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Stock Market & Company

[Stocks gain on bargain hunting](#)

The New Age, March 11, 2023

- The main index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, added 0.75 per cent, or 46.43 points, to close at 6,260.18 points on March 9, after gaining 8.63 points in the previous week. Prior to this two-week gain, the DSEX had lost 92 points in four weeks.
- The weekly average turnover increased to Tk 646.24 crore in the past week from that of Tk 358.78 crore in the previous week. The DS30, comprised of 30 large capitalised companies, added 10.68 points to finish at 2,226.97 points and the DSE Shariah index, DSES, also gained 5.04 points to close at 1,362.33 points.
- Genex Infosys topped the weekly turnover chart with a value of Tk 154 crore. Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Sea Pearl Beach & Spa Limited, Eastern Housing, ADN Telecom, Shinepukur Ceramics, Gemini Sea Food, Rupali Life Insurance Company, Bashundhara Paper Mills and Aamra Networks were the other turnover leaders.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/196557/stocks-gain-on-bargain-hunting>

Sonali Aansh's profit jumps 36pc on costlier finished products

The Financial Express, March 10, 2023

- Sonali Aansh Industries has reported more than 36 per cent year-on-year growth in earnings to Tk 3.07 million for October-December (Q2), FY23, despite a marginal decline in sales compared to the same quarter a year ago. The financial expenses declined 6 per cent in Q2, FY23 to Tk 12.97 million from the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.
- The earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 1.13 for Q2, FY23, up from Tk 0.83 for Q2, FY22. The EPS was Tk 2.03 for the six months through December 2022, increased from Tk 1.27 for July-December 2021.
- Sonali Aansh saw a steep growth in EPS for FY22, compared to the previous fiscal year. It reported an EPS of Tk 3.92 for the FY22, having grown at 247 per cent from the previous fiscal year.
- It issued 10 per cent cash dividends for FY17, FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21 each. Sonali Aansh Industries saw a sharp rise in the operating cash flow as well for July-December, FY23 from the same period of the year before.
- The net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) rose to Tk. 53.37 for July-December 2022 from just Tk 7.90 for July-December 2021. Its existing paid-up capital is Tk 54.24 million whereas the reserve and surplus is Tk 565.70 million.



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/sonali-aanshs-profit-jumps-36pc-on-costlier-finished-products>

ACI to expand footprint in marine engine market

The Daily Star, March 10, 2023

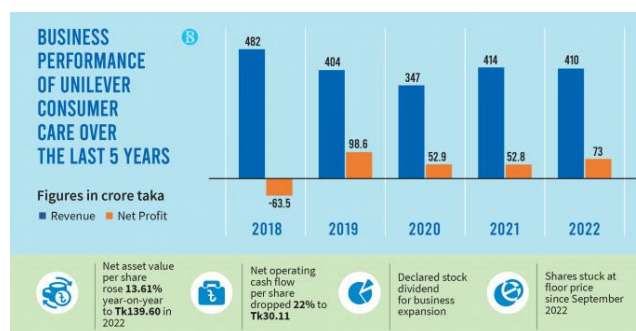
- ACI Limited, one of the biggest conglomerates in Bangladesh, is set to expand its footprint in the country's marine engine business segment in order to capture a piece of a market that is growing 12 per cent annually.
- Chinese engines dominate the \$61-million market in Bangladesh with a 33 per cent share, followed by Japan with 21 per cent, and the United States with 15 per cent.
- According to ACI, the marine engine market was around \$24 million in 2019-20 and it doubled to \$52.2 million in the following financial year as demand from operators rose. The number of ocean- and river-going ships is also going up.
- Subrata Ranjan Das, executive director of ACI Motors, said roughly 10,000 inland and coastal ships operating in Bangladesh carry 90 per cent of the total oil products, 70 per cent cargoes and 35 per cent of passengers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/aci-expand-footprint-marine-engine-market-3267486>

Why Unilever Consumer Care finally declared stock dividend

The Business Standard, March 11, 2023

- For the first time, Unilever Consumer Care Limited has declared a 60% stock dividend for the financial year 2022. The company will also pay a 240% cash dividend to its shareholders as declared at the board meeting on Thursday.
- As per the board's decision, each shareholder will get 60 shares against 100 shares of the company. Currently, the company's share price is the second highest on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). At the end of Thursday's trading session, its shares closed at Tk2,849 each.



- However, Unilever Consumer Care declared less cash dividend, which is 240%, to its shareholders for 2022 than the previous year. It declared a 440% cash dividend in 2021.
- Unilever's profit jumped 38% in 2022: Despite a 1% revenue shrink, the company's net profit jumped by 38%, thanks to its cost-cutting measures and finance income. Last year, its net profit was Tk73 crore, which was Tk53 crore a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/why-unilever-consumer-care-finally-declared-stock-dividend-597986>

Loss making Legacy Footwear tops gainers list in outgoing week

The Business Standard, March 11, 2023

- The loss making Legacy Footwear, a manufacturer of leather shoes for both men and women, has topped the list of gainers at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in the outgoing week. In four trading sessions of the last week from 5 to 9 March, its share price hiked by 22.30% to Tk49.90 each on Thursday.
- After heavily failing to hold export market over the years, in the last year, the company decided to enter the local market by extending its plant.
- Since January-March 2021 period, Legacy Footwear has been incurring losses. In the first six months of FY2022-23, its loss per share stood at Tk0.79. At the same period of the previous fiscal year, its EPS was Tk0.11.
- AND Telecom was the second top gainer last week. Its shares gained 18.09%, followed by Eastern Housing by 16.54%, Sea Pearl Beach Resorts by 16.32%, City General Insurance by 15.64%, BDCOM Online by 12.66%, Intech by 12.56%, Central Insurance by 11.94%, Dominage Steel Building Systems by 10.49% and Bashundhara Paper Mills by 10.38%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/loss-making-legacy-footwear-tops-gainers-list-outgoing-week-597790>

IT Consultants Ltd to invest Tk280cr in infrastructure development

The Business Standard, March 11, 2023

- IT Consultants Limited has decided to invest Tk280 crore which will be used to purchase land and build an IT-based tower. Of the amount, the company will provide Tk76 crore from its own source and the rest will come from banks.
- The company provides major banks, financial institutions, govt organizations and retailers with an advanced infrastructure for transaction processing services while operating one of the largest bank-driven independent ATM networks in Bangladesh.
- The company said in its price-sensitive statement that it will purchase land located at the Tejgaon Industrial Area at the cost of Tk35 crore. Its shares price closed at Tk36.40 at the end of Thursday's (9 March) trading session at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- Singapore-based holding company SiS Capital (Bangladesh) Pte is the major shareholder with 32.77% shares of IT Consultants Ltd.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/it-consultants-ltd-invest-tk280cr-infrastructure-development-597746>

Beximco Pharmaceuticals to start drug production in Saudi Arabia

The Business Standard, March 11, 2023

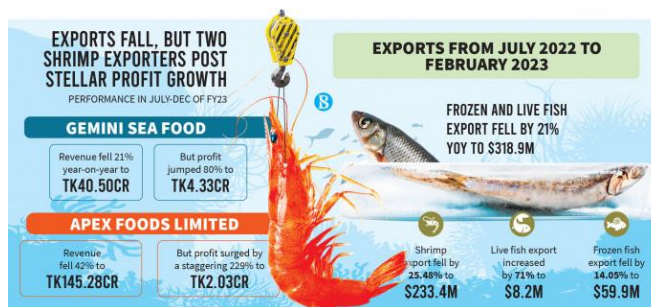
- Beximco Pharmaceuticals is slated to start production of drugs in Saudi Arabia from next year with the joint investment of Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. The manpower and technical support needed there will be taken from Bangladesh, Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman said on Saturday (11 March).
- Salman F Rahman made the announcement after visiting Beximco Pharmaceuticals Industry with a delegation led by Saudi Arabia's Minister of Commerce Majid bin Abdullah Al-kassabi.
- "We try to make 100% quality medicines as it needs to follow various international procedures in the case of drug export. As such, the people outside the country can put their trust in the medicine made by Bangladesh," said the PM's private sector adviser.
- Earlier, on 10 March, Saudi Commerce Minister Majid bin Abdullah Al-kassabi arrived in Dhaka to attend the Bangladesh Business Summit-2023. Beximco Pharmaceuticals Managing Director Nazmul Hasan Papon said that this factory is being built in Saudi with joint investment of both countries – most of it from Bangladesh. About 30 kinds of medicines will be produced in the factory, he added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/beximco-pharmaceuticals-start-drug-production-saudi-arabia-597990>

How firms' profits grow amid declining shrimp exports

The Business Standard, March 09, 2023

- Shrimp exports from Bangladesh have been facing a decline in demand, particularly in European countries, which account for 85% of the country's shrimp exports, largely due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- Despite export setbacks, publicly listed shrimp exporters Gemini Sea Food and Apex Foods have reported double-digit growth in the first half of the current fiscal year.
- Gemini Sea Food's profit grew by 80% despite a 21% drop in revenue, while Apex Foods registered a 229% surge in profit amid a 42% fall in revenue.
- According to officials, the country's shrimp exports have been declining due to reduced consumption and demand from foreign buyers, as well as a significant drop in prices in the global market, following the world economic crisis.
- As a result, local shrimp processors and exporters have been witnessing a significant revenue fall, while some of them have maintained profit growth by cutting or minimising administrative and other costs.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/how-firms-profits-grow-amid-declining-shrimp-exports-597062>

Sea Pearl gets new director

The Business Standard, March 09, 2023

- Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Spa Limited, a five-star hotel in Cox's Bazar and a listed firm on the stock market, got a newly nominated director on its board. Nasima Akter Mila, a representative of Seapearl Sundarban Eco Resort will sit on the board of Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Spa Ltd.
- Earlier, in January this year, Sea Pearl Beach Resort had secured the nod of the securities regulator to transfer its 40% stake held by Shamim Enterprise to Sea Pearl Sundarban Eco Resort, which is owned by the same management.

- Shamim Enterprise, a non-listed firm and the mother company of Sea Pearl Beach Resort, holds around 4.88 crore shares, or 40.40% of the company. Sea Pearl Sundarban Eco Resort operates a place for recreation purposes at Batiaghata in Khulna, where the company has planned to build a five-star hotel in future.
- In fiscal 2021-22, the company reported a 44% growth in revenue from guests and a 119% growth in profit over the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sea-pearl-gets-new-director-596754>

Economy & Industry

Govt borrowing from BB may fuel inflation

The Daily Star, March 12, 2023

- The government has continued borrowing from Bangladesh Bank as commercial banks have been unable to come up with much-needed funds owing to a liquidity crunch. If the government consistently borrows from the central bank, it may fuel inflation, which has remained at an elevated level over the past one year.
- Between July 1 and March 2 this fiscal year, the government borrowed Tk 50,043 crore from the central bank, according to the BB data. It borrowed Tk 31,403 crore in the entire fiscal year of 2021-22.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 8.57 per cent last month, a decrease of 14 basis points from 8.71 per cent in December, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). January's inflation figure was the lowest since August when consumer prices surged to a 10-year high of 9.52 per cent.
- Bangladesh's foreign currency reserves slipped to a six-year low of \$31.15 billion after the central bank cleared import bills to the tune of \$1.05 billion with the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) on March 6. This means the reserves have fallen by about 30 per cent from \$44.14 billion recorded in March last year. The current level of the reserves is the lowest since the financial year of 2016-17 when it stood at \$33.49 billion.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-borrowing-bb-may-fuel-inflation-3268831>

RMG exports to EU witnesses 14.29% growth during July-Feb

The Business Standard, March 11, 2023

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the European Union (EU) rose by 14.29% to \$15.72 billion during the July-February period of the fiscal year 2022-23 compared to the same period last year, according to statistics of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). Exports to France and Spain reached \$1.89 billion and \$2.35 billion with 27.65% and 18.79% YoY growth respectively.
- On the other hand, as per data released by the EPB, the export of RMG items to Germany, one of the largest markets in the EU, registered a Year-on-Year (YoY) decline of 1.03% to \$4.62 billion. Exports to the US also witnessed a YoY decline of 2.87% to \$5.68 billion.
- During the same period, apparel imports from Bangladesh to the UK and Canada saw YoY positive growth of 14.52% and 20.05% to \$3.36 billion and \$980 million respectively. The EPB statistics marked Bulgaria and Poland with negative YoY growth during the mentioned period.
- Bangladesh's apparel exports to other non-traditional markets reached \$5.69 billion with 35.02% YoY growth during the July-February period of this fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-exports-eu-witnesses-1429-growth-during-july-feb-597954>

International

Norway sovereign fund's investment hits six-year low

The New Age, March 11, 2023

- Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's biggest fund, hit a six-year low in investments in the Bangladesh capital market in 2022. The fund's investments in the market dropped by 26.82 per cent to \$155 million in 2022, compared with those of \$211.89 million in 2021, according to data from Norges Bank Investment Management Company, which manages the SWF.
- It was the lowest investment amount since 2016 when the investment was \$111 million. In the past couple of years, the fund reduced its investments by a significant 37.57 per cent.
- The foreign investors withdrew Tk 1,870 crore in 2022 from the stock market after pulling out Tk 2,648 crore in 2021 and Tk 2,606 crore in 2020. Since 2015, the SWF has been regularly investing in Bangladesh's stock market, starting with a total investment of \$19 million that year, as it anticipated higher returns from the market.
- In 2020, the investment reached its peak of \$248.35 million. The net investment value on Bangladesh's capital market was \$244.41 million in 2017, \$202.91 million in 2018, and \$188.12 million in 2019.
- In 2022, the Norwegian government pension fund had holdings in only nine companies, down from 10 in 2021, 20 in 2020, and 22 in 2019, the data showed.
- Its investments in these companies included \$35.77 million in Square Pharmaceuticals, \$32.35 million in Grameenphone, \$27.05 million in BRAC Bank, \$22.04 million in Beximco Pharmaceuticals, \$11.42 million in Renata, \$9.19 million in Bangladesh Submarine Cables Company, \$8.68 million in City Bank, \$5.5 million in Singer Bangladesh and \$2.99 million in Walton.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/196556/norway-sovereign-funds-investment-hits-six-year-low>

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