

Economy:

Bangladesh sees debt buildup over Tk 14.48 trillion

Bangladesh sees ballooning debt buildup to Tk 14.48 trillion end of March largely for the compounding of borrowings with repayment liabilities, prompting economists to suggest mobilisation of multilateral funds. According to a latest publication of the Ministry of Finance the amount of debts had increased over 6.0 per cent till March of the past fiscal year (FY 2023) over December 2022. The total debt up to December 2022 was Tk 13.60 trillion, says the report prepared by the finance division and released this week.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-sees-debt-buildup-over-tk-1448-trillion-1692727379>

ADP execution 1.27pc in July

Six big development budget-holders of the government failed to begin their projects in the first month of the current fiscal year (FY), 2023-24, resulting in a slow start of the overall ADP execution, according to officials. The Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Shipping, Bridges Division, Ministry of Water Resources, and Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism were yet to open their expenditure accounts in July, the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) data showed. Despite economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, the government's project implementation is still showing the similar trend as in the previous fiscals, which is not expected, according to IMED officials.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/adp-execution-127pc-in-july-1692727333>

Bank, NBFIs, and Insurance Sector:

BB income from foreign currency reserve jumps

Bangladesh Bank's income from foreign currency reserves has gone up 108 percent year-on-year to Tk 6,000 crore in fiscal year 2022-23, as per the central bank's annual report. The rise was due to foreign currency revaluations and a USD selling spree of the central bank, said its officials. The BB has pumped nearly \$14 billion into banks from its forex reserve in fiscal year 2022-23.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-income-foreign-currency-reserve-jumps-3400676>

Central bank's profit falls by Tk14,200cr in FY23

The central bank's profit plummeted by around 95%, or Tk14,247 crore, year-on-year, mainly due to lower gains from foreign exchange. According to data from the Bangladesh Bank, its operating profit for fiscal 2022-23 stood at Tk15,000 crore, which was Tk29,247 crore in the previous fiscal year. In FY23, the total expenses of the central bank stood at Tk4,252 crore.

Net profit after expenses stood at Tk10,748 crore. Of this, Tk10,652 crore has been deposited in the government treasury, according to officials from the central bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/central-banks-profit-falls-tk14200cr-fy23-686954>

Fuel & Power Sector:

Belated crackdown comes on 'capacity payment'

A long-overdue crackdown on 'capacity payment' finally comes as the government begins ditching diesel-guzzling power plants that idly fed on public money, according to sources. The bundling out of the 'expensive' power plants begins as demand grows louder for disposing of such plants most of which were almost idle in their lifetime but burdening the exchequer with 'capacity payments'. Over the past several months five privately owned and one state-run diesel plant were shut, according to Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) officials.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/belated-crackdown-comes-on-capacity-payment-1692727189>

Capital Market:

DSE pushes for changes in ATB regulations to boost trading

The Dhaka bourse is set to replace some regulations currently applied to the Alternative Trading Board (ATB) to build momentum in trading, deliver clear information about listed securities and remove existing ambiguities. It will send its proposal to the securities regulator in two weeks' time. Presently, an individual shareholder is not allowed to sell holdings within three months after the share purchase on the ATB. If anyone offloads shares within the timeframe and achieves capital gains, the money will be transferred to the exchange's investors' protection fund instead of the investor's account.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dse-pushes-for-changes-in-atb-regulations-to-boost-trading-1692725948>

Stock-specific:

11 listed NBFIs leave investors in dark

Seven months have passed since the world bid adieu to 2022, but almost half of the listed non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) in Bangladesh have not published their financial statements for the year, breaching securities rules. As a result, hundreds of thousands of general investors who are holding the stocks of the companies have remained in the dark about how the non-banks fared in the year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/11-listed-nbfis-leave-investors-dark-3400701>

Aamra Networks looks to issue rights shares for expansion

Aamra Networks has planned to raise around Tk 930 million by issuing rights shares to cover expenses of BMRE (Balancing, Modernisation, Rehabilitation and Expansion) and to pay back loans. The board of directors has taken the decision to expand its paid-up capital by distributing rights shares at a ratio of 2:1 (R). For every two existing shares one rights share will be offered at a price of Tk 30 with a premium of Tk 20 per share. The decision is subject to approval of the shareholders at the annual general meeting (AGM), the securities regulator and other authorities concerned.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/aamra-networks-looks-to-issue-rights-shares-for-expansion-1692725973>

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