

Key News

- ✓ [Stocks slip for third straight day amid heavy sell pressure](#)
- ✓ [Market doesn't exude optimism for IPO but offers scope of good gains](#)
- ✓ [BSEC selects 14 auditors to audit 50 firms' unclaimed dividend payouts](#)
- ✓ [Kazi Farms, Suguna fined Tk 8cr for unusual hike](#)
- ✓ [BSEC issues cyber threat warning to bourses](#)
- ✓ ['Even IMF won't help if reserve falls below \\$10 billion'](#)
- ✓ [What future holds for digital banking](#)
- ✓ [Automobile policy attracts fresh investment](#)
- ✓ [Unlocking every dollar for a world in crisis](#)

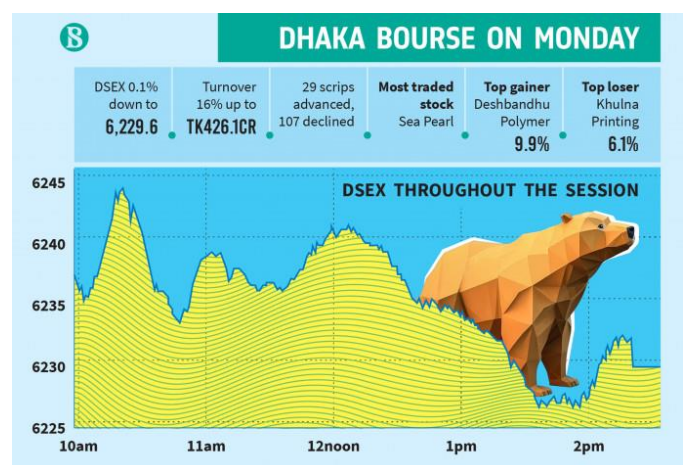
Stock Market & Company

Stocks slip for third straight day amid heavy sell pressure

The Business Standard, October 09, 2023

- Equity indices on the bourses extended their decline on Monday as investors persistently liquidated their holdings, driven by uncertainties surrounding various economic factors and upcoming elections.
- DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), moved 33 points down in the last three sessions and stood at 6,229.6 on Monday.
- The piling up of macroeconomic woes such as the shrinking reserve of the country, record-high defaulted loans, and declining remittances, is what eroded investor confidence, according to market insiders.
- On the sectoral front, banks contributed the highest 21% to the day's turnover, followed by travel adding 14.2%, and general insurance adding 11.8%.
- Sea Pearl Beach resort was the most traded stock on the day, followed by LafargeHolcim and Square Pharma.
- The port city bourse, Chittagong Stock Exchange, also settled on red terrain. The selected indices (CSCX) and All Share Price Index (CASPI) declined by 4.8 and 7.4 points to 11,041 and 18,470 respectively.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-down-three-straight-sessions-715110>



Market doesn't exude optimism for IPO but offers a scope of good gains

The Financial Express, October 09, 2023

- Out of the 1.07 lakh BO account holders who exited, 79,220 were male and 28,098 females, and of the total, 5,896 BO a
 - The size of the country's capital market is still insignificant compared to the size of the economy mostly because companies prefer banks as a source of capital to the market, said the chief of UCB Investment.
 - Against the backdrop of a gloomy market outlook, the flow of initial public offerings (IPO) has dried up. Hence, the possibility of market expansion will be thin until the economy rebounds.
 - The merchant bank bagged a profit of Tk 70 million in 2021 and Tk 40 million in 2022. The amount may be around Tk 70 million for this year.
 - On banks' reluctance to invest in stocks, Mr. Alamgir said the lenders were getting more than 9 percent returns from fixed-income securities, whereas the stock market was yet to overcome volatility.
 - The market had to deal with the repercussions of Covid-19 and then the Russia-Ukraine war.
- <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/market-doesnt-exude-optimism-for-ipo-but-offers-scope-of-good-gains>

BSEC selects 14 auditors to audit 50 firms' unclaimed dividend payouts

The Business Standard, October 09, 2023

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has selected 14 auditors to conduct audits of 50 listed companies to address unclaimed dividend disbursement issues.
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 - In a directive issued on Monday, the commission has instructed the Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF) to appoint auditors from the list of the selected 14 for the first phase audit.
 - Auditors and CMSF must ensure compliance with the relevant rules, regulations, notifications, and instructions issued by the commission in this regard.
 - The selected chartered accountants are A Wahab & Co, ACNABIN, Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury, FAMES & R, G Kibria & Co, Howladar Yunus & Co, Mahfel Huq & Co, Masih Muhith Haque & Co, SK Barua & Co, Zoha Zaman Kabir Rashid & Co, Mahamud Sabuj & Co, Islam Jahid & Co, Basu Banerjee Nath & Co, and Snehasish Mahmud & Co.
- <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-selects-14-auditors-audit-50-firms-unclaimed-dividend-payouts-715438>

Kazi Farms, Suguna fined Tk 8cr for an unusual hike

The Daily Star, October 10, 2023

- Bangladesh Competition Commission has fined Kazi Farms Tk 5 crore and Suguna Food and Feeds Bangladesh Private Limited Tk 3.44 crore in two cases for unusual increase in broiler chicken prices in the market.
 - The companies were fined for violating Section 15 of the Competition Act, 2012, Pradip Ranjan Chakraborty, chairperson of the commission, told The Daily Star.
 - The Section 15 of the Competition Act says that no person shall directly or indirectly enter into any agreement or collusion -- in respect of production, supply, distribution, storage or acquisition of any goods or services -- which causes or is likely to cause an adverse effect on competition or creates monopoly or oligopoly in the market.
 - The commission operates under the commerce ministry and is empowered to probe, try, and punish errant companies for breaching competition laws. The commission operates under Competition Act, 2012, which allows to dispose of cases without going to a court.
- <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/what-future-holds-digital-banking-3438961>

BSEC issues cyber threat warning to bourses

The Business Standard, October 09, 2023

- The suggested measures to combat cyber threats include 24/7 strict monitoring of user activity, deploying web application firewalls, implementing load balancer solutions, and more.
- Amid a myriad of cyber threats, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has directed the stock exchanges to follow some guidelines to ensure security of their network infrastructure.
- A team from the Bangladesh Computer Council of the ICT Division of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology issued situational alerts to spread awareness about the disruption of activities of the Critical Information Infrastructure (CII).
- In October last year, the ICT Division declared 29 organizations as 'critical information infrastructure' under the Digital Security Act for the safety of sensitive data under which any illegal access to computers, digital devices or networks is a punishable offence.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-issues-cyber-threat-warning-bourses-715430>

Economy & Industry

'Even IMF won't help if reserve falls below \$10 billion'

The Daily Star, October 10, 2023

- The International Monetary Fund will not help if Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserve keeps falling and goes below the \$10 billion-mark, said Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).
- Bangladesh's economic situation is still better than that of Sri Lanka considering the higher remittance and export earnings, he said.
- If it continues to fall and plunge below \$10 billion, the situation would be very bad for Bangladesh and then the IMF will not come forward for the country, the economist said.
- He made the comments in an event on "Conversation with Professor Rehman Sobhan" organised by the Economic Reporters Forum at its office in Dhaka

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/even-imf-wont-help-if-reserve-falls-below-10-billion-3438761>

What future holds for digital banking

The Daily Star, October 09, 2023

- Online banking transactions in Bangladesh amounted to nearly Tk 50,000 crore in May 2023, a 142 per cent rise year-on-year, Bangladesh Bank data showed.
- This illustrates a significant shift in consumer behaviour towards digital banking and underscores the growing preference for digital banking solutions.
- The rise of an open banking framework enables traditional financial institutions to collaborate with third-party providers and promotes innovation and customer-centricity.
- Payment service providers like Visa are at the forefront of such a shift, shaping how people manage finances in a world of emerging payment technologies.
- Digitalisation brings comprehensive banking solutions right to the fingertips. In this journey, the banking system must continuously adapt and evolve. The integration of new systems into the industry is not merely a leap forward; it's the continuation of a legacy of innovation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/what-future-holds-digital-banking-3438961>

Automobile policy attracts fresh investment

The Daily Star, October 09, 2023

- Fresh investment of around Tk 2,500 crore has been made in the automobile industry in the past two and half years since the formulation of the Automobile Industry Development Policy 2021, according to industry insiders.
- That amount could have been as high as Tk 5,000 crore had the world economy not been adversely affected by the Russia-Ukraine war, they added.
- South Korean automotive manufacturer Hyundai and Malaysia's Proton have made investments alongside local companies such as Runner Group and Bangladesh Auto Industries Ltd (Bail).
- Runner Automobiles has already invested Tk 300 crore as they look to become the first manufacturers of three-wheelers in the country.
- Meanwhile, Fair Group started the assembly of Hyundai cars in their factory, starting with the popular 'Creta' and 'Creta Grand' sport utility vehicles (SUVs). They launched locally-made 'Creta' SUVs in January this year.
- Bail and Bangladesh Lithium Battery Ltd (BLBL) are investing Tk 1,440 crore to establish the country's first EV and lithium battery manufacturing plant at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar in Mirsarai, Chattogram.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/automobile-policy-attracts-fresh-investment-3438131>

International

Unlocking every dollar for a world in crisis

The financial Express, October 09, 2023

- The world is at a tipping point. The pandemic left a toxic legacy of spiraling poverty, debt distress, and inequality, all amid a worsening cost-of-living crisis. Even more alarming is climate change, a long-term existential threat that is already wrecking lives and costing billions.
- Multilateral development banks (MDBs) like the Asian Development Bank (ADB), of which I am president, must do more and act faster to overcome these crises and help people-while there is still time. Business as usual isn't an option, especially in Asia and the Pacific where nearly 70 million people have fallen back into extreme poverty since the pandemic, and which accounts for more than half of the world's greenhouse-gas emissions.
- The G20 believes MDBs can help deliver this finance by wringing every last dollar from their balance sheets. I agree, and at ADB that process is well underway. In September, we announced capital management reforms that include optimizing our prudential level of capitalization.
- These reforms unlock \$100 billion in new commitments capacity over the next 10 years. They expand the bank's annual new commitments capacity to more than \$36 billion increase of approximately \$10 billion, or about 40%. This will make up to \$360 billion available over the next decade to expand our climate investments, spur momentum on the SDGs, and increase our support for economies still suffering from pandemic impacts. Importantly, the reforms are designed to ensure ADB's AAA credit rating is safeguarded.
- Economies must mobilize more tax revenue, modernize tax authorities through digitalization, and cooperate to ensure a fair and well-functioning international tax system. Environmental taxes are one way to increase domestic revenue and contribute to low-carbon development, while a more efficient value-added tax (VAT), including VAT on the digital economy, could be a key source of income for developing countries. Countries should also revisit policies on fossil fuel subsidies.
- Finally, financial innovation must continue. ADB is working to deepen the region's domestic capital markets. Stepping up the use of blended finance will crowd in private investment. De-risking instruments such as credit enhancement products through guarantee schemes and insurance can unlock capital for climate action, as can instruments such as thematic and sustainable bonds.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/global/unlocking-every-dollar-for-a-world-in-crisis>

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Bank Asia Securities Limited (BASL) is one of the leading full-service brokerage companies in Bangladesh. The company was formed in 2009 and running its operation as a majority owned subsidiary of Bank Asia Limited. BASL offers full-fledged standard brokerage services for retail, institutional and foreign clients with a dedicated team of skilled professionals. The company is currently providing the brokerage services under the membership of Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited (DSE).

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