

Economy

Idra, insurers call for measures to narrow protection gap

Insurers, regulators, and experts emphasize the importance of addressing and narrowing the insurance protection gap through various measures, including improving insurance awareness, transparency, digitization, affordability, accessibility, and product innovation. Bangladesh's insurance penetration remained low at 0.40 in 2022, despite the country's economic success. However, the sector's gross premium income increased by 17% to BDT 168.15 Bn from BDT 144.07 Bn in the previous year. The total insurance protection gap in Bangladesh stood at around BDT 180 Tn, which is around five times the country's GDP.

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

Interbank dollar rate hits record 108, but transactions poor

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

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

Bank

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

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

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

Stock-Specific News

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

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

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

Brac Bank rated 'AAA' again

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

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

Robi's revenue, profit surge in March quarter

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

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

LafargeHolcim posts record profit in Jan-Mar

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

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

Unilever Consumer Care's profit rises 17%

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

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

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

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

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