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### Bank Asia Securities holds 12th AGM

The Business Standard, March 15, 2023

- **Bank Asia Securities held its 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Bank Asia Tower in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka on Tuesday (14 March).**
- Romana Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia Securities Limited, signed the Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December, 2022, prior to the AGM, reads a press release.
- The company's directors- Nafees Khundker, Md Abul Quasem, Kazi Sanaul Hoq, Prof M Shahjahan Mina, Areef Billah Adil Chowdhury, Md Sazzad Hossain, SM Anisuzzaman, Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil, CEO Sumon Das, Company Secretary Md Anisul Alam Sarker and Head of Finance Md Nahid Raza were present at the meeting.



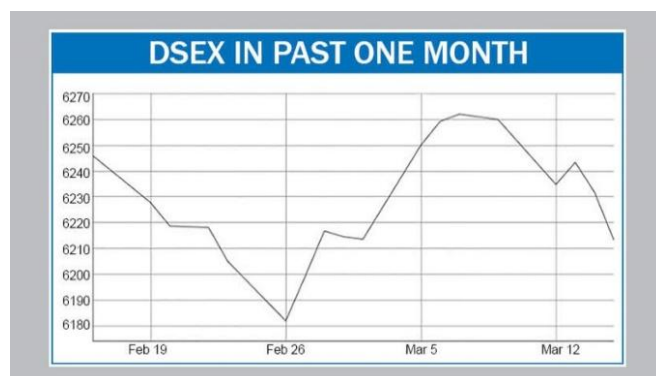
<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/bank-asia-securities-holds-12th-agm-600210>

## Stock Market & Company

### Share prices of 201 cos stuck in floor prices

The New Age, March 15, 2023

- Share prices of 201 out of the 392 listed companies and mutual funds were stuck in their floor prices on Wednesday as 27 more companies and MFs were added to the list on the day. Former BSEC chairman Faruq Ahmed Siddique said that the market had been managing an artificial index for the past seven months.
- Though the turnover and the share prices of a number of low-profile companies rose and fell in the period, the floor price restriction impacted negatively on the share price growth of good performing companies, he said.
- Dhaka stocks on Wednesday extended the losing streak to the second trading session as investors went for selling shares.
- DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 18.58 points, or 0.29 per cent, and settled at 6,213.37 points on Wednesday against 11.61 points on Tuesday.
- Out of the 306 issues traded, 21 advanced, 110 declined, and 175 remained unchanged on the day. The turnover on the DSE increased to Tk 607.16 crore on Wednesday from that of Tk 563.63 crore on Tuesday. Life insurance, food and allied, bank, and engineering sectors exhibited the highest positive returns on the day.
- The DS30 index also decreased by 2.49 points to finish at 2,215.17 points and the DSE Shariah index lost 1.49 points to close at 1,353.72 points on the day.
- Olympic Industries, Rupali Life Insurance, ADN Telecom, Aamra Networks, Genex Infosys, Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Spa, BDCOM Online, Sonali Life Insurance, and Bengal Windsor were the other turnover leaders on the day.

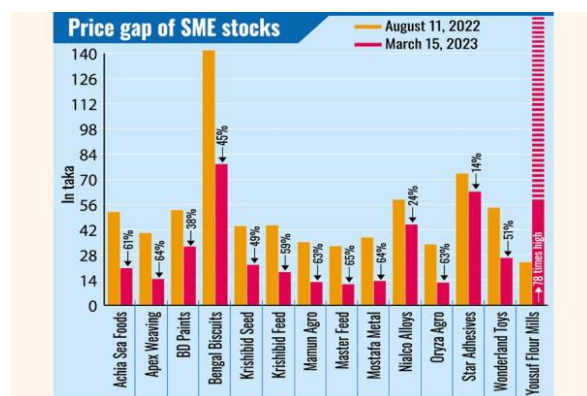


<https://www.newagebd.net/article/196916/share-prices-of-201-cos-stuck-in-floor-prices>

### Here is why SME stocks plunged as quickly as it had shot up

The Financial Express, March 16, 2023

- SME stocks have been through the pain of price erosions between 14 per cent and 65 per cent in the past seven months since they peaked. The only exception is Yousuf Flour Mills that surged abnormally on the SME board. Himadri Ltd, which runs six potato cold storages in the northern part of Bangladesh, has been stuck at Tk 35.30 since June 29 last year.
- The huge price corrections of 13 stocks dragged down the SME Index by 53 per cent, or 1,195 points, to 1,050 on Wednesday. The index had peaked at 2,244 on August 11 last year.
- The major obvious reason behind the index decline is that floor price does not apply to SME stocks unlike the companies on the main board.
- Besides, according to market experts, frequent policy changes by the securities regulator for the SME board and the bearish main market have taken a heavy toll on the SME stocks.



<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/here-is-why-sme-stocks-plunged-as-quickly-as-it-had-shot-up>

## Corruption has taken root in insurance sector for non-compliance: IDRA

The Financial Express, March 16, 2023

- No one will be allowed to siphon off money or embezzle assets of insurance companies, said Mohammad Jainul Bari, chairman of Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) of Bangladesh.
- The insurance sector has huge potential but non-compliance is the biggest problem, he said. "Due to a lack of compliance for a long time, irregularities and corruption have taken root in many companies.
- "We have started working with these companies. We have instructed them to settle claims by selling properties, if necessary," said Mr Bari. He said that the IDRA had called the board of directors of some errant companies during his nine-month tenure, which were not paying clients insurance claims timely.
- The IDRA chairman said the major incidents of corruption in the insurance sector had been centered on the purchase of lands. It has been seen that land worth Tk 10 million has been bought for Tk 300 million. Even after 10 or 15 years that land cannot be sold for half the purchase price. "So no company is allowed to buy land unless it is very urgent and if the price is not reasonable".

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/corruption-has-taken-root-in-insurance-sector-for-non-compliance-idra>

## Sena Kalyan Ins makes Tk 11cr profit in 2022

The Daily Star, March 16, 2023

- Sena Kalyan Insurance Company Limited made a profit of Tk 11.44 crore in 2022, down more than 25 per cent year-on-year. The insurer reported a profit of Tk 15.32 crore in 2021. Thus, the insurer reported earnings per share of Tk 2.86 for the last financial year, which was Tk 3.83 in 2021.
- The net asset value per share of Sena Kalyan Insurance slipped to Tk 20.17 last year from Tk 26.99 in 2021, while the net operating cash flow per share fell to Tk 4.45 from Tk 8.89.
- The EPS, the NOCFPS and the NAVPS decreased due to an increase in the number of shares, said the insurance company in a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange. The board of directors has recommended a 12 per cent cash dividend for the year that ended on December 31. Shares of Sena Kalyan Insurance were down 7.28 per cent to Tk 48.40 on the DSE yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/sena-kalyan-ins-makes-tk-11cr-profit-2022-3272406>

## Directors can't book profit in six months of buying shares

The Business Standard, March 15, 2023

- Beneficiaries, including directors and officials, of a company will have to deposit back into the company their profits earned from the sale of their shares within six months of the purchase, according to a proposed law formulated to prevent stock manipulation.
- And in case of a failure to deposit the profits, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) will realise the money. The Securities and Exchange Ordinance of 1969 and the Act of 1993 on the same subject are being replaced by the new law with such a provision.
- The Financial Institutions Division has published the draft of the proposed law, titled "Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission Act 2022." Public opinion has been sought on the draft.
- According to the draft, individuals or organisations who are considered beneficiaries (directors, officers, or employees) of the listed companies or who have at least 10% ownership will submit a report if they make profits from buying or selling shares of the respective companies within the prescribed period.
- However, this provision will not be applicable if someone makes a profit by buying and selling shares in good faith in return for repayment of debt. In the draft law, the BSEC will be able to conduct intelligence activities to get advance information on share manipulation and insider trading. In some cases, suspects can also be monitored.

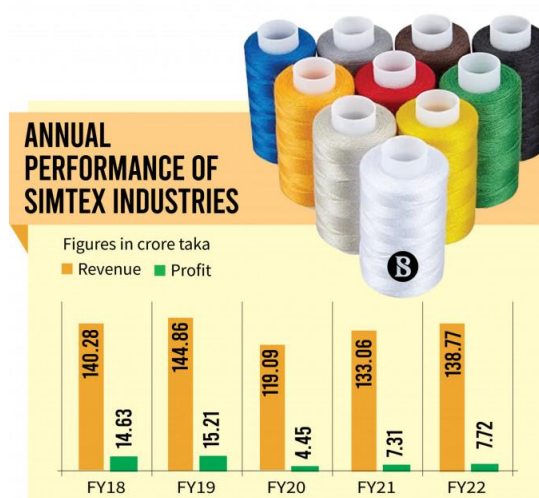
- The commission will also be able to carry out intelligence activities to stop and uncover information related to market fraud, market manipulation, insider trading and such other activities. The proposed law contains a provision to punish a person involved in manipulation or fraudulent activities in the stock market with a maximum imprisonment of ten years, a minimum fine of Tk10 lakh, or both.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/directors-cant-book-profit-six-months-buying-shares-600258>

## BSEC to recast Simtex Industries' board

The Business Standard, March 15, 2023

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is going to recast the board of directors of Simtex Industries Limited – a manufacturer of sewing threads – to minimise the company's internal conflicts so that it can move on with its business activities.
- Accordingly, the BSEC has decided to remove three directors – two independent and one nominated – of the company and appoint five independent directors. The commission is going to issue a directive in this regard very soon.
- The independent directors to be appointed are; Shobod Deba Nath PhD, Associate Professor, University of Dhaka, Kawser Ahmed, Partner, The Zurist, Dhaka, Dr Md Abdul Kaium, Associate Professor, University of Barishal, Abid Al Hasan, Business Entrepreneur, and Sheikh Mamun Khaled, PhD.
- The BSEC has also recommended Sheikh Mamun Khaled for the post of the chairman of Simtex.
- On the other hand, the three directors to be removed are; independent directors Md Akram Hossain, and Shah Md Asad Ullah and nominated director Sharif Shahidul Islam.
- In the 2019-20 fiscal year, the company reported a massive year-on-year decline in both its revenue and profit. In FY20, revenue dropped 17.8% to Tk119.09 crore, and net profit plunged by 70.7% to Tk4.45 crore, compared to FY19.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-recast-simtex-industries-board-600254>

## Economy & Industry

### Govt's interest expenses jump over 22%

The Daily Star, March 16, 2023

- The government's expenses on interest payments rose more than 22 per cent to Tk 40,792 crore in the first six months of the current fiscal year owing largely to higher expenditures on treasury bills, official figures showed. The interest expenses stood at Tk 33,433 crore in the July-December half of 2021-22.
- The interest expense was higher than the annual target because of a rise in interest rates for government securities, according to the quarterly debt bulletin of the finance ministry. The sharp depreciation of the exchange rate against the US dollar was one of the factors behind the liquidity shortage.
- The average yield of the treasury bills went past 7 per cent in November last year compared to a range of 6 per cent to 7 per cent previously. The interest expenses in July-December were half of the annual allocation of Tk 80,875 crore.
- Of the interest expenses, Tk 38,147 crore were made against domestic borrowing, which accounted for 52 per cent of the annual allocation of Tk 73,675 crore for 2022-23.

- The payments on the loans in the banking system were Tk 14,657 crore. It was Tk 23,490 crore for the non-banking source. External interest payments stood at Tk 2,645 crore, only 6 per cent of the total interest expenses in July-December.
- BORROWING DECLINES 36%-Between July and December, the government borrowed Tk 48,024 crore, both from domestic and external sources, down more than 36 per cent from Tk 75,701 crore a year ago.
- The government borrowed Tk 20,948 crore in the first half of FY23, down from Tk 25,445 crore a year earlier.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govts-interest-expenses-jump-over-22-3272506>

## International

### Global stocks in 'bloodbath' as bank fears resurface

The New Age, March 15, 2023

- Stock markets sank on Wednesday on renewed fears of a burgeoning banking crisis, snapping a one-day rally as Credit Suisse led a rout in shares of major lenders. Global markets have been rattled by the collapse of tech sector lenders Silicon Valley Bank and Signature, which forced US authorities to intervene at the weekend to prevent contagion.
- After Tuesday's rebound, equities fell again on Wednesday, with European indices falling more than three per cent in the afternoon and Wall Street opening lower. The euro slid while oil prices also tumbled, with the main US contract WTI sliding under \$70 per barrel for the first time since December 2021.
- 'You get the picture: investors were panicking. Bloodbath, if you will,' said Fawad Razaqzada, market analyst at City Index and FOREX.com. 'Concerns over another 2008-style financial crises have intensified,' he said.
- Shares of Credit Suisse, Switzerland's second biggest bank, crashed by 30 per cent to hit a record low. Credit Suisse, which was already mired in scandals prior to the US banking upheaval, was hammered by the markets after its main shareholder, Saudi National Bank, ruled out ploughing more cash into the bank.
- SVB and Signature were the biggest banking casualties since the global financial crisis of 2008, forcing US authorities to take them over and step in to guarantee customer deposits. 'The financial sector in Europe is under significant turmoil today as a result of SVB's fallout,' noted Naeem Aslam, chief investment officer at Zaye Capital Markets.
- Bank shares tumbled across Europe, with Germany's Commerzbank and France's Societe Generale and BNP Paribas shedding more than 10 per cent. British lender Barclays gave up almost eight per cent.
- On Wall Street, JPMorgan Chase fell 3.6 per cent, Citigroup lost 5.0 per cent and embattled regional bank First Republic sank 18.7 per cent.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/196913/global-stocks-in-bloodbath-as-bank-fears-resurface>



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## About Bank Asia Securities Ltd

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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