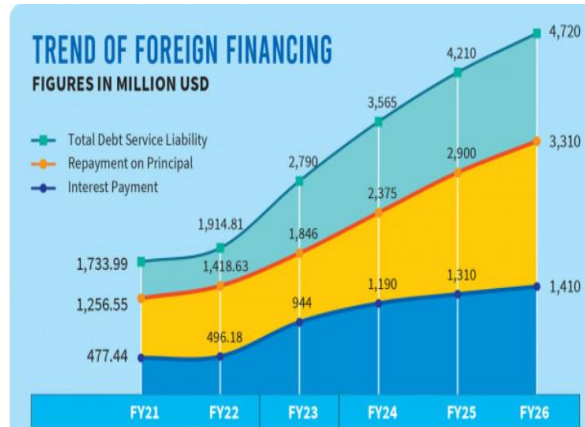


Economy:

Bangladesh faces reduced foreign financing and rising debt liabilities

As global interest rates continue to rise, Bangladesh faces a considerable increase in its foreign debt servicing liabilities. To compound the challenge, an internal calculation by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) reveals that the government is expected to see a \$1.5 billion decline in net financing from external sources next fiscal year and \$2 billion the following year. Experts said this double blow threatens to shrink the government's spending capacity, posing significant obstacles to its ability to allocate funds effectively.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-faces-reduced-foreign-financing-and-rising-debt-liabilities-667698>

Bank, NBFI, and Insurance Sector:

Bancassurance gets govt nod

The Financial Institutions Division (FID) of the Finance Ministry on Tuesday okayed the plan to introduce bancassurance—selling insurance products through bank branches—in the country. The FID allowed and instructed the Bangladesh Bank to publish a gazette for its "Bancassurance Guideline" for scheduled banks based on which they would operate as insurance agents. Also the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority has been instructed to issue the "Corporate Agent (Bancassurance) Directives" to let the country's life and non-life insurance companies make banks their selling agents.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bancassurance-gets-govt-nod-667690>

Food & Allied Sector:

Wholesale wheat prices start rising

Russia's exit from the Black Sea grain deal has started affecting the wholesale prices of wheat in Bangladesh, but the local retail markets are yet to feel any impact of it. Low-grade wheat was sold at Tk 1,570 to Tk 1,600 a maund yesterday, up by Tk 20-30 a maund than the rates a day ago at Khatunganj, one of the largest commodity wholesale markets in Bangladesh's Chattogram. The same price hike was seen in case of the prices of upper-grade wheat, which was sold at Tk 1,980 a maund, according to the traders.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/wholesale-wheat-prices-start-rising-3372751>

Fuel & Power Sector:

IOCs remain exempt from tax payment, as incentive

International oil companies (IOCs) remain exempt from submitting tax return directly as the Prime Minister has overruled revenue authority's opinion for incorporating a compliance provision into the draft Production Sharing Contract (PSC), sources said. This ruling from the highest government authority comes in order to attract foreign investment into much-needed oil and gas exploration, as Bangladesh gets increasingly dependent on expensive fuel imports. Currently, the responsibility of paying taxes and submitting returns on behalf of IOCs lies with the state-owned Petrobangla. The IOCs submit tax returns to the Petrobangla and the latter submits those to the taxmen after scrutiny.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/iocs-remain-exempt-from-tax-payment-as-incentive-1689702037>

Telecommunication Sector:

17 IIG operators fined Tk 45 lakh

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has recently decided to fine 17 International Internet Gateway (IIG) service operators a total of Tk 45 lakh for violating rules, including under invoicing, not sharing revenue and changing share structures without prior approval. The telecom regulator took the decision in an internal meeting based on reports of its Enforcement and Inspection Directorate. The IIG companies operate as international gateways for internet traffic, managing the data flow between the country and the rest of the world and enabling internet service providers and telecom operators to access the global internet.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/17-iig-operators-fined-tk-45-lakh-3372761>

Apparel & Textile Sector:

Provide uninterrupted gas, cut redoubled price

Apparel exporters seek uninterrupted gas supply and its price cut as they say production in textile mills almost stalled with resultant disruption to timely shipment of yarn, fabrics and garments. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) in a letter to government high-ups have made this one in a package of demands to help them make most utilization of their production capacity and meet lead time in export, mainly to western markets.



The infographic is divided into three sections, each with an icon and text. The first section has a flame icon and discusses gas rates. The second has a house with a dollar sign icon and discusses an EDF loan. The third has a circular arrow icon and discusses production capacity. To the right of these sections is a photograph of a rack of colorful, patterned clothing items.

- Apparel-sector seeks gas rate revised from Tk 30 per unit to Tk 16 as global prices fall**
- Extend ceiling of EDF loan for spinning mills to \$30m, repayment time to 360 days**
- 50% production capacity idle, forced by rise in production costs**

Global clothing mkt shrinks 30% over expensive raw materials, energy, dollar

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/provide-uninterrupted-gas-cut-redoubled-price-1689701915>

Capital Market:

Dhaka bourse edges down on corrections of insurance stocks

The Dhaka bourse closed Tuesday's session with a marginal loss, extending the losing streak for the second consecutive day mainly due to corrections experienced by life insurers. A slight correction experienced by a major sector, pharmaceuticals & chemicals also played a role behind the decline in the broad index. Market operators said many investors offloaded holdings to capitalise on the price appreciation in the previous five sessions. The DSEX, broad index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), lost 16 points in the two sessions to Tuesday while it gained 42 points in the previous five sessions.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dhaka-bourse-edges-down-on-corrections-of-insurance-stocks-1689701182>

Stock-specific:

GP makes Tk 1,973cr profit in January-June

Grameenphone, the largest mobile phone operator in Bangladesh, registered a 14 per cent year-on-year higher profit to Tk 1,973 crore in the first half of 2023. The mobile carrier logged Tk 1,730 crore profit in the identical January-June half of 2022. The earnings per share grew to Tk 14.62 in the second half of 2023 from Tk 12.82 a year ago. Revenue rose 4 per cent to Tk 7,735 crore.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/gp-makes-tk-1973cr-profit-january-june-3372726>

RAK Ceramics' earnings drop 32pc on costlier energy, raw materials

RAK Ceramics' profit plunged 32 per cent year-on-year to nearly Tk 129 million in April-June, owing to energy price hikes and increased production costs due to a staggering rise in raw material prices in the global market. The country's largest and renowned tiles and sanitary ware maker's earnings per share (EPS) dropped to Tk 0.30 in the second quarter ended in June from Tk 0.44 in the same quarter a year before. Sales revenue saw a fractional rise of 0.55 per cent to Tk 1.80 billion in the quarter, but the cost of sales rose 7 per cent to Tk

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/rak-ceramics-earnings-drop-32pc-on-costlier-energy-raw-materials-1689701219>

EBL Asset Management Limited (EBL AML)