

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.08%) lost -4.90 points and closed the week at 6,269.16 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-0.17%) lost -3.83 points and stood at 2,204.75 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.33%) gained 4.47 points and stood at 1,367.37 points. The large cap index CDSET (+0.01%) gained 0.14 points and closed at 1,212.48 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +1.00%, +0.43%, +0.63%, -0.16%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 24.1 billion (USD 225 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 8.0 billion ($\Delta\%$ Week: +7.1%)

Market P/E: 20.9x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed Three sessions during this week. The market started on a negative note (-0.18%) on Sunday. Further, it turned positive on Tuesday (+0.13%). Lastly, the market closed on a negative note (-0.03%) on Wednesday.

Sectoral Performance

- Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Life Insurance booked the highest gain of 0.25% followed by Bank (+0.10%), and Mutual Fund (+0.04%). General Insurance experienced the highest loss of 0.08% followed by NBFI (0.00%).

- Non-financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. Food & Allied booked the highest gain of 1.00% followed by Engineering (+0.02%), and Telecommunication (+0.00%). Pharmaceutical experienced the highest loss of 0.27% followed by Fuel & Power (-0.13%).

Macroeconomic arena

- Quarterly reports on GDP from 2024: BBS tells IMF. Uniform exchange rate from July, Commerce tells IMF. Dollar rates for remittance, export proceeds raised by BDT 1. Bangladesh's exports to India could rise by 300% if connectivity improves: Indian envoy. NBR wants higher taxes for the wealthy in FY24 budget. WB to provide USD 2.25 Bn to Bangladesh in five projects. Remittances down 16.28% in April on low exchange rate. Net foreign investment declines 35% in Oct-Dec 2022. Taka weakens further, BB sells USD 1 at BDT 104.5. Economic pressure deepens as export, remittance dip. 3rd phase stimulus loan disbursement at snail's pace. Money supply up 9.13% to BDT 17.79 Tn.

- More devaluation this month. Traders want EDF back to USD 7 Bn. Govt re-imposes fumigation of US cotton. Concerns as NBR looks at wider revenue shortfall. Demand for loans falls to 12-month low. BSCIC Barishal project in the slow lane. Edible oil refiners seek to hike prices. Will BB's lending rate-setting formula yield expected results? Strengthening Japan-Bangladesh partnership will usher new hope for investment and trade: DCCI President. Govt to raise subsidy to lower coarse rice prices. Summit and JERA explore investment of USD 2 Bn in Bangladesh's energy supply chain. Finance disagrees with IMF terms on social security spending. Financial institutions' BDT 115.52 Bn stuck in money loan court. 'Make draft bank companies act public'. Forex reserve to drop to USD 30 Bn. Exports from Bogura drop to USD 57.2 Mn in 2022 amid Ukraine war.

Stock Market arena

- MLDYEING | ML Dyeing posts 82% profit decline. KOHINOOR | Kohinoor Chemicals posts 16.5% jump in profit in July-March. ACI | ACI profit drops 21% due to high production costs. UPGDCL | United Power's profit drops 22% due to high production costs. GP | Grameenphone's profit drops 3.83% in Jan-Mar. NRBCBANK | NRBC Bank made BDT 1.93 Bn profit in 2022. ADNTEL | ADN Telecom to build 13-storied building, data centre at BDT 700 Mn. CROWNCEMENT | Crown Cement earnings per share jumps. RENATA | Inflation erodes Renata's profit despite revenue increase. SALAMCRST | S Alam Cold Rolled Steels profit drops 23% in Jan-Mar quarter. DHAKABANK | Dhaka Bank's EPS decline by 22% in 2022. SQUURPHARMA | Square Pharma's profit drops 6.21% in January-March. HEIDELBCEM | HeidelbergCement Bangladesh snaps 5-quarter losing streak. FEKDIL | Far East Knitting posts higher profits in January-March. MERCANBANK | Mercantile Bank's profit drops by 34% in 2022. NBL | National Bank incurs BDT 32.60 Bn loss in 2022. AMCL(PRAN) | Two Pran-RFL concerns see lower profits in March quarter. ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank's depositors withdraw BDT 177.83 Bn in 2022. MARICO | Marico posts record profit. POWERGRID | Strong dollar hits Power Grid hard again. STANDARINS | Standard Insurance made BDT 100 Mn profit in 2022. LANKABAFIN | LankaBangla issues BDT 3 Bn bonds to attract diverse investors. SIBL | SIBL's profit jumps 18% despite troubles. BXPBARMA | Beximco Pharma's profit falls 15% in Q3 FY23. RENATA | Renata's revenue growth offset by external factors.

May 03, 2023 (Week: April 30, 2023 – May 03, 2023)

Dhaka Stock Exchange

DSEX ended in red (-0.08%) in the week

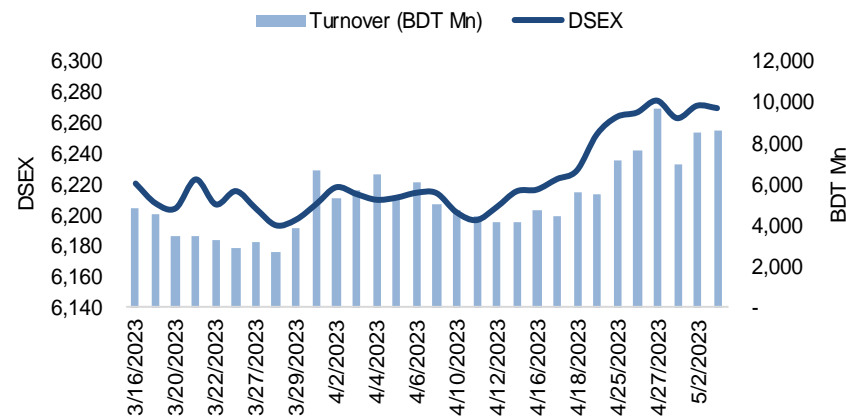
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ (Pts)	29-Dec-2022	$\Delta\%$ Week	$\Delta\%$ YTD
DSEX	6,269.16	6,274.06	-4.90	6,206.81	-0.08%	+1.00%
DS30	2,204.75	2,208.57	-3.83	2,195.30	-0.17%	+0.43%
DSES	1,367.37	1,362.90	+4.47	1,358.84	+0.33%	+0.63%
CDSET	1,212.48	1,212.34	+0.14	1,214.42	+0.01%	-0.16%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	7,663,175	7,660,577	+0.0%
	Mn USD	71,685	71,661	
Turnover	Mn BDT	24,084	29,987	-19.7%
	Mn USD	225	281	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	8,028	7,497	+7.1%
	Mn USD	75	70	
Volume	Mn Shares	348	450	-22.7%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in last four weeks



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Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
HEIDELCEM	321.6	247.8	+29.8%	18,172	371.0	NM	5.4x
MIDLANDBNK	13.6	11.3	+20.4%	8,700	162.6	13.7x	1.0x
EMERALDOIL	65.9	55.4	+19.0%	3,935	300.9	NM	NM
JUTESPINN	298.8	254.9	+17.2%	508	15.8	NM	NM
BDWELDING	28.4	25.1	+13.1%	1,231	89.0	NM	2.5x
PRAGATILIF	116.2	104.5	+11.2%	4,009	103.4	NM	NM
HAKKANIPUL	60.8	55.4	+9.7%	1,155	81.8	NM	2.7x
KBPPWBIL	12.1	11.1	+9.0%	1,187	41.5	NM	1.0x
PAPERPROC	209.5	193.6	+8.2%	2,189	299.7	48.8x	6.2x
GEMINISEA	870.5	805.4	+8.1%	5,315	628.1	62.1x	34.3x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
SEAPPEARL	250.6	287.5	-12.8%	30,260	725.2	60.8x	14.5x
APEXFOOT	332.1	370.1	-10.3%	4,315	321.6	26.8x	1.4x
KOHINOOR	461.8	508.5	-9.2%	14,148	121.2	40.8x	8.1x
PRIMEBANK	18.8	20.7	-9.2%	21,287	4.9	5.3x	0.6x
AAMRATECH	37.4	40.8	-8.3%	2,420	188.5	33.2x	3.5x
ORIONINFU	326.1	350.4	-6.9%	6,639	372.7	NM	23.7x
USMANIAGL	53.2	56.6	-6.0%	926	3.8	NM	0.6x
ARAMIT	261.4	277.6	-5.8%	1,568	10.7	35.5x	1.8x
MONOSPOOL	310.9	329.5	-5.6%	2,919	247.6	41.7x	6.4x
BDAUTOCA	141.5	149.4	-5.3%	612	67.9	NM	19.5x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
EHL	121.0	118.0	+2.5%	11,295	1,347.3	19.0x	1.6x
UNIQUEHRL	81.6	81.8	-0.2%	24,023	1,231.1	18.2x	0.9x
OLYMPIC	173.5	171.1	+1.4%	34,689	1,011.9	22.6x	3.5x
LHBL	67.2	64.8	+3.7%	78,044	729.9	17.5x	4.4x
SEAPPEARL	250.6	287.5	-12.8%	30,260	725.2	60.8x	14.5x
AAMRANET	84.5	84.6	-0.1%	5,238	720.1	26.5x	2.2x
NAVANAPHAR	88.4	82.1	+7.7%	9,496	681.3	22.4x	2.2x
GENEXIL	95.4	98.0	-2.7%	11,049	645.3	28.8x	5.0x
GEMINISEA	870.5	805.4	+8.1%	5,315	628.1	62.1x	34.3x
RUPALILIFE	98.1	98.7	-0.6%	2,944	543.1	NM	NM

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
HEIDELCEM	321.6	+79.6%	18,172	NM	5.4x
UNIQUEHRL	81.6	+41.4%	24,023	18.2x	0.9x
OLYMPIC	173.5	+39.9%	34,689	22.6x	3.5x
ADNTEL	137.8	+20.8%	8,909	40.9x	5.0x
UNILEVERCL	2,134.4	+19.9%	41,139	56.3x	24.5x
JAMUNAOIL	180.8	+8.1%	19,965	7.6x	0.9x
BATASHOE	998.4	+4.8%	13,658	33.3x	4.0x
CROWNCENMT	77.5	+4.2%	11,509	NM	1.5x
EBL	33.1	+4.1%	35,520	6.9x	1.0x
LHBL	67.2	+3.7%	78,044	17.5x	4.4x

*BDT
**BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,442.7	1,441.3	1,427.09	+0.10%	+1.10%
NBFI	1,917.9	1,918.0	1,927.24	-0.00%	-0.48%
Mutual Fund	825.5	825.2	852.07	+0.04%	-3.12%
General Insurance	3,074.6	3,077.2	3,177.87	-0.08%	-3.25%
Life Insurance	2,575.7	2,569.4	2,492.91	+0.25%	+3.32%
Telecommunication	4,945.6	4,945.6	4,945.60	-	-
Pharmaceutical	3,684.5	3,694.6	3,754.47	-0.27%	-1.86%
Fuel & Power	1,698.1	1,700.2	1,694.29	-0.13%	+0.23%
Cement	2,565.2	2,409.5	2,319.67	+6.46%	+10.59%
Services & Real Estate	2,251.0	2,366.6	1,782.23	-4.89%	+26.30%
Engineering	4,480.1	4,479.4	4,503.40	+0.02%	-0.52%
Food & Allied	21,691.1	21,475.5	21,247.80	+1.00%	+2.09%
IT	3,423.0	3,432.6	3,004.33	-0.28%	+13.94%
Textile	1,589.5	1,591.9	1,621.87	-0.15%	-1.99%
Paper & Printing	10,886.4	10,867.2	10,388.08	+0.18%	+4.80%
Tannery	3,225.9	3,235.6	3,093.43	-0.30%	+4.28%
Jute	15,592.3	15,802.7	14,850.17	-1.33%	+5.00%
Ceramics	685.0	690.4	704.74	-0.78%	-2.80%
Miscellaneous	4,138.4	4,123.1	4,071.46	+0.37%	+1.64%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	191.8	126.4	+51.70%	+2.78%	11.3x	0.7x
NBFI	14.4	19.1	-24.60%	+0.21%	NM	4.3x
Mutual Fund	2.5	1.7	+45.52%	+0.04%	NM	0.7x
General Insurance	151.6	119.6	+26.80%	+2.20%	15.7x	1.4x
Life Insurance	460.1	358.1	+28.48%	+6.68%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	1.3	1.4	-4.19%	+0.02%	16.8x	4.4x
Pharmaceutical	569.0	651.8	-12.71%	+8.26%	18.5x	2.3x
Fuel & Power	226.7	184.8	+22.70%	+3.29%	18.0x	1.1x
Cement	469.7	98.4	+377.08%	+6.82%	61.4x	2.8x
Services & Real Estate	1,162.4	1,277.5	-9.01%	+16.87%	42.4x	1.2x
Engineering	213.1	246.6	-13.57%	+3.09%	56.2x	1.8x
Food & Allied	1,245.7	1,169.1	+6.55%	+18.08%	20.8x	8.4x
IT	941.8	971.5	-3.06%	+13.67%	33.2x	3.2x
Textile	135.5	217.9	-37.83%	+1.97%	44.7x	1.1x
Paper & Printing	481.5	393.9	+22.23%	+6.99%	41.4x	2.1x
Tannery	166.7	333.6	-50.02%	+2.42%	45.6x	3.4x
Jute	82.9	118.0	-29.68%	+1.20%	NM	6.1x
Ceramics	47.6	166.0	-71.30%	+0.69%	41.5x	1.9x
Miscellaneous	326.8	369.6	-11.59%	+4.74%	13.3x	1.8x

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
PRIMEBANK	18.8	-2.1%	21,287	5.3x	0.6x
ISLAMIBANK	32.7	-0.9%	52,647	8.5x	0.8x
MTB	16.6	-0.6%	14,836	6.3x	0.7x
IDLC	46.5	-	19,330	10.1x	1.1x
IPDC	57.6	-	21,375	23.7x	3.1x
LANKABAFIN	26.0	-	14,010	21.5x	1.3x
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

Important News: Business & Economy

Quarterly reports on GDP from 2024: BBS tells IMF

- The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has decided to prepare and release quarterly reports on the country's gross domestic product (GDP) from 2024. The move comes following the conditions put forth by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the USD 4.7 Bn loan for Bangladesh.
- BBS Director General (DG) Md Matiar Rahman revealed the information following a meeting with a delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Dhaka on Tuesday (2 May) morning. "We have also informed the international lender about updating our consumer price index (CPI). Data related to 722 food and non-food items under total 12 categories have been taken instead of the current 412 items under eight categories.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/quarterly-reports-gdp-2024-bbs-tells-imf-624954>

Uniform exchange rate from July, Commerce tells IMF

- The commerce ministry has informed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that a uniform exchange rate of the US dollar will be introduced for importers and exporters from July this year. In a meeting with the Senior Secretary of the commerce ministry Tapan Kanti Ghosh on Tuesday, the IMF reiterated its call for introducing a unified exchange rate for imports and exports. In addition, the global lender raised concerns about exporters intentionally not bringing in export proceeds to the country. According to Bangladesh Bank sources, the official dollar rate for exporters is now BDT 106. But the importers said they have to buy dollars from banks at BDT 113-114 for opening letters of credit (LCs).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/uniform-exchange-rate-july-commerce-tells-imf-625350>

Dollar rates for remittance, export proceeds raised by BDT 1

- The exchange rate of dollars for both remitters and exporters has been increased by BDT 1. Banks will offer BDT 108 per dollar for remittance and BDT 106 for export proceeds from Tuesday when the new rate will come into effect. The decision came at a meeting between the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB) and the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (BAFEDA) on Sunday (30 April).
- "It was also decided at the meeting that from now on, a difference of BDT 2 will be maintained in the dollar rate for export proceeds and remittances. That means, if the rate of export proceeds increases, the price of remittance will also increase," said the source.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/dollar-rates-remittance-export-proceeds-raised-tk1-624354>

Bangladesh's exports to India could rise by 300% if connectivity improves: Indian envoy

- Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pranay Verma said on Tuesday that Bangladesh's exports to India could increase by nearly 300% if connectivity improves along with trade and infrastructure. "Studies indicate that the seamless connectivity between India and Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income by 17% in Bangladesh and 8% in India," he said at a seminar on "Multimodal connectivity between India and Bangladesh".
- In the last 10 years, Bangladesh's exports to India have increased by around four times, reaching nearly USD 2 Bn in the fiscal 2021–22. According to data from the Bangladesh Bank, in the fiscal 2017–18, goods worth USD 8.62 Bn were imported from India, and the volume increased to over USD 14 Bn in the fiscal 2021–22. Pranay Verma said, "To optimise the potential for better connectivity, we hope to gain greater access to and from Bangladesh's ports, inland waterways, and road links. We also offer Bangladesh options to use our ports, railways, and airports to export goods to India and the rest of the world.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-export-india-could-increase-nearly-300-if-connectivity-improves-indian-envoy>

NBR wants higher taxes for the wealthy in FY24 budget

- Wealthy individuals may face higher taxes next year as the National Board of Revenue (NBR) wants to increase the surcharge on their income taxes in the budget for the next fiscal year, finance ministry officials said. The surcharge on income tax payable by wealthy individuals now varies between 10% and 35%. At present, the surcharge for individual taxpayers whose asset limit is between BDT 100 Mn and BDT 200 Mn is 20%. For those with assets between BDT 200 Mn and BDT 500 Mn, the rate is 30%. Taxpayers with assets exceeding BDT 500 Mn have to pay a surcharge of 35%. The minimum 10% surcharge is payable for individuals owning more than a vehicle or a residential property of more than 8,000 square feet.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-wants-higher-taxes-wealthy-fy24-budget-625366>

WB to provide USD 2.25 Bn to Bangladesh in five projects

- World Bank will provide USD 2.25 Bn as loan to Bangladesh to develop various sectors, including regional trade and connectivity, disaster preparedness and environmental management. A loan agreement was signed on Monday between Bangladesh and the World Bank for implementing five projects.
- This loan agreement comprises five projects: Accelerating transport and trade connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) – Bangladesh Phase-1 Project worth USD 753.45 Mn. USD 500 Mn Resilient Infrastructure Building Project (RIVER) for resilience, adaptation and vulnerability reduction that will be the first major investment to support Bangladesh's Delta Plan 2100. It will help improve disaster preparedness against inland flooding. USD 500 Mn First Bangladesh Green and Climate Resilient Development (GCRD) project is the first such credit that will help the country's transition to resilient development.
- USD 250 Mn Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) project aims to help transform the microenterprise sector into a more dynamic, less polluting, resource efficient and climate resilient growth sector. USD 250 Mn Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation (BEST) project to help strengthen environmental management and promote private sector participation in green investment.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/wb-to-provide-225b-to-bangladesh-in-five-projects>

Remittances down 16.28% in April on low exchange rate

- Remittances inflow to the country fell by 16.28% in April this year compared to the same period last year. Banking sector insiders said the remittance inflow dropped as banks offered a lower exchange rate in April compared to that in March. According to the central bank, the country received USD 1.68 Bn in remittances in April 2023, while it received USD 2.01 Bn in April last year. Even in March this year, Bangladesh received over USD 2 Bn in remittances – around USD 350 Mn more than that in April.
- An analysis of the central bank's data shows that overall remittance has decreased but it has not decreased equally in all banks. Out of around 60 banks in April, 28 banks saw an increase in remittance income, while 22 banks witnessed a decrease compared to March. The remittance income of the remaining 10 banks remained stable. Mostly private banks witnessed the drop in remittance. In March, private banks received USD 1.73 Bn in remittances, which dropped to USD 1.38 Bn in April. Private banks' remittance income fell by USD 348 Mn in one month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/remittances-down-1944-april-625154>

Net foreign investment declines 35% in Oct-Dec 2022

- Net foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country fell by 35.56% in the last quarter (October-December) of 2022 compared to the previous quarter due to the ongoing foreign exchange crisis in the country, according to the latest report of the Bangladesh Bank. Central bank data shows that foreign net investment in the last quarter of 2022 amounted to USD 703 Mn, which was USD 1,100 Mn in the previous quarter.
- People concerned said investments in Bangladesh were showing a slight increase after the normalisation of the Covid-19 situation. However, due to the Russia-Ukraine war and the subsequent global inflation, central banks of several countries have raised interest rates, leading foreign investors to countries with higher rates. As a result, Bangladesh has experienced a decrease in foreign investments, they said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/net-foreign-investment-declines-35-oct-dec-2022-625370>

Taka weakens further, BB sells USD 1 at BDT 104.5

- The Bangladeshi taka today weakened further against the US dollar as the Bangladesh Bank started selling the American greenback to banks at BDT 104.5. The move is aimed at adjusting the exchange rates gradually in line with the market demand and supply, a Bangladesh Bank official said. The central bank sold USD 56 Mn to banks at the new rate, said a senior Bangladesh Bank official, seeking anonymity. The central bank devalued the local currency BDT 103 from BDT 102 in the first week of April.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/taka-weakens-further-bb-sells-1-tk-1045-3309376>

Economic pressure deepens as export, remittance dip

- Exports and remittances, two major sources of foreign currencies for Bangladesh, plunged in April, a bad omen for the economy as it deals with multiple challenges, including a dollar crisis, an elevated level of import costs and falling reserves. Export earnings slumped 16.5% year-on-year to USD 3.95 Bn last month, according to the Export Promotion Bureau. And despite a surge in the outflow of migrant workers in 2022, remittances sent by migrant workers and non-resident Bangladeshis living abroad dropped 16.2% to USD 1.68 Bn, the sharpest fall in 14 months, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/economic-pressure-deepens-export-remittance-dip-3309756>

3rd phase stimulus loan disbursement at snail's pace

- The third phase of disbursement of loans from the stimulus package aimed at helping out the Covid-affected industrial and service sector companies is moving at a snail's pace, with only 7.19% of the target amount disbursed in the nine months of the current fiscal year.
- Bankers believe that the disbursement dwindled over the phases because the central bank is taking action against borrowers who are using the loan, granted to be used as working capital, for fulfilling other obligations such as paying off debts. Another reason they mentioned is that the loan ceiling under this fund is fixed (30% of the working capital loan). So, a borrower exceeding the limit cannot apply for fresh loans. Besides, banks having less interest in disbursing loans to small borrowers is another big reason for the low disbursement of stimulus loans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/3rd-phase-stimulus-loan-disbursement-snails-pace-624130>

Money supply up 9.13% to BDT 17.79 Tn

- The total broad money supply (M2) in the banking sector was recorded at about BDT 17.79 Tn in March 2023, showing an annual increase of 9.13%, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) reported on Sunday. It was BDT 16.29 Tn in March 2022. The growth was 8.77% in February 2023, the central bank report mentioned. The BB officials told the FE that this surge took place due to a rise in net domestic assets. There are two types of assets: net domestic assets (NDA) and net foreign assets (NFA), and money growth comes from the sources.
- Some economists said the government's borrowing through treasury bills and bonds contributed much to the growth of broad money. Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), told the FE that the broad money growth is mainly hailing from the NDA. This should have been good once it used to expand based on the NFA. He said this type of growth may affect the balance of payment and destabilise the foreign exchange market. Bangladesh's NDA is now positive, rising by 15.4% in March 2023.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/money-supply-up-913pc-to-tk-1779-trillion>

More devaluation this month

- The Bangladesh Bank will devalue the taka again this month in an effort to narrow the gap between the dollar selling rate from reserves and the market rate as a visiting IMF review team has stressed faster implementation of a unified exchange rate to ease pressure on foreign exchange reserves. According to a source within the central bank, the rate at which US dollars are sold from reserves is expected to be raised by BDT 1 to BDT 104 this week, with a further increase to BDT 106 scheduled for June. This will align the central bank's

selling rate with the current market average rate.

- The taka has already been devalued by 19% over the last year, which has led to an increase in the dollar rate from BDT 86.20 to BDT 103, according to Bangladesh Bank data. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers Association (Bafeda) raised the dollar rate by BDT 1 for both remitters and exporters to BDT 108 and BDT 106, respectively, in a meeting on Sunday, according to sources present at the meeting.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/more-devaluation-month-624458>

Traders want EDF back to USD 7 Bn

- Fearing negative impacts on exports due to the downsizing of the Export Development Fund (EDF) as well as reduction in the amount of loans taken from the fund, traders have called for the EDF to be reverted back to the original state. Besides, a series of gas and electricity price hikes by the government has increased business costs, further reducing competitiveness, they added.
- Traders pointed out that there was a negative trend in overall exports, including ready-made garments. In such a scenario, downsizing the EDF and the increasing of interest rates may lead to export to fall further in the coming months, they said, urging the EDF to be restored back to 7 Bn dollars and the reinstatement of previous interest rates.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/traders-want-edf-back-7b-624614>

Govt re-imposes fumigation of US cotton

- The government has re-imposed the provision of fumigation of US cotton at ports, official documents showed, a move that may increase the lead time and cost of production for importers. Previously, cotton brought from the US would have to be locally fumigated even if the raw material underwent such treatment before being shipped. This created barriers to export as the extra time and costs involved led to delays in completing work orders for nearly five decades.
- The government eased the rule of double fumigation and issued a circular on February 19 this year as the US is becoming an important source of cotton for local millers, traders and importers. However, it has again imposed a similar fumigation provision, according to a gazette notification on April 25.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-re-imposes-fumigation-us-cotton-3308501>

Concerns as NBR looks at wider revenue shortfall

- Economists have raised concerns over fiscal management as revenue shortfall against the target of the current fiscal year continues to widen further than initially anticipated and may hit BDT 400 Bn by the year-end. According to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) sources, the shortfall in revenue collection against the target is about BDT 280 Bn in the first nine months (July- March) of the current fiscal year 2022-23.
- If the shortfall continues to stretch, experts said, it could pose a serious challenge for the government regarding overall economic management because the government's bank borrowing has quadrupled in the first seven months of FY23 compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/concerns-nbr-looks-wider-revenue-shortfall-624662>

Demand for loans falls to 12-month low

- Private sector credit growth in Bangladesh slipped to a 12-month low of 12.03% in March, a development that may hurt GDP growth and job creation. This was the fourth consecutive monthly decline, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed. The credit growth stood at 12.14% in February.
- Bankers blamed the liquidity stress in the banking system and banks' cautious approach in disbursing loans amid rising non-performing loans for the deceleration in credit growth. "In addition, non-performing loans in banks are on the rise, so banks are cautious about disbursing loans. This has affected the credit growth."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/demand-loans-falls-12-month-low-3308511>

BSCIC Barishal project in the slow lane

- A project of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) aimed at developing its industrial estate in Barishal and improving infrastructure there has again missed the deadline for completion owing to sluggish implementation, official documents showed. As a result, the project that set out its journey in January 2017 to raise the number of factories by 100 over a two-year period, is going to take seven years to carry out the same task if it is implemented within the new deadline of December 2023.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bscic-barishal-project-the-slow-lane-3308436>

Edible oil refiners seek to hike prices

- Edible oil refiners in Bangladesh yesterday sought to increase their prices by up to 9.62% as the industry will no longer enjoy a reduced tax benefit following the completion of its one-year tenure. The National board of Revenue (NBR) had reduced the value-added tax (VAT) on edible oil by 10% to 5% in March last year in a bid to provide consumers with some relief in the face of growing international prices.
- "A decision will be taken in this regard only after the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission examines the proposal in detail," he said, adding that they would meet with industry stakeholders on May 3 to discuss the next step.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/edible-oil-refiners-seek-hike-prices-3308481>

Will BB's lending rate-setting formula yield expected results?

- The Bangladesh Bank has decided to implement a market-based interest rate from July, moving away from the 9% interest rate cap on loans, an initiative that may help the central bank uses its policy rates effectively in its fight against higher inflation. Bankers have welcomed the move in their initial reactions but analysts are doubtful whether the upcoming rate-setting method will give a market-determined lending rate in a true sense.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/will-bbs-lending-rate-setting-formula-yield-expected-results-3307696>

Strengthening Japan-Bangladesh partnership will usher new hope for investment and trade: DCCI President

- Considering bilateral trade and investment exposure, Japan emerged as the 11th largest export destination and 7th largest import sourcing country of Bangladesh, recording total bilateral trade to USD 3.79 Bn in FY 2021-22. On the other hand, Japan is the 12th largest source of FDI stock of Bangladesh with USD 457.98 Mn Japanese investment.
- Japan is a longstanding development partner of Bangladesh. Japan is providing financial and technical support to Bangladesh for improving regional connectivity, transport infrastructure, power and energy, metro rail and Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/strengthening-japan-bangladesh-partnership-will-usher-new-hope-investment-and>

Govt to raise subsidy to lower coarse rice prices

- The government plans to bring down the price of coarse rice and keep it affordable throughout the upcoming fiscal year, starting in July, in an effort to provide some relief to lower-income people who are grappling with rising inflation. If the price of coarse rice exceeds BDT 42 in Dhaka or BDT 40 outside the capital after the boro paddy harvesting season, the government will expedite the supply of low-priced rice through open market sales (OMS), and the finance ministry will increase its allocation for food subsidies.
- They note that at the instructions of the prime minister, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) will provide 10 n family cardholders with 10kg of rice at BDT 15 per kg every month. It is expected to take about six months to supply rice, using smart cards. In the meantime, the government will continue to operate the OMS programme as a tool for intervening in the market price of rice.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-raise-subsidy-lower-coarse-rice-prices-622854>

Summit and JERA explore investment of USD 2 Bn in Bangladesh's energy supply chain

- Summit Corporation Limited, a subsidiary company of Summit Power International Limited and JERA Asia Pte Ltd a subsidiary company of JERA Co. Inc. signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") on Thursday (27 April) in the presence of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina with her entourage.
- Valued around USD 2 Bn, the objective of the MoU is to collaborate in providing cost effective and reliable long-term Liquefied Natural Gas ("LNG") and other fuels supply in addition to developing both on-shore and off-shore regasification and storage infrastructure for Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/summit-and-jera-explore-investment-2-billion-bangladeshs-energy-supply-chain-622702>

Finance disagrees with IMF terms on social security spending

- The finance ministry has not agreed on the International Monetary Fund's term to exclude pension and savings certificate interest payments from the social security budget. "We have not agreed to accept the IMF's condition to separate the allocation for social security from the allocation for pension and savings certificates interest. Even without separation of the two accounts, our social safety net budget is well in proportion to the GDP, as per the IMF's advice," said an official of the Finance Division, who was present in a meeting with a visiting IMF mission in Dhaka.

- However, the officials of the finance ministry informed the lending agency about the plan to increase the scope of the social security sector in the upcoming budget. The visiting mission of the IMF discussed social security and subsidies in a meeting with the Finance Division officials in the last two days. During the talks, the organisation has asked to increase support for the real poor by reducing subsidies and increasing allocation to the social security sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/finance-disagrees-imf-terms-social-security-spending-623030>

Financial institutions' BDT 115.52 Bn stuck in money loan court

- Around BDT 115.52 Bn of non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) is stuck in 4,702 lawsuits with the money loan court – formally known as Artha Rin Adalat – as of 31 December 2022, according to the latest Bangladesh Bank data. Of the amount, the top five out of 35 creditors have some BDT 65 Bn, more than half of the claimed money.
- Sector insiders said the gradual rise in cases, inadequate courts, shortage of judges, prolonged trials, stay orders from the High Court, and absence of defendants are the key reasons behind the worsening situation. The number of cases filed by NBFIs with the court was 3,919 involving BDT 85.18 Bn at the end of 2021. The case number increased by 783 and the claimed amount rose by BDT 30.34 Bn over the next year, the central bank report said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/financial-institutions-tk11552cr-stuck-money-loan-court-623706>

'Make draft bank companies act public'

- The Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the government to publish the draft Bank Companies (Amendment) Act for the interest of the people. Quoting media reports, the press release said the TIB was astonished when it came to know that the banking division of the finance ministry declined to share the draft Act with a mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently, citing it as a classified document. As per the reform actions agreed with the IMF for the USD 4.7 Bn loan programme, the government is supposed to submit the draft to parliament by June.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/make-draft-bank-companies-act-public-3305826>

Forex reserve to drop to USD 30 Bn

- The pressure on Bangladesh's foreign currency reserve mounts further, as the central bank is set to clear import bills amounting to over USD 1.0 Bn to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) within next few days, officials said. With this payment to settle the import bills through the ACU mechanism, the forex reserve would go down to USD 30 Bn. As of April 27, the country's foreign currency reserve was over USD 31.06 Bn, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) data showed.
- The ACU is an arrangement through which the member countries settle payments for intra-regional transactions among the participating central banks on a net multilateral basis. The significant fall in reserve, particularly the greenback, is deemed as a matter of serious concern for the economy, which is facing difficulties to meet the NIR (net international reserve) target of USD 24.46 Bn within June, as set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/forex-reserve-to-drop-to-30b>

Exports from Bogura drop to USD 57.2 Mn in 2022 amid Ukraine war

- Exports from Bogura, which have always been the highest among the northern districts, dropped by USD 1 Mn this year mainly due to the negative impact of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has resulted in a slowdown of the global economy.
- Seventeen companies in the district exported 16 types of products, including rice bran oil, jute products, irrigation pumps, motor parts, air filters, vegetables, soybean products, RMGs and handicraft products, amounting to a total of USD 57.2 Mn, in 2022. They said the country has been facing a dollar crisis amid the global situation which has resulted in the decline in exports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/exports-bogura-drop-572cr-2022-amid-ukraine-war-623218>

Important News: Capital Market

MLDYEING | ML Dyeing posts 82% profit decline

- ML Dyeing Limited, a listed yarn dyeing company of Far Group, posted an 82% profit decline year on year in the third quarter of the current fiscal year. From January to March quarter, the net profit of the company stood at BDT 4.6 Mn, which was BDT 25.6 Mn in the same period of the previous year. Its earnings per share (EPS) was BDT 0.02, which was BDT 0.11 one year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ml-dyeing-posts-82-profit-decline-624906>

KOHINOOR | Kohinoor Chemicals posts 16.5% jump in profit in July-March

- Kohinoor Chemicals Company (Bangladesh) Ltd, one of the oldest soaps, cosmetics and toiletries manufacturers in the country, reported a 3.4% year-on-year increase in profit to BDT 102 Mn in the third quarter of the current financial year. The profit stood at BDT 98.7 Mn in the January-March quarter of 2021-22. Thus, its earnings per share stood at BDT 3.33 in January-March, which was BDT 3.22 in the same quarter of 2021-22. On the back of the latest quarter results, the cosmetics and toiletries maker recorded a 16.5% rise in profit to BDT 274.8 Mn during the July-March period of 2022-23. It was BDT 235.9 Mn in the same period a year earlier.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/kohinoor-chemicals-posts-165-jump-profit-july-march-3309346>

ACI | ACI profit drops 21% due to high production costs

- The consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of ACI Limited decreased by 21% year on year in the third quarter of the fiscal year due to high production costs. From January to March quarter, its consolidated earnings per share (EPS) was BDT 0.33, which was BDT 0.42 in the same period of the previous year. From July to March period, its consolidated per share loss was BDT 1.45, which was a profit of BDT 5.67 from one year ago. The company said EPS has decreased due to an increase in costs because of currency devaluation, a hike in energy prices, high import prices, and increased financing costs, according to earnings disclosure.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aci-profit-drops-21-due-high-production-costs-624914>

UPGDCL | United Power's profit drops 22% due to high production costs

- The United Power Generation and Distribution Company saw a 22% year-on-year profit decrease in the third quarter of the current fiscal year due to increasing costs of production. In the January to March quarter, its consolidated net profit came down to BDT 2.48 Bn compared to BDT 3.18 Bn in the same period of the previous fiscal year. The consolidated earnings per share stood at BDT 4.28, down from BDT 5.50 a year ago. According to Md Mujibul Islam Patwary, an assistant general manager of the company, the import cost of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO), which is used in their power plants as fuel, rose significantly due to rising dollar rates.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/united-powers-profit-drops-22-due-high-production-costs-624938>

GP | Grameenphone's profit drops 3.83% in Jan-Mar

- Grameenphone reported a 3.83% year-on-year decline in its quarterly profit after taxes for the January-March period. The telecom market leader, despite its higher revenue – BDT 37.34 Bn from BDT 36.33 Bn – saw its net profit dropping to BDT 7.79 Bn in the three months, from BDT 8.09 Bn in the same period a year ago. According to a price sensitive information disclosure by the company, its quarterly earnings per share (EPS) inched down to BDT 5.77 from BDT 6.00 for the same quarter of 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/grameenphones-profit-drops-383-jan-mar-625294>

NRBCBANK | NRBC Bank made BDT 1.93 Bn profit in 2022

- NRB Commercial Bank Limited posted a 14.35% year-on-year decline in profit to BDT 1.93 Bn in 2022 owing to an additional provision that was set aside and an extra tax burden. The private commercial lender made a profit of BDT 2.25 Bn in 2021. Thus, NRB Commercial Bank reported consolidated earnings per share of BDT 2.44 for 2022 against BDT 2.85 in 2021. The EPS decreased compared to the previous year for keeping additional provisions and an extra tax burden, said the bank in a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/nrbc-bank-made-tk-193cr-profit-2022-3309726>

ADNTEL | ADN Telecom to build 13-storied building, data centre at BDT 700 Mn

- ADN Telecom's board of directors has decided to construct a 13-storied commercial building and a data centre setup in the capital's Badda area. According to a regulatory disclosure, the building will have a total approximate floor space of 1,16,400 square feet. Of the 13-storied building, with three basements, the first and second floors will be used for the data centre. The estimated total cost of the project will be BDT 700 Mn which will be financed through a syndicate loan from banks. The company's board believes that this investment will have a positive impact on the long-term growth and success of the company, reads the disclosure statement.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/adn-telecom-posts-impressive-q3-growth-624962>

BANKASIA | Romo Rouf Chowdhury re-elected as Bank Asia chairman

- Romo Rouf Chowdhury has been re-elected as the chairman of Bank Asia Limited at a meeting of the board of directors held on April 30, 2023. Chowdhury is one of the sponsor shareholders as well as sponsor directors of Bank Asia, said a press release. He has more than 30 years of experience as an industrialist. He is one of the successful young entrepreneurs of Bangladesh. Currently, Chowdhury is the chairman of Rancon Group.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/romo-rouf-chowdhury-re-elected-bank-asia-chairman-3309691>

CROWNCEMENT | Crown Cement earnings per share jumps

- Registering a moderate recovery of profitability in the October-December quarter, Crown Cement PLC posted a significant improvement in its profits in the January-March quarter. According to a price sensitive information disclosure, the cement maker's earnings per share (EPS) jumped to BDT 1.52 in the January-March period or the third quarter of the fiscal year, which was BDT 0.16 in the same period last year. For the first nine months of the fiscal year, the EPS improved to BDT 2.16, from BDT 0.91 a year ago.
- In the October to December quarter, its EPS was BDT 0.99, while it incurred a loss of BDT 0.36 for the previous three months through September. Its annual loss in the 2021-22 fiscal year was BDT 1.54 per share. In the October to December quarter, its EPS was BDT 0.99, while it incurred a loss of BDT 0.36 for the previous three months through September. Its annual loss in the 2021-22 fiscal year was BDT 1.54 per share.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/crown-cement-earnings-share-jumps-623894>

RENATA | Inflation erodes Renata's profit despite revenue increase

- An 11.49% increase in Renata Limited's revenue could not offset the onslaught of high inflation, an increasing cost of energy and borrowing, as well as foreign exchange losses. In an unaudited financial statement, a leading drug manufacturer in the country suffered a 57% drop in its net profit in the January–March quarter. During the quarter, its consolidated revenue was BDT 8.44 Bn, which was BDT 7.57 Bn a year ago at the same time.
- Company Secretary Jubayer Alam told The Business Standard, "We saw good growth in the pharma segment by 6.70%, animal health by 11.10%, and export by 60.30%." "Despite strong revenue growth, our profit shrank due to the increased cost of goods sold," he explained. He said that in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, the cost of goods sold has increased by 17%, mainly due to increases in raw material prices caused by global inflation amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/inflation-erodes-renatas-profit-despite-revenue-increase-623902>

SALAMCRST | S Alam Cold Rolled Steels profit drops 23% in Jan-Mar quarter

- S Alam Cold Rolled Steels Limited's net profit dropped by 23% in the January- March quarter of the fiscal year 2022-23. According to the company's unaudited financial statement filed on the stock exchanges, its earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 0.31 during the corresponding quarter, which was BDT 0.40 a year ago at the same time.
- At the end of the first nine months of FY2023, its EPS stood at BDT 0.60, which was 3% lower than the previous year over the corresponding period. Besides, S Alam Cold Rolled suffered a severe net operating cash crisis as it reported the net operating cash flow per share was BDT 43.45 negative during the July-March period of FY2023.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/s-alam-cold-rolled-steels-profit-drops-23-jan-mar-quarter-624110>

DHAKABANK | Dhaka Bank's EPS decline by 22% in 2022

- Dhaka Bank's earnings per share (EPS) dropped by 22% in 2022 compared to the previous year. According to the bank's price sensitive statement, last year its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 1.76, which was BDT 2.25 a year ago. The bank also recommended 6% cash and 6% stock dividends to its shareholders for the last year. It paid a 12% cash dividend in 2021. To approve the dividends and audited financial statements, the bank will conduct its annual general meeting (AGM) on 18 June. It also set the record date on 22 May for the AGM.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-banks-eps-decline-22-2022-624366>

SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma's profit drops 6.21% in January-March

- Despite more than 8% growth in sales, Square Pharmaceuticals posted a 6.21% year-on-year decline in its net profits for the January-March quarter. The pharmaceuticals market leader posted a quarterly earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 4.83, down from BDT 5.15 over the same period a year ago, according to a price sensitive information statement. However, due to the earnings growth over the first half, its EPS inched up to BDT 16.82 for the first nine months of the fiscal year, from BDT 16.03 a year ago. However, due to the earnings growth over the first half, its EPS inched up to BDT 16.82 for the first nine months of the fiscal year, from BDT 16.03 a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/square-pharmas-profit-drops-621-january-march-624306>

HEIDELBCEM | HeidelbergCement Bangladesh snaps 5-quarter losing streak

- HeidelbergCement Bangladesh Limited has snapped a losing streak of five quarters and returned to profit in the first three months of this year. In an unaudited financial statement, the German-based multinational cement manufacturer said it has managed to make profit as its cost of goods sold decreased by 6% and revenue increased by 5% in the first quarter.
- Seeking anonymity, a senior officer of the company told The Business Standard, "Since October last year, the price of cement raw material has been falling in the global market. And since this time, the price of cement has also increased by 5-10%. It has helped us overcome losses and return to profit." He further said that the cement industry has long been struggling to increase prices due to stiff competition, and earlier this year, they finally managed to get some better prices both from government and private sector customers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/heidelbergcement-bangladesh-snaps-5-quarter-losing-streak-623886>

FEKDIL | Far East Knitting posts higher profits in January-March

- Far East Knitting and Dyeing Industries posted an earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 0.52 for the January-March period, which was BDT 0.39 for the same period last year. In a price sensitive information disclosure, the composite knitwear exporter thanked its declined production costs of goods on top of an increase in other income. For the July-March period or the first nine months of the fiscal year, its EPS increased to BDT 0.97 from BDT 0.82 a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/far-east-knitting-posts-higher-profits-january-march-624338>

MERCANBANK | Mercantile Bank's profit drops by 34% in 2022

- Mercantile Bank's earnings per share (EPS) dropped by 34% in 2022 compared to the previous year. The bank also declared a lower dividend for last year than the previous. According to the bank's price sensitive statement, during last year its EPS was BDT 2.17, which was BDT 3.29 a year ago. The bank also recommended a 10% cash and 2% stock dividends to its shareholders for the last year. It paid a 12.50% cash and 5% stock dividends in 2021.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mercantile-banks-profit-drops-34-2022-624342>

NBL | National Bank incurs BDT 32.60 Bn loss in 2022

- National Bank Limited incurred a huge loss of BDT 32.60 Bn in 2022 as its borrowers could not repay their instalments in time and became classified. In its price sensitive financial statement, the bank said its earnings per share (EPS) was BDT 10.13 negative in the previous year. Its net profit was BDT 380 Mn and EPS was BDT 0.12 in 2021. Due to the high loss, the bank failed to recommend any dividend to its shareholders for the year 2022. Earlier, in 2021, it did not pay any dividend to the shareholders. Besides, it suffered a severe net operating cash crisis as it reported a net operating cash flow per share of BDT 17.21 negative.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/national-bank-incurs-tk3260cr-loss-2022-624346>

AMCL(PRAN) | Two Pran-RFL concerns see lower profits in March quarter

- Agricultural Marketing Company Limited (Pran) and Rangpur Foundry Limited (RFL) of the Pran-RFL Group have reported year-on-year declines in their profits in the January to March quarter of the ongoing 2022-23 fiscal year. According to a disclosure by Rangpur Foundry on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website on Sunday, the company's unaudited earnings per share (EPS) in the third quarter of FY23 fell by 3% to BDT 0.89, compared to the same quarter of FY22. In the July to March period of FY23, the company's EPS stood at BDT 3.03, which was 2.57% lower than that in the same nine months of the previous fiscal. According to Pran's DSE disclosure on Sunday, its EPS dropped by 14% to BDT 1.72 in the third quarter of FY23, compared to the same quarter of the previous fiscal.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/two-pran-rfl-concerns-see-lower-profits-march-quarter-624450>

REGENTEX | Investors unlikely to get anything from Regent Textile liquidation

- Publicly listed Regent Textile Mills Ltd, one of the 11 debt-ridden companies of the Chattogram-based Habib Group, is having to liquidate as the US business conglomerate Wilmington Trust Company filed an application against the company for being a guarantor of a substantial amount of dues. While creditors and lenders will be prioritised in the process, analysts warn that general investors (public) are unlikely to get anything from the liquidation.
- The Habib Group's Regent Airways and ten other companies have also applied for liquidation due to non-payment of aircraft rentals owed to Wilmington Trust Company. According to sources, Regent Airways had rented aircraft from Wilmington Trust Company on various occasions but had failed to make payments for a prolonged period, leading it to becoming a defaulter. The High Court has recently accepted the liquidation application in this regard, according to court officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/investors-unlikely-get-anything-regent-textile-liquidation-624454>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank registers dip in profit

- Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited's profit slumped 32.70% year-on-year to BDT 563.5 Mn in the first quarter of 2023. The country's largest Shariah-based bank in terms of deposits made a profit of BDT 837.2 Mn in the January-March quarter of 2022. The bank, thus, recorded BDT 0.35 earnings per share in January-March, down from BDT 0.52 in the same period a year ago, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange. The net operating cash flow per share became negative in the first quarter. IBBL said its net operating cash flow per share decreased significantly due to an increase in net cash outflows against investments to customers and lower deposits mobilisation from customers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/islami-bank-registers-dip-profit-3308456>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank's depositors withdraw BDT 177.83 Bn in 2022

- Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited is suffering severe net operating cash crisis as its depositors withdrew BDT 177.83 Bn in 2022. During the year, the bank invested BDT 114.30 Bn for the customers. As a result, its net operating cash flow per share dropped by BDT 97.11 in 2022 compared to the previous year. Islami Bank published its audited financial statement for 2022 after a board meeting held on Thursday, sources confirmed. In the last year, its earnings per share was BDT 3.84, which was BDT 2.99 a year ago. The bank also declared a 10% cash dividend.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/islami-banks-depositors-withdraw-tk17783-crore-2022-623062>

MARICO | Marico posts record profit

- Marico Bangladesh reported a net profit of BDT 3.87 Bn in financial year 2023, the highest since its listing on the stock market, thanks to an increase in sales and product prices. Its net profit grew 9.0% year-on-year for the financial year that ended in March 2023, according to a disclosure published on Friday. The India-based fast-moving consumer goods company also posted an 8.45% growth in sales revenue to BDT 14.13 Bn.
- Despite its record profit, the board of the multinational company did not recommend any final dividend for 2023 as it had already paid a 750% interim cash dividend in two phases (450% and 300%) for the year. It is the lowest dividend since 2020. However, he said, the higher cost of production and exchange rate volatility slowed down the profit growth. Otherwise, the net profit would be much higher, he added.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/marico-posts-record-profit>

POWERGRID | Strong dollar hits Power Grid hard again

- Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited, after seeing record losses in the October to December quarter of the fiscal 2022-23, has incurred a loss in the January to March quarter as well, owing it once again to the appreciation of the US dollar against the taka. Although the company posted higher year-on-year revenue and operating profit in the March quarter of FY23, its higher foreign debt servicing cost is what dragged the company to quarterly losses.
- According to the company's latest financial statement, its net loss stood at BDT 508.6 Mn in the January to March quarter of FY23, which was a net profit of BDT 830 Mn in the same quarter of FY22. Power Grid's Company Secretary Md Jahangir Azad earlier told The Business Standard, "Over the years, Power Grid has taken multiple foreign loans from Bangladesh's development partners for capital expenditure." "According to the current exchange rate of the taka against the dollar, the loan amount is much higher than what it was last year. As a result, there has been a huge loss due to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates," he further said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/strong-dollar-hits-power-grid-hard-again-623134>

STANDARINS | Standard Insurance made BDT 100 Mn profit in 2022

- Standard Insurance Limited posted a 2.6% year-on-year increase in profit to BDT 101.7 Mn in 2022. The profit stood at BDT 99.1 Mn in 2021. The insurer reported earnings per share of BDT 2.35 for 2022 against BDT 2.29 a year ago. The net asset value per share rose to BDT 20.77 from BDT 19.84 in 2021 while the net operating cash flow per share slipped to BDT 2.19 from BDT 4.12 during the period. The board of directors of Standard Insurance has recommended a 13% cash dividend for the year that ended on December 31.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/standard-insurance-made-tk-10cr-profit-2022-3306051>

LANKABAFIN | LankaBangla issues BDT 3 Bn bonds to attract diverse investors

- LankaBangla Finance has recently issued non-convertible, zero-coupon bonds worth about BDT 3 Bn to attract a diverse group of investors, including individuals, corporates, banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, and pension and gratuity funds. This bond has been issued in accordance with the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Debt Securities) Rules, 2021 after receiving consent from both Bangladesh Bank and the BSEC. The bond has been issued in dematerialised form and will be listed on the Alternative Trading Boards of DSE & CSE.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/lankabangla-issues-tk-300cr-bonds-attract-diverse-investors-3306036>

SIBL | SIBL's profit jumps 18% despite troubles

- Social Islami Bank Limited made a BDT 2.06 Bn profit in 2022, up more than 18% a year earlier, despite alleged loan irregularities and abrupt resignations by the board chairman and a top official. The bank clocked a profit of BDT 1.74 Bn in 2021. But the consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) stood at BDT 1.05 negative against BDT 1.64, also negative. The NOCFPS has slightly improved mainly due to higher cash inflow in respect of deposits and investment compared to the previous year, said SIBL.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/sibls-profit-jumps-18-despite-troubles-3306121>

BXPHARMA | Beximco Pharma's profit falls 15% in Q3 FY23

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals, a leading drug maker in the country, posted a 15% decline in profit in the third quarter of the current fiscal year. From January to March 2023, the drug maker made a revenue of BDT 9.55 Bn, which was BDT 8.95 Bn in the same period of the previous year. Its net profit after tax stood at BDT 0.90 Bn, which was BDT 1.06 from one year ago. Its earnings per share (EPS) for the third quarter of this fiscal year came down to BDT 2.13 from BDT 2.47 a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/beximco-pharmas-profit-falls-15-q3-fy23-623754>

APEXFOOT | Apex Footwear's profit drops 60% despite higher sales

- Apex Footwear reported a 59.6% year-on-year decline in its earnings per share (EPS) for the January-March quarter despite a continuation of sales growth. It was due to the higher costs of production, marketing, selling, and distribution, as well as the finance costs, according to the top tier footwear maker's latest financial statement. The company only managed to reduce its administration costs for the third quarter of the current fiscal year, which was not enough to offset surges in other major costs.
- Its revenue increased to BDT 3.61 Bn from BDT 2.84 Bn a year ago, and the higher costs dragged its net profit down to BDT 12.6 Mn from BDT 31 Mn. The publicly traded company's EPS came down to BDT 0.97 from BDT 2.40 for the three months, while for the first nine months of the fiscal year, it was slightly up at BDT 6.19 compared to BDT 6.08 as its profits for the previous six months were better.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/apex-footwears-profit-drops-60-despite-higher-sales-623358>

RENATA | Renata's revenue growth offset by external factors

- Renata Ltd witnessed strong growth in its sales during July of 2022 to March of 2023 though profits fell during the period mainly due to inflation, higher costs of energy, borrowing costs, and foreign exchange losses. The major pharmaceutical company's sales grew 8.7% year-on-year to BDT 24.39 Bn in the first nine months period of the current financial year of 2022-23, according to its quarterly financial reports. "We have observed more encouraging sales growth for Q3 FY22-23 of 14.3% indicating increased momentum predominantly by volume growth as we have taken a very cautious approach on pricing," said Md. Jubayer Alam, company secretary of Renata.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/renatas-revenue-growth-offset-external-factors-3307306>

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