

Key News

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Stock Market & Company

[Dhaka stocks drop for 2nd day](#)

The New Age, February 15, 2023

- Dhaka stocks dropped for the second day on Wednesday with a low turnover as most of the investors remained on the sideline amid economic worries in the country, market operators said. DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 11.15 points, or 0.17 per cent, and settled at 6,245.02 points on Wednesday against 6,256.17 points in the previous trading session.
- Bangladesh Lamps, Beach Hatchery, Monno Agro and General Machinery, Bengal Windsor Thermoplastics, Agricultural Marketing Company, Monno Ceramic, Desh Garments, Bangladesh Autocars, Fine Foods and Rangpur Foundry were the top 10 gainers considering their closing prices on Wednesday.
- Among the sectors, food and allied issues exerted the highest turnover, followed by paper and printing, and IT stocks. Most of the sectors displayed mixed returns, out of which engineering, food and allied, textile, miscellaneous and IT exerted the most corrections on the bourse on Wednesday.
- Out of the 310 issues traded, 27 advanced, 137 declined, and 146 remained unchanged on the day. The DS30 index also decreased by 4.63 points to finish at 2,222.02 points and the DSE Shariah index decreased by 1.43 points to close at 1,366.84 points on the day.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/194525/dhaka-stocks-drop-for-2nd-day>

PLI Asset's Tk 50cr mutual fund gets go-ahead

The Daily Star, February 16, 2023

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has given a go-ahead to a Tk 50 crore open-ended mutual fund named PLI AML 1st Unit Fund. Open-ended mutual funds are not listed with the stock market, but one can buy them from a fund manager's office on the basis of its net asset value.
- Similarly, investors can sell off fund units at any time at prices based on its current net asset value. Yesterday, the BSEC approved its draft prospectus.
- The sponsor of the mutual fund is Popular Life Insurance Company who initially invested Tk 25 crore and the rest Tk 25 crore is open for the general investors. Each unit of the fund is Tk 10. PLI Asset Management is the fund manager while ICB Capital Management is its trustee. Brac Bank will act as custodian of the fund.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/pli-assets-tk-50cr-mutual-fund-gets-go-ahead-3249211>

Sonali Bank sues Keya Cosmetics to recover classified loan

The Business Standard, February 15, 2023

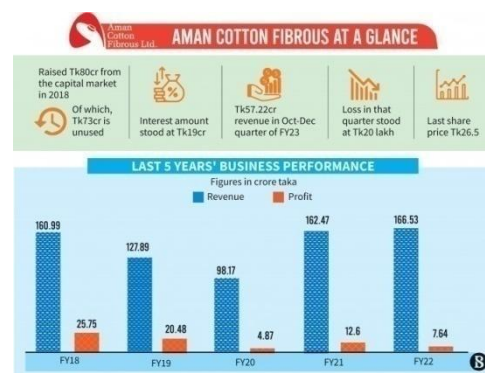
- Sonali Bank has recently filed a case in the money loan court against Keya Cosmetics Ltd and its directors for the recovery of defaulted loans amounting to over Tk20 crore. In the case statement, the lender's Bangabandhu Avenue branch said its total loan with interest to the company is Tk24 crore. And if there is any objection or statement regarding the case, the company has been given a notice to appear in court on 20 February.
- Earlier in April 2021, Pubali Bank published an advertisement inviting tenders for the planned auction of nearly 850 decimals of land at Keya Group's factory complex, along with the factory infrastructure, and also the mortgaged luxury apartment complex owned by the sponsor-directors in the capital's Gulshan area. The auction schedule included assets owned by Keya Cosmetics Ltd, the group's flagship company, Keya Yarn Mills Ltd and its founder Abdul Khaleque Pathan and his family members.
- With uncharged interests added, Keya Group and its sponsor-directors owe more than Tk800 crore to Pubali Bank, according to the bank's advertisement for auction. The company later paid the loan installment, and the Pubali Bank withdrew the notice of auction, said a senior official of Keya Cosmetics.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sonali-bank-sues-keya-cosmetics-recover-classified-loan-585714>

BSEC steps to bring back Aman Cotton's IPO fund go in vain

The Business Standard, February 15, 2023

- It seems no measure taken by the market regulator to bring back the initial public offering (IPO) fund of Aman Cotton Fibrous Ltd is working. None of the various initiatives taken in the interests of the investors have yet seen success. Rather, the company has been taking "unethical" benefits from IPO funds for several years.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to form a new investigation team to bring back the IPO money.
- Seeking anonymity, senior officials at the commission said the committee will be formed soon and it will work to determine the location and current status of the money and how to get it back. It will also look into the business conditions of the company.



- Back in August 2018, Aman Cotton raised Tk80 crore from the stock market through an IPO to buy new machinery and repay loans. But instead of buying machinery, it pledged Tk73 crore of the IPO fund as security for credit facilities for two of its sister concerns – Akin Carriers Limited and Aman Food Limited.

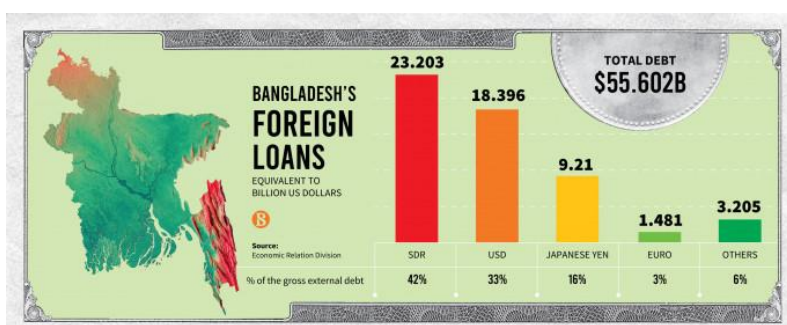
<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-steps-bring-back-aman-cottons-ipo-fund-go-vain-585710>

Economy & Industry

Exchange rate results in decline in outstanding external debt

The Business Standard, February 15, 2023

- Bangladesh's outstanding external debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio declined to 13.78% at the end of fiscal 2021-22, compared to 16.9% in the previous fiscal year, mainly due to variations in exchange rates, according to recently released data by the Economic Relations Department (ERD).
- It resulted in a \$4.03 billion decline in the gross foreign loan, and the outstanding amount stood at \$55.60 billion last year. The outstanding external debt was supposed to be a record \$59.647 billion in the last financial year. But the amount dropped as the dollar appreciated amid the Russia-Ukraine war and other foreign currencies, including special drawing rights (SDRs), depreciated against the greenback.
- According to ERD data, Bangladesh's outstanding foreign debt was \$50.879 billion as of fiscal 2020-21. In the last fiscal year, \$10 billion was released in foreign debt. And Bangladesh has repaid loans of \$1.526 billion to various development aid agencies.
- As a result, the remaining \$8.767 billion was supposed to be added to the outstanding debt. But the total foreign loan dropped by \$4 billion in the calculation of the ERD.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/exchange-rate-results-decline-outstanding-external-debt-585374>

Forex transactions thru cards triple in July-Dec

The New Age, February 15, 2023

- The volume of foreign currency transactions made through cards nearly tripled in the first half (July-December) of the current financial year 2022-23 compared with that in the same period in the previous financial year.
- Bangladesh Bank data shows that card-based foreign currency transactions amounted to Tk 3,363 crore in the first half (July-December) of FY23, compared with Tk 1,190 crore in the same period in FY22.
- The foreign currency transaction by cards reached a record high of Tk 639.6 crore at the end of December, up from Tk 572.7 crore in November, as the dollar crisis improved to some extent. The transaction volume through cards increased to Tk 358 crore in May, Tk 399.4 crore in June, Tk 440.9 crore in July, Tk 520.3 crore in August, Tk 585.8 crore in September and Tk 605 crore in October.
- As per Bangladesh Bank rules, each cardholder can spend up to \$12,000 a year as their personal entitlement. The growth in foreign currency transaction through cards was putting pressure on the currency market, the bankers said.

- The country's foreign exchange reserves came down to \$33.83 billion on December 28, 2022 from record \$48.6 billion in August 2021. Continued sales of the foreign currency to settle import payment obligations reduced the foreign reserves of the country.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/194536/forex-transactions-thru-cards-triple-in-july-dec>

International

UK inflation retreats further, remains above 10%

The Daily Star, February 15, 2023

- British annual inflation dropped further last month on easing transport costs, official data showed Wednesday, but remains above 10 percent, prolonging a cost-of-living crisis that has sparked massive strikes.
- Inflation around the world is easing after striking the highest levels in decades last year as the invasion of Ukraine by Russia fuelled energy and food prices. The UK Consumer Prices Index (CPI) fell to 10.1 per cent in January compared with a rate of 10.5 per cent in December, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/europe/news/uk-inflation-retreats-further-remains-above-10-3249186>

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