

Key News

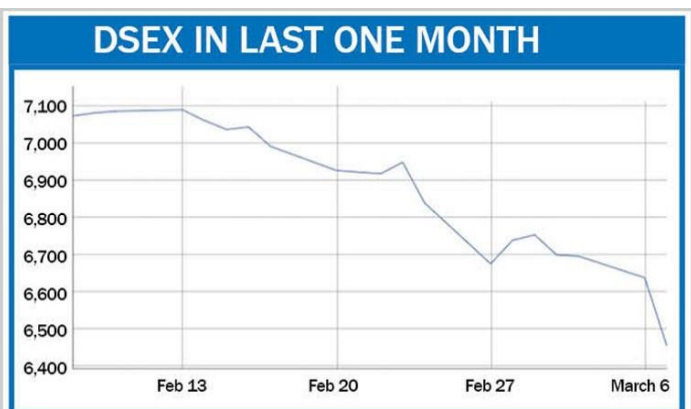
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Stock Market & Company

Stocks crash-land, DSEX posts biggest single-day fall in 2yrs

The Newage, March 07, 2022

- Dhaka stocks crash-landed on Monday with the key index posting its biggest single-day fall in two years and hitting a seven-month low as investors went for panic sales fearing further fall in share prices amid an escalation of Russia-Ukraine war.
- DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 2.74 per cent, or 182.12 points, to close at 6,456.51 points on Monday.
- The plunge was the biggest one-day fall after March 16, 2020 when the DSEX lost 196 points.
- Monday's index was the lowest after July 29, 2021 when it was at 6,425.25 points. The DSEX lost 297 points in the last four sessions.
- Out of the 379 issues traded on Monday, 364 declined, seven advanced and eight remained unchanged on the DSE.
- A plunge in share prices of BEXIMCO, Square Pharmaceuticals, British American Tobacco Company and Beximco Pharmaceuticals aggregately shed 40 points from the DSEX.
- The DS30 index comprising of 30 large capitalised companies decreased by 64.54 points to finish at 2,374.39 points and the DSE Shariah index lost 36.61 points to close at 1,394.4 points.
- Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, British American Tobacco, Orion Pharma, Fortune Shoes, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, Delta Life Insurance, SAIF Powertec, Square Pharmaceuticals and Union Bank were the other turnover leaders.
- BDCOM Online Limited was the day's best performer, posting a gain of 9.74 per cent, while Meghna Condensed Milk Industries Limited was the worst loser, shedding 10 per cent.



<https://www.newagebd.net/article/164745/stocks-crash-land-dsex-posts-biggest-single-day-fall-in-2yrs>

Court summons 64 loan defaulters of People's Leasing

The Financial Express, March 08, 2022

- The High Court (HC) on Monday summoned 64 loan defaulters of the People's Leasing and Financial Services Limited (PLFSL), a non-bank financial institution, for not complying with its order to reschedule their defaulted loans with the company.
- The defaulters were asked to appear before the court on April 11, 12 and 19, in failing which the court would issue arrest warrant against them. The HC bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar passed the order after hearing a petition, filed by the court-appointed PLFSL board of directors.
- The HC ordered the chairman, managing director and other directors of Nahar International Company to appear before the court on April 11 on behalf of their company. The other borrowers were asked to appear on April 12 and 19.
- Following a petition - filed by the PLFSL depositors, the HC reconstituted its board of directors on July 12, 2021 in a bid to revive the company instead of winding up. Barrister Kamal Ul Alam, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, had been appointed as the board chairman.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/court-summons-64-loan-defaulters-of-peoples-leasing-1646709112>

Al-Madina Pharma to raise Tk5cr through SME platform

The Business Standard, March 07, 2022

- Al-Madina Pharmaceuticals Limited wants to raise Tk5 crore through a qualified investor offer (QIO) from the SME platform of the Dhaka Stock Exchange under the book-building method. As per the book-building criteria, the company will arrange a virtual roadshow on 20 March in Dhaka, where it will introduce itself to institutional investors.
- Al-Madina Pharma was incorporated on 27 July 2006. Its factory is situated in Tongi, Gazipur. The company manufactures, buys, sells, refines, imports, and exports pharmaceutical, medical, and medicinal products.
- Currently, it manufactures more than 150 veterinary drugs and imports more than 70 human drugs. Prime Bank Investment Limited and EC Securities Limited are working as issue managers of the company. From July to December 2021, the company's revenue was Tk32.67 crore, which was Tk20.93 crore in the same period the previous year. During the period, its net profit stood at Tk1.85 crore, which was Tk0.76 crore in the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/al-madina-pharma-raise-tk5cr-through-sme-platform-381373>

Dutch-Bangla Bank declares a lower dividend to fortify its capital base

The Business Standard, March 07, 2022

- Dutch-Bangla Bank has declared a lower dividend for 2021 than the previous year, as the country's first joint venture bank plans to strengthen its capital base. The private sector lender has set aside 27.50% dividend – 17.50% cash and 10% stock – for its shareholders, compared to 15% cash and 15% stock dividends in 2020.
- Investors will receive Tk1.75 against each share while the bank's earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk8.79 last year, according to its stock exchange filings on Monday. The bank said in its statement that it has declared the dividend in line with the central bank circular. The retained amount of the profit will be used to strengthen the capital which helps the bank increase its capacity.
- It has declared the stock dividend for strengthening the paid-up capital, which is currently Tk632.50 crore, according to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). The bank also noted that, for shareholders' approval of recommended dividends, it will conduct the annual general meeting through a digital platform on 24 April. And the record date has been set for March 28.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dutch-bangla-bank-declares-lower-dividend-fortify-its-capital-base-381376>

High raw material costs drag Aramit Cement down to big losses

The Business Standard, March 07, 2022

- Aramit Cement, a sister concern of Aramit Group, which suffered heavy losses due to the pandemic in 2020 and returned to the black during the following fiscal year, has again plunged back into the red zone owing to surges in raw material costs.
- The situation is not the same for Aramit Limited, another sister concern of the group. Its profit grew on an increase in service and interest income, despite a 24% drop in revenue. The listed companies disclosed their half-yearly financials in stock exchange filings on Monday.
- In the first half of fiscal 2021-22, Aramit Cement incurred a loss of Tk13.94 crore as its revenue tumbled 58% to Tk39.87 crore. The loss per share rose to Tk4.11 from Tk0.23 a year earlier.
- In the previous fiscal year, the company posted a profit of Tk2.02 crore after shaking off the pandemic funk that made it suffer a loss of Tk23.23 crore a year ago. Its shares closed 9.79% lower at Tk35, from Tk38.80 in the previous trading session. In the October-December quarter, its net loss per share stood at Tk2.15 compared to net earnings per share of Tk1.09 a year earlier.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/high-raw-material-costs-drag-aramit-cement-down-big-losses-381379>

Economy & Industry

Reserve drops to \$43.9b

The Newage, March 07, 2022

- The country's foreign exchange reserve has dropped by more than \$4 billion in the last six months due to the recent surge in import payments and a sharp decline in remittance earnings after reaching a record high of \$48 billion. The latest Bangladesh Bank documents showed that the country's foreign exchange reserve dropped to \$43.9 billion on March 7, 2022, down \$4.1 billion from \$48 billion on August 25, 2021.
- Before the decline, the reserve had grown by \$16 billion since the Covid outbreak hit the country in March 2020. Bangladesh's reserve was \$46.07 billion on March 3, 2022. The amount dropped after the payment of \$2.16 billion to the Asian Clearing Union in the current week for the month of January and February of the year 2022.
- The reserve was \$32 billion on November 5 and increased to \$48 billion in a span of 17 months. Meanwhile, the government issued a \$200-million loan to Sri Lanka as part of a currency swap agreement with the country which was struggling hard to manage its import payments even after imposition of sanctions on imports.
- The country's import grew by 52.50 per cent year-on-year in July-January of FY22. The country's export earnings grew by 30.46 per cent year-on-year in July-February of FY22. As a result, the country's trade deficit grew by almost three times in the July-December period when there was a sharp decline in remittance earnings.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/164749/reserve-drops-to-439b>

Savings certificate sales rise 35% in Jan

The Business Standard, March 07, 2022

- In January this year, both sale of savings certificates and the government's net debt increased about 35.37% compared to the previous month. Customers bought savings certificates worth Tk9,966 crore in January, which was Tk7,362 crore in December 2021.
- In the wake of the new profit rate set in August last year, the sale of savings certificates and the amount of net debt of the government decreased for three consecutive months.
- The government repaid more loans than the sales of savings certificates in December last year, paying an extra Tk436 crore.



- As a result, after one month, the government's net debt rose to Tk2,586 crore, which was about seven times more than the previous month. In August of the current financial year, the government's net debt in savings certificates was Tk3,628 crore. One month later, in September, the net debt stood at Tk2,825 crore, while in October, it stood at Tk766 crore. The trend continued even in November when net debt stood at Tk701 crore.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/savings-certificate-sales-rise-35-jan-381424>

International

Stocks plunge, gold tops \$2,000 on Ukraine fears

The Newage, March 07, 2022

- Equity markets plunged Monday, while safe-haven gold broke \$ 2,000 as investors grew increasingly fearful about the impact of the Ukraine war on the global economy. Trading floors were a sea of red, while experts warned of a period of stagflation with the spike in crude likely to light a fire under already high inflation.
- Aluminium reached \$ 4,026.50, the first time the lightweight metal had breached \$ 4,000 per tonne, and copper set a new record at \$ 10,845 per tonne. And Mike Muller of Vitol warned of further pain.
- World governments had until now not included Russian oil in their wide-ranging sanctions on Moscow owing to concerns about the impact on prices and consumers, though trade has become increasingly tough as banks pull financing and shipping costs rise.
- Concerns about the impact on the global economy have rattled through markets, with European equities particularly badly hit owing to the continent's reliance on Russian energy. The euro remained wedged below \$ 1.10 for the first time since mid-2020.
- On Monday Asian bourses were deep in the red, with Hong Kong closing down just under 4 per cent. Tokyo stocks closed nearly 3 per cent lower while Shanghai fell just over 2 per cent. Seoul and Mumbai fell more than 2 per cent, with Sydney also posting losses.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/164739/stocks-plunge-gold-tops-2000-on-ukraine-fears>

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