

Economy

Titas wants 47% hike in non-metred domestic gas bills

More than 25 lakh non-metred household users are likely to face a significant rise in their monthly bills as state-run Titas Gas thinks that the consumers burn more gas than estimated by the regulator. Claiming that the non-metred domestic users are burning 39% to 47% additional gas than the volume fixed for each of them, Titas has already submitted a proposal to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to increase their monthly bills.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/titas-wants-47-hike-non-metred-domestic-gas-bills-631974>

Power, gas crunch may ease in two days

The countrywide electricity and gas crises might ease after the next couple of days with resumption of operation of an FSRU stuck at Moheshkhali mooring while another moved into deep sea to avert cyclone mayhem.

The second floating, storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU), which was moved deep into the Bay of Bengal ahead of the landfall of the cyclone Mocha, might take 10-12 days to become operational, State Minister for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid told newsmen at his secretariat office in Dhaka on Sunday.

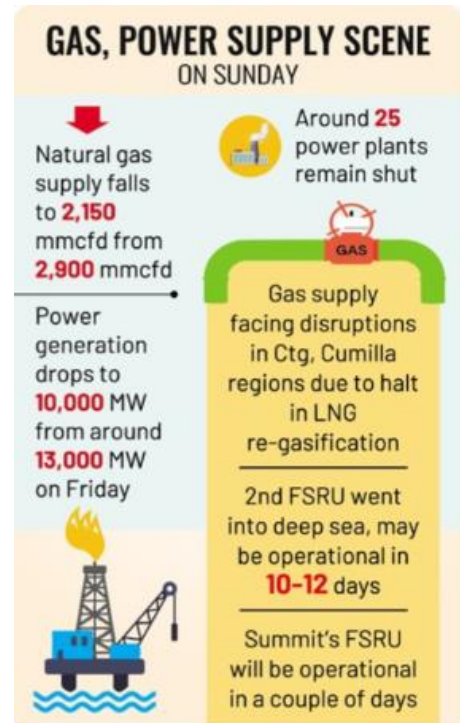
<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/power-gas-crunch-may-ease-in-two-days>

Govt to tighten baggage rules for gold bar to boost remittance inflow

The government plans to tighten regulations on inbound travellers bringing gold bars to prevent misuse and promote remittance inflow through banking channels, according to officials of the finance ministry. The national budget for the upcoming fiscal 2023-24 will introduce a provision to confiscate any gold bar weighing more than 150 grams from passengers. Additionally, filing tax returns for trust firms will be made mandatory to curb income tax evasion as many individuals evade taxes by forming trusts and diverting their money.

These proposals made in the draft FY24 budget were discussed in a recent meeting chaired by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal and presented at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for approval on Sunday. The proposals will now be sent to the law ministry for legal review before being included in the budget.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-tighten-baggage-rules-gold-bar-boost-remittance-inflow-631866>



Bangladesh receives USD 774 Mn in remittance in first 12 days of May

Expatriates have sent USD 774 Mn to the country through the banking channel in the first 12 days of May. Majority of the earnings came through the country's 43 private banks, amounting to USD 622 Mn. The state-owned banks brought in USD 148 Mn followed by around USD 3 Mn through foreign banks. Earlier, within the first 14 days of April, the country received USD 959 Mn in remittance and USD 1.68 Bn over the entire month. The earnings were comparatively low given the celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr in April. Bank insiders blamed the low exchange rate of the dollar for the poor remittance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-receives-774m-remittance-may-631750>

Non-traditional markets drive export growth for Bangladesh

In the first ten months until April of the current fiscal year, exports to non-traditional markets grew by an impressive 30.80%, reaching USD 7 Bn. Also, the market shares of non-traditional export destinations increased to over 18%, up from 15% during the same period a year ago. Among the non-traditional markets, Japan, Australia, India, and South Korea emerged as the major players, with RMG exports amounting to USD 1.32 Bn, USD 961.30 Mn, USD 889.06 Mn, and USD 477.81 Mn respectively.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/non-traditional-markets-drive-export-growth-bangladesh-631614>

Market News

Stabilization Fund to inject fresh BDT 2.50 Bn in stocks thru intermediaries

The Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF) is going to lend around BDT 2.5 Bn in fresh funds to stock market intermediaries for them to invest in the stock market. At present, the CMSF has over BDT 2.5 Bn in cash available, which has been kept in a special notice deposit account at the Community Bank Bangladesh Limited. According to officials, the CMSF will seek loan applications from the interested market intermediaries, and it will take no longer than 21 working days to disburse or reject the loan for each firm after receiving the application. The loan is likely to be disbursed by next month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stabilisation-fund-inject-fresh-tk250cr-stocks-thru-intermediaries-631854>

Grameen Bank to invest BDT 2 Bn in stock market

Grameen Bank is going to invest BDT 2 Bn in the stock market by forming a mutual fund named **Capitec Grameen Bank Growth Fund**. Yesterday, the fund's sponsor Grameen Bank, trustee Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) and fund manager Capitec Asset Management Company signed two separate agreements in this regard at Grameen Bank's head office in the capital. This is going to be the fourth mutual fund managed by Capitec Asset Management. The objective of the fund is to provide lucrative dividend to its shareholders by making money by getting capital gain and cash dividend from listed companies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/grameen-bank-invest-tk-200cr-stock-market-3320171>

Stock-Specific News

Lower sales, high cost of raw materials halves Linde Bangladesh's profit in Jan-Mar 2023

Linde Bangladesh Limited – a leading medical and industrial gas producer in the country – has experienced a decline in profits owing to a rising cost of raw materials and lower sales in the first three months of 2023. From January to March, the company reported a 53% fall in profit compared to the same time of the previous year (2022). The net profit of Linde Bangladesh declined to BDT 140.2 Mn, lower from BDT 299 Mn in January to March of 2022. The earnings per share (EPS) declined to BDT 9.22, which was BDT 19.22 during the same time of the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/lower-sales-high-cost-raw-materials-halves-linde-bangladeshs-profit-jan-mar-2023>

Bata Shoe profit doubles in Jan-Mar

The net profit of Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd has almost doubled for the January-March quarter compared to the same period last year. According to its financial statement published on Sunday, the multinational footwear company's net profit after taxes jumped to BDT 136.2 Mn for the first quarter of the year, up from BDT 68.5 Mn for the same period in 2022. Earnings per share (EPS) increased to BDT 9.91, from BDT 5.01. The 14% year-on-year growth in quarterly revenue reached BDT 2.45 Bn, while the cost of goods sold increased by almost 5% and operating expenses increased by 16%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bata-shoe-profit-doubles-jan-mar-631802>

Robi Axiata's revenue rises 16% on strong data sales

Telecom operator Robi's profit rises 5.45% year-on-year BDT 420 Mn in the January-March quarter of 2023. At the same time, the company's revenue grew over 16.25% to BDT 23.47 Bn on the back of strong sales of data, Robi Axiata said in a statement. In the January-March quarter, Robi's voice revenue increased by 14.5% year-on-year while data revenue grew by 17.5%. Having added 1.2 Mn subscribers in the three-month quarter, Robi's subscriber base reached 55.6 Mn now, representing 30.2% of the subscriber market share at the end of first quarter.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/robi-axiatas-revenue-rises-16-strong-data-sales-3320196>

IDLC Finance's profits slump 29% in Q1

IDLC Finance Limited yesterday reported securing a profit of BDT 139 Mn in the first quarter of 2023. This is however 29% less than what the non-bank financial institution made in the same period of the previous year. The company logged a consolidated profit after tax of BDT 344 Mn in the January-March quarter of the current year. It was BDT 483 Mn in the same period last year. The rate cap imposed by the central bank resulted in lower interest income and higher payments on deposits while capital market income has decreased, the two major reasons for the fall in profit, the company said in a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/idlc-finance-profits-slump-29-q1-3320156>

Dhaka Bank's profit decline in Jan-Mar

Dhaka Bank Limited has reported a 13.69% fall in earnings per share (EPS) in the first quarter of 2023. According to its unaudited data published on Sunday, the earnings per share (EPS) from January to March of 2023 stood at BDT 0.63. The company's EPS was BDT 0.73. at the same time in the previous year (2022). The net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) has increased to BDT 8.21, which was negative at BDT 4.36 from January to March 2022. Explaining the reasons behind the deviation in EPS and NOCFPS, Dhaka Bank said its EPS declined due to a drop in operating profit while the NOCFPS increased due to sale of trading securities, decrease in loans and advances to customers and increase in deposits from other banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-banks-profit-decline-jan-mar-631434>