Tuesday. What do investors expect?. RINGSHINE | Ring Shine's ownership transfer fails. RINGSHINE | Why Ring Shine postponed its AGM. BRACBANK | BRAC Bank to invest BDT 3 Bn on land for new head office. PTL | Paramount Textile to raise BDT 2.5 Bn. GEMINISEA | Gemini Sea Foods to raise BDT 1.28 Bn through 21.4 Mn right shares. ASIATICLAB | Retailers, NRBs receive Asiatic Lab IPO shares at 60% discount. KBPPWBIL | Institutional investors sell off 32% shares of Khan Brothers. EXCHANGE | Corporate bonds' yield reaches 12% to lure investors from govt securities.

February 29, 2024 (Week: February 25, 2024 – February 29, 2024)

Dhaka Stock Exchange

DSEX ended in Red (-0.31%) in the week

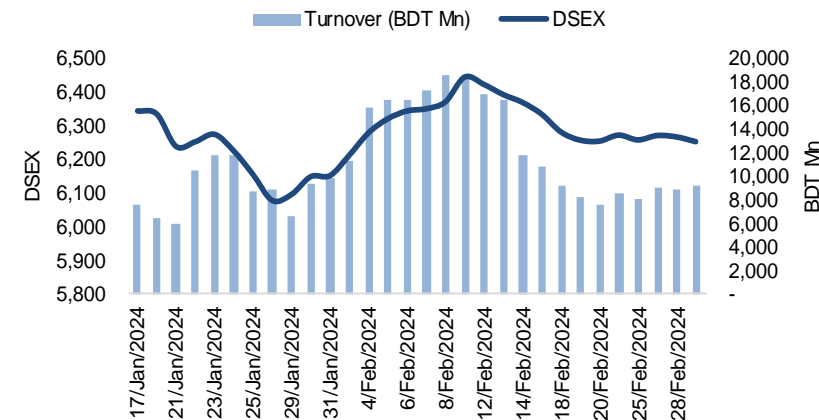
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	28-Dec-2023	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	6,254.54	6,273.96	-19.42	6,246.50	-0.31%	+0.13%
DS30	2,126.80	2,139.58	-12.78	2,093.83	-0.60%	+1.57%
DSES	1,359.82	1,360.52	-0.70	1,364.13	-0.05%	-0.32%
CDSET	1,178.28	1,185.75	-7.47	1,202.82	-0.63%	-2.04%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
M cap	M n BDT	7,607,235	7,620,147	-0.2%
	M n USD	69,157	69,274	
Turnover	M n BDT	35,084	33,701	+4.1%
	M n USD	319	306	
Average Daily Turnover	M n BDT	8,771	8,425	+4.1%
	M n USD	80	77	
Volume	M n Shares	1037	1025	+1.2%

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
FINEFOODS	159.1	127.1	+25.2%	2,223	274.0	NM	14.7x
CENTRALPHL	33.3	26.7	+24.7%	3,989	1,589.7	NM	6.1x
SEMILLECMF	8.5	7.1	+19.7%	425	51.7	NM	0.9x
RUPALILIFE	134.3	115.3	+16.5%	4,031	256.3	NM	NM
KTL	20.6	17.8	+15.7%	2,396	289.9	42.0x	12x
MONOSPOOL	210.8	183.3	+15.0%	2,177	108.6	23.9x	3.7x
ANLIMAYARN	49.4	43.2	+14.4%	883	162.6	NM	4.8x
MONNOFABR	319	28.6	+11.5%	3,669	797.8	NM	13x
BBCABLES	40.3	36.5	+10.4%	8,532	157.0	NM	12x
BDTHAI	32.0	29.2	+9.6%	4,089	614.3	NM	12x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ARAMITCEM	25.7	28.8	-10.8%	871	9.2	NM	NM
SBACBANK	115	12.7	-9.4%	9,478	260.1	19.5x	0.9x
INTECH	317	35.0	-9.4%	993	40.6	99.1x	243.8x
ESQUIRENIT	28.2	31.1	-9.3%	3,804	51.3	NM	0.4x
GEMINISEA	389.3	428.3	-9.1%	4,159	644.8	44.7x	19.9x
POWERGRID	47.4	52.1	-9.0%	33,783	32.8	NM	0.3x
NURANI	5.6	6.1	-8.2%	687	2.4	NM	0.6x
FAREASTFIN	4.6	5.0	-8.0%	755	1.7	NM	NM
IBBL2PBOND	4,601.0	5,000.0	-8.0%	736	0.0	NM	NM
ALLTEX	15.8	17.1	-7.6%	884	110	NM	3.1x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
CENTRALPHL	33.3	26.7	+24.7%	3,989	1,589.7	NM	6.1x
BESTHLDNG	38.8	37.4	+3.7%	41,098	1,434.9	312x	0.7x
FUWANGCER	27.8	25.5	+9.0%	3,788	1,279.6	NM	2.3x
ORIONINFU	687.5	701.4	-2.0%	13,997	1,200.0	NM	47.3x
FORTUNE	53.8	55.1	-2.4%	9,182	833.2	51.5x	3.5x
MONNOFABR	319	28.6	+11.5%	3,669	797.8	NM	13x
AIL	92.9	90.2	+3.0%	4,111	675.9	44.2x	3.8x
GEMINISEA	389.3	428.3	-9.1%	4,159	644.8	44.7x	19.9x
BDTHAI	32.0	29.2	+9.6%	4,089	614.3	NM	12x
LOVELLO	48.0	46.6	+3.0%	4,080	586.5	44.4x	3.8x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
BRACBANK	42.7	+19.3%	68,697	9.2x	1.1x
HEIDELBCEM	269.4	+12.5%	15,222	29.7x	4.0x
UNILEVERCL	2,235.3	+10.7%	43,084	43.6x	20.8x
PRIMEBANK	22.7	+8.1%	25,703	5.5x	0.8x
LHBL	74.5	+7.5%	86,522	13.6x	4.1x
ADNTEL	124.1	+6.0%	8,023	NM	4.1x
UCB	13.1	+5.6%	19,343	6.3x	0.5x
UNIQUEHRL	59.8	+5.5%	17,605	10.4x	0.7x
RECKITTBEN	5,007.7	+5.2%	23,661	313x	26.4x
BERGERPBL	1,860.3	+4.9%	86,277	26.5x	6.4x

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,472.3	1,491.8	1,455.32	-1.31%	+1.16%
NBFI	1,453.5	1,479.9	1,902.52	-1.78%	-23.60%
Mutual Fund	778.0	775.6	876.90	+0.31%	-11.28%
General Insurance	3,697.4	3,693.8	3,489.09	+0.10%	+5.97%
Life Insurance	2,384.6	2,341.6	2,637.78	+1.84%	-9.60%
Telecommunication	4,849.6	4,848.5	4,945.60	+0.02%	-1.94%
Pharmaceutical	3,549.3	3,579.9	3,732.58	-0.85%	-4.91%
Fuel & Power	1,400.3	1,429.5	1,691.80	-2.04%	-17.23%
Cement	2,681.4	2,632.8	2,523.22	+1.85%	+6.27%
Services & Real Estate	1,795.3	1,769.6	1,518.57	+1.45%	+18.22%
Engineering	3,569.7	3,595.6	4,520.40	-0.72%	-21.03%
Food & Allied	21,404.1	21,291.7	21,180.76	+0.53%	+1.05%
IT	3,061.5	3,136.0	2,894.80	-2.38%	+5.76%
Textile	1,479.9	1,500.1	1,658.23	-1.34%	-10.75%
Paper & Printing	10,034.0	9,785.2	10,093.63	+2.54%	-0.59%
Tannery	2,785.9	2,813.7	3,103.94	-0.99%	-10.25%
Jute	18,555.2	18,657.1	17,683.51	-0.55%	+4.93%
Ceramics	636.5	637.9	694.56	-0.23%	-8.37%
Miscellaneous	4,560.2	4,593.0	4,265.32	-0.72%	+6.91%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	662.4	782.2	-15.31%	+8.00%	12.7x	0.7x
NBFI	112.4	143.2	-21.54%	+1.36%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	139.4	95.3	+46.26%	+1.68%	NM	0.7x
General Insurance	532.2	740.6	-28.13%	+6.43%	20.1x	1.7x
Life Insurance	195.3	109.5	+78.35%	+2.36%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	112.3	195.5	-42.55%	+1.36%	14.8x	3.8x
Pharmaceutical	1,462.5	1,359.7	+7.56%	+17.67%	18.8x	2.1x
Fuel & Power	213.5	274.5	-22.21%	+2.58%	26.6x	0.9x
Cement	152.2	83.3	+82.62%	+1.84%	17.0x	2.7x
Services & Real Estate	561.6	574.8	-2.29%	+6.79%	25.4x	0.8x
Engineering	897.7	751.0	+19.54%	+10.85%	19.1x	1.4x
Food & Allied	780.8	575.1	+35.77%	+9.43%	20.6x	6.6x
IT	255.3	433.2	-41.06%	+3.09%	33.2x	2.6x
Textile	1,124.0	999.0	+12.51%	+13.58%	NM	1.0x
Paper & Printing	241.0	102.2	+135.72%	+2.91%	56.7x	1.9x
Tannery	226.2	179.8	+25.81%	+2.73%	41.6x	2.9x
Jute	25.4	34.6	-26.48%	+0.31%	NM	NM
Ceramics	379.1	362.5	+4.59%	+4.58%	44.4x	1.7x
Miscellaneous	202.8	332.5	-39.02%	+2.45%	40.4x	2.0x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
IPDC	32.2	-44.1%	11,949	26.1x	18x
ACI	176.0	-32.4%	13,412	NM	18x
TITASGAS	27.8	-32.0%	27,500	NM	0.4x
BSCCL	150.6	-31.2%	24,835	113x	17x
DOREENPWR	42.4	-30.5%	7,679	7.9x	0.8x
IPDC	32.2	-28.8%	11,949	26.1x	18x
LANKABAFIN	22.9	-28.1%	12,339	30.9x	12x
ACI	176.0	-25.5%	13,412	NM	18x
LINDEBD	1,268.3	-25.3%	19,301	30.8x	3.3x
UPGDCL	168.1	-22.5%	97,447	14.2x	3.2x

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

Bangladesh up 7 notches on economic freedom index, score unchanged

- Bangladesh has climbed up seven spots to reach 116th place among 176 countries ranked in the 2024 Index of Economic Freedom, released by The Heritage Foundation on Monday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-7-notches-economic-freedom-index-score-unchanged-800058>

Why industries urgently need long-term policies over short-term incentives

- Manufacturers and exporters are contending with obstacles, including interrupted energy supply, currency volatility intensified by a 30% depreciation of the BDT against the USD since mid-2022, dollar crisis, import restrictions, hiked interest rates, and wage increases.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/why-industries-urgently-need-long-term-policies-over-short-term-incentives-800686>

BANK | Currency swap: BB supplies over BDT 65 Bn to banks in just 3 days

- The newly introduced currency swap mechanism is gaining traction, as evidenced by the Bangladesh Bank providing over BDT 65 Bn to banks within a mere three-day period, in exchange for nearly USD 600 Mn, addressing their liquidity challenges.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/currency-swap-bb-supplies-over-tk6500cr-banks-just-3-days-800042>

INSURANCE | Insurance claim settlement up 4% in 2023: IDRA

- Claim settlement rates have increased as the regulator has passed a strict directive on insurance companies to focus on claims settlement to improve the image of the insurance sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/insurance-claim-settlement-4-2023-idra-3554766>

TEXTILE | Textile workers' minimum wage set at BDT 10,000

- The government is set to finalise the minimum monthly wage for textile workers at BDT 10,000, three months after raising the minimum wage for garment workers to BDT 12,500.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/textile-workers-minimum-wage-set-tk10000-800678>

BANK | Resolving banking sector's distressed portfolio problem

- The deteriorating health of the banking sector is illustrated by the growing share of distressed loans in the portfolio of the banking sector. Distressed loans comprising non-performing loans (NPL) and restructured/rescheduled loans (RL) are rising as a share of total loans. In taka terms, the total outstanding distressed loans reached BDT 3,334 Bn (8.4% of GDP) in 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/resolving-banking-sectors-distressed-portfolio-problem-800718>

RMG | Climate-induced disruptions could cost Bangladesh USD 700 Bn in apparel exports by 2050

- Bangladesh could lose a staggering USD 27 Bn in annual apparel exports by 2030 if it does not adopt a climate-adaptive approach due to high heat and floods, according to a new study.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/climate-induced-disruptions-could-cost-bangladesh-700b-apparel-exports-2050-3554856>

Currency swapping continues to replenish reserves

- The upward trend in the foreign-currency (forex) reserve continues as the Bangladesh Bank (BB) has so far bagged USD 588 Mn from a dozen of commercial banks through a currency-swap mechanism.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/currency-swapping-continues-to-replenish-reserves>

Private universities must pay 15% tax: Appellate Division

- The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has ruled that all private universities in the country must pay a 15% tax as determined by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/court/appellate-division-orders-private-universities-pay-15-tax-799750>

Record low 27% ADP implementation in Jul-Jan

- The implementing agencies managed to spend BDT 744.64 Bn during the July-January period of FY24 against the BDT 2.75 Tn ADP allocation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/record-low-27-adp-implementation-jul-jan-799894>

How much trade deficits Bangladesh currently has with various countries?

- State Minister for Commerce has said currently there is a trade deficit between countries including India, China and Pakistan. He said that in the last fiscal year 2022-23, the maximum trade deficit was with China and it amounted to USD 15.48 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-much-trade-deficits-bangladesh-currently-has-various-countries-799986>

BANK | BB sets age limit, bad loan recovery target for aspirant CEOs of banks

- The central bank has for the first time set the minimum age, default loan recovery targets and other criteria for aspirant chief executive officers of banks and those looking to be reappointed in the top job as part of its efforts to restore good governance and reduce bad debts.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-sets-age-limit-bad-loan-recovery-target-aspirant-ceos-banks-3554001>

CERAMIC | Ceramic producers aim for USD 12 Mn sanitaryware export in 5 years

- Currently, around 85% of the local consumption of sanitary products such as commodes, pans, washbasins, taps, water closets, pedestals, showerheads, and bathroom towel holders is met by domestic manufacturers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/ceramic-producers-aim-12m-sanitaryware-export-5-years-799566>

BANK | Banks asked to ease opening forex accounts to boost USD inflows

- The money market regulator also advised against excessively scrutinising the source of funds in these accounts and their transactions. Additionally, the Bangladesh Bank is considering providing tax benefits to these account holders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-asked-ease-opening-forex-accounts-boost-dollar-inflows-799938>

POWER | Hefty power bill to weigh on consumers

- The government has decided to increase electricity prices by BDT 0.34 and BDT 0.70 a unit from March. The government also has increased the price of gas used in power production by BDT 0.75 per cubic metre and BDT 30 per cubic metre for captive power generation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/hefty-power-bill-weigh-consumers-3554091>

USD 7 Bn pledged in foreign funds

- When Bangladesh is facing a reserve squeeze, it has received fresh commitments for USD 7.2 Bn in loans from global lenders in the first seven months of fiscal 2023-24, a fourfold increase from a year earlier.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/7b-pledged-foreign-funds-3553186>

Japan grants USD 2.7 Mn each to Unicef, IOM for Rohingya refugees

- The Unicef project, titled 'Multiple Humanitarian Assistance for Displaced Persons from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar District and Bhasan Char', will reach more than 176,000 Rohingya refugees living in those areas. The IOM project aims to improve the living conditions of approximately 500,000 individuals.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/japan-grants-27-million-iom-rohingya-refugees-799362>

World Bank suggests unified exchange rate, further monetary tightening

- The World Bank has recommended Bangladesh put in place a unified exchange rate and tighten monetary policy further in order to tame persistently high inflationary pressure and end the foreign exchange crisis.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/world-bank-suggests-unified-exchange-rate-further-monetary-tightening-3553101>

LDCs may enjoy trade benefits for three years after graduation

- Retaining privileges after LDC graduation gets into focus as commerce ministers and senior trade officials of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) countries start hectic negotiations on the rules of trade, amid geopolitical tensions raging around.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/lcds-may-enjoy-trade-benefits-for-three-years-after-graduation>

Govt to cut ADP size by 7%

- This may lead to a decrease in government and foreign funds allocated in the original ADP by 4.43% and 11.17%, respectively.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-cut-adp-size-7-3553091>

RMG | Garment export grows in non-traditional markets

- Garment shipment to non-traditional markets grew 11.69% year-on-year to USD 5.46 Bn in July-January of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/garment-export-grows-non-traditional-markets-3551526>

Revised ADP: Block allocation for special needs up 283%

- The revised ADP has proposed a block allocation of BDT 179.84 Bn for special development assistance, according to Planning Commission sources. In the initial ADP, the allocation was BDT 46.97 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/revised-adp-block-allocation-special-needs-283-798974>

TRADE | Incentives for service proceeds as draft policy targets USD 110 Bn exports

- The government will offer a 2% incentive on service exports, but this rate increases to 2.5% – equivalent to that for remittance – for services produced directly in the destination country, provided that the proceeds are repatriated through banking channels in both cases.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/incentives-service-proceeds-draft-policy-targets-110b-exports-799474>

TELECOM | Mobile internet subscribers drop in Jan

- According to BTRC data, the count of mobile internet subscribers decreased to 129.18 Mn by the end of January, down from 131.37 Mn the previous month.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/mobile-internet-subscribers-drop-in-jan-1708965112>

Smart investors loving T-bonds, bills for secured double-digit returns

- Prioritising capital preservation with higher returns, smart investors are playing it safe by stashing their cash in treasury bonds and bills amid economic uncertainties and tightening monetary policies, say industry insiders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/smart-investors-loving-t-bonds-bills-secured-double-digit-returns-797602>

Cash transactions creep up despite digital push

- Some BDT 22.8621 Tn was transacted in cash in fiscal year 2022-23, up by around 8% from a year ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/cash-transactions-creep-despite-digital-push-3550411>

Financial sector sees stunted growth for underperformance

- The growth in the financial sector-in the grip of severe volatility for several years now---in the fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 tumbled to 2.55% in from 5.87% in the previous fiscal, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data showed.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/financial-sector-sees-stunted-growth-for-underperformance>

Poverty, inequality, food insecurity rise in urban areas: Sanem

- Food security declined, inequality deepened and poverty rose in Bangladesh in the last five years owing to the twin shocks of the coronavirus pandemic and price spiral, said the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/poverty-inequality-food-insecurity-rise-urban-areas-sanem-3551806>

RMG | RMG exports to EU up 1.32% in Jul-Jan

- Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) export to the European Union (EU) reached USD 13.92 Bn during the July-January period of the current fiscal year with a growth of 1.32% compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year, according to the latest data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladeshs-rmg-export-europe-reaches-1392b-july-january-period-798414>

BANK | Currency swap pays both ways

- Forex reserves show a rebound as the USD-BDT-swap mechanism proves a boon for both the Bangladesh Bank and cash-strapped commercial banks amid liquidity stress in the country's banking sector. According to BB sources, the central bank purchased USD 390 Mn from the commercial banks under the swap in first two days of the special exchange arrangement meant for circumventing the crunch.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/currency-swap-pays-both-ways-1708624697>

TELECOM | BTRC allows mobile operators to offer wireless broadband

- The internet regulator has allowed telecom operators in Bangladesh to provide fixed wireless access (FWA), enabling their users to get wifi connections without cables.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/btrc-allows-mobile-operators-offer-wireless-broadband-3550436>

AUTOMOBILE | Rancon Motor Bikes gets nod for BDT 1.5 Bn bond

- Rancon Motor Bikes Limited, Suzuki motorcycle manufacturer and distributor, has been allowed to raise BDT 1.5 Bn through issuing an unsecured, non-convertible and fully redeemable zero-coupon bond.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rancon-motor-bikes-gets-nod-tk150cr-bond-798578>

BANK | Bank lending slows amid subdued economic activity, import

- The industry advances-to-deposit ratio (ADR) decreased to 78.51% at the end of June 2023 from 79.0% at end-December 2022.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/bank-lending-slows-amid-subdued-economic-activity-import-1708710106>

POWER | Gas, power price hikes likely in tandem

- A successive hike in gas tariffs, too, for all consumers but households over next three years is likely to phase out government subsidy under a reform recipe.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/gas-power-price-hikes-likely-in-tandem-1708797436>

Important News: Capital Market

SIBL | Moody's upgrades Social Islami Bank's outlook to stable

- Moody's Investors Service has changed Social Islami Bank PLC's (SIBP) rating outlook to stable from negative as it expects the lender's funding and liquidity to remain stable over the next 12 to 18 months.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/moodys-upgrades-social-islami-banks-outlook-stable-3554501>

UNITEDINS | United Insurance's profit rises slightly in 2023

- United Insurance Company Ltd witnessed a modest increase in profit to BDT 79.2 Mn in 2023. It was up 1.6% year-on-year from BDT 77.9 Mn in 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/united-insurances-profit-rises-slightly-2023-3554486>

AIL | Alif Industries acquiring Royal Denim, Diamond Dredging for expansion

- Alif Industries – a composite textile company manufacturing 100% export-oriented knit and woven garments – has set an ambitious plan to take over denim fabric exporter Royal Denim and Diamond Dredging to expand its capacity and diversify its business.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/alif-industries-acquiring-royal-denim-diamond-dredging-expansion-800646>

MERCANBANK | Mercantile Bank's authorised capital to rise to BDT 20 Bn

- Mercantile Bank PLC's authorised capital will go up to BDT 20 Bn from BDT 12 Bn now. The authorised capital will be divided into 2 Bn ordinary shares of BDT 10 each.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mercantile-banks-authorized-capital-rise-tk-2000-crore-3554566>

SEAPEARL | Sea Pearl's bond conversion into equity hinges on ICB's stance on its conditions

- Sea Pearl Beach Resort & Spa has received regulatory approval of its plan to convert bonds into shares but execution will depend on if the bondholder agrees to make some concessions on conditions it placed.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/sea-pearls-bond-conversion-into-equity-hinges-on-icbs-stance-on-its-conditions-1709142245>

EXCHANGE | Regulator asks 26 firms to comply with 30% shareholding rule

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has once again directed listed companies to comply with a minimum 30% shareholding of paid-up capital by sponsors and directors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/regulator-asks-26-firms-comply-30-shareholding-rule-800014>

STANCERAM | Standard Ceramic extends losses by 146% in Jul-Sep

- The ceramic tableware manufacturer published its quarterly financial statement today, revealing a loss per share of BDT 7.34, compared to BDT 3 during the corresponding period a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/standard-ceramic-extends-losses-146-jul-sep-799998>

NRBBANK | NRB Bank makes stock debut Tuesday. What do investors expect?

- The fourth-generation bank, with the majority of its shares owned by non-resident Bangladeshis, will enter the capital market with a face value of BDT 10 per share.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/nrb-bank-makes-stock-debut-tuesday-what-do-investors-expect-799458>

RINGSHINE | Ring Shine's ownership transfer fails

- The troubled Ring Shine Textiles has finally scrapped the share purchase agreement (SPA) with Wise Star Textile Mills and five other Singapore-based firms, citing their failure to fulfill the terms of conditions.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ring-shines-ownership-transfer-fails-1708963996>

RINGSHINE | Why Ring Shine postponed its AGM

- Ring Shine Textiles Ltd has postponed its Annual General Meeting (AGM), citing "unavoidable circumstances," according to a stock exchange filing on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/why-ring-shine-postponed-its-agm-799462>

BRACBANK | BRAC Bank to invest BDT 3 Bn on land for new head office

- BRAC Bank plans to invest BDT 3 Bn in purchasing a piece of land for constructing its new head office in Dhaka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brac-bank-invest-tk300cr-land-new-head-office-798574>

PTL | Paramount Textile to raise BDT 2.5 Bn

- Paramount Textile PLC is going to raise funds of BDT 2.5 Bn by issuing a type of non-convertible, fully redeemable and unsecured zero-coupon bond.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/paramount-textile-raise-tk-250-crore-3551696>

GEMINISEA | Gemini Sea Foods to raise BDT 1.28 Bn through 21.4 Mn right shares

- Gemini Sea Foods, a prominent frozen shrimp and fish exporter in the nation, has opted to issue more than 21.3 Mn right shares to raise BDT 1.28 Bn to bolster its paid-up capital, settle outstanding bank loans, and facilitate business expansion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/gemini-sea-foods-raise-tk128cr-through-214cr-right-shares-798550>

ASIATICLAB | Retailers, NRBs receive Asiatic Lab IPO shares at 60% discount

- Each general investor received 86 initial public offering (IPO) shares of Asiatic Laboratories, while non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) got 143 shares against a deposit of BDT 10,000.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/retailers-nrbs-receive-asiatic-lab-ipo-shares-at-60pc-discount-1708623497?date=23-02-2024>

KBPPWBIL | Institutional investors sell off 32% shares of Khan Brothers

- Some institutional investors sold their 32% stake, or 32.3 Mn shares, of Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries Ltd in the second half of 2023.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/institutional-investors-sell-32-shares-khan-brothers-3550421>

EXCHANGE | Corporate bonds' yield reaches 12% to lure investors from govt securities

- Corporate bond rates have been increased up to 12% to stay competitive with risk-free government securities, a manifestation of the financial distress that companies are in while trying to raise much-needed funds.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/corporate-bonds-yield-reaches-12pc-to-lure-investors-from-govt-securities-1708796166>

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