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Romana re-elected as Bank Asia Securities' chair

The Daily Star, March 21, 2023



- Romana Rouf Chowdhury has been re-elected as the chairman of Bank Asia Securities Limited at the 12th annual general meeting of the company held on March 14 this year. Chowdhury is one of the directors of Bank Asia Limited, said a press release.

- She has more than 26 years' experience as an industrialist and she founded multiple ventures in different fields, such as food, retail and architecture. She is the managing director of Sea Natural Food Limited, Sea Fishers Limited and Sea Resources Group.
- Romana is director of various sister concerns of Rangs Group as well. She did her graduation from Brac University and obtained an MBA degree from the Florida Institute of Technology. She has also completed executive education from Harvard Business School and Columbia Business School.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/romana-re-elected-bank-asia-securities-chair-3276516>

## Stock Market & Company

### Stocks drop for 2nd day

The New Age, March 20, 2023

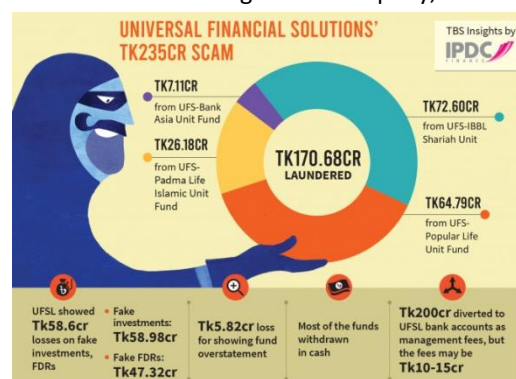
- DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 3.15 points, or 0.05 per cent, and settled at 6,204.17 points on Monday against 6,207.32 points on Sunday. The turnover on the DSE decreased to Tk 344.66 crore on Monday from that of Tk 452.29 crore on Sunday.
- Out of the 320 issues traded, 51 advanced, 35 declined, and 234 remained unchanged on the day. On the sectoral front, IT issues exerted the highest turnover, followed by life insurance.
- Almost all the sectors displayed dismal returns, out of which IT, life insurance and food and allied, exerted the most corrections, while general insurance, life insurance and food exhibited the slight positive returns on the bourse on the day.
- Chartered Life Insurance Company, Intech Limited, BDCOM Online, Delta Life Insurance, Sonali Life Insurance, Jamuna Oil, Renwick Jaineswar, Legacy Footwear, Rangpur Dairy, and Meghna Life Insurance were the top 10 gainers considering their closing prices on the day.
- Al-Haj Textile, Bengal Windsor Thermoplastics, Orion Infusion, Oimex Electrode, Meghna Pet, Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Spa, Monno Agro, Beacon Pharma, Central Insurance, and Rupali Life Insurance were the top 10 losers considering their closing prices on the day.
- The DS30 index also decreased by 1.96 points to finish at 2,215.81 points and the DSE Shariah index lost 2.95 points to close at 1,349.93 points on the day.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/197333/stocks-drop-for-2nd-day>

### A fox to guard the henhouse

The Business Standard, March 20, 2023

- This is a case of hiring the fox to guard the henhouse. The managing director of an asset management company, Universal Financial Solutions Limited (UFSL), has pocketed Tk235 crore of investors' money from four mutual funds using a number of tricks and has flown away to Dubai beyond the reach of regulators, a Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission report reveals.
- Syed Hamza Alamgir, the MD of UFSL, used the age-old trick of doctored bank documents to pull the wool over the eyes of various regulatory agencies who could not detect the forgery. In one egregious case, he made four Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs) of Tk8 lakh. The bank documents were then doctored to change the amount to Tk49 crore as deposits. He left for Dubai in October last year.



- The four mutual funds that the UFSL embezzled from are UFS-Bank Asia Unit Fund, UFS-IBBL Shariah Unit, UFS-Padma Life Islamic Unit Fund, and UFS-Popular Life Unit Fund, with an initial fund size of Tk430 crore.
- A newspaper report in January this year about this Tk158 crore embezzlement in the UFSL prompted the High Court to seek an explanation from the BSEC.
- A subsequent investigation by the stock market regulator found that Hamza Alamgir had embezzled even more money from mutual funds – Tk235 crore to be exact – than was previously reported, between 2016 and 2022. The BSEC report revealed that over Tk170 crore of this money was laundered abroad.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fox-guard-henhouse-602882>

## ACI calls creditors' meeting to demerge plastic business

The Business Standard, March 20, 2023

- Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Limited has called a creditors' meeting to approve the demerge of the plastic business from Premiaflex Plastics Limited and introduce ACI Premio Plastics Limited.
- The operation of Premiaflex Plastics Limited will be merged with ACI. ACI fixed the creditors' meeting on 13 April through a digital platform as per the direction of the High Court.
- After the demerger, ACI Premio Plastics will create a brand for the consumer and Premiaflex Plastics will engage as a backward linkage operation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aci-calls-creditors-meeting-demerge-plastic-business-602462>

## Bank Asia, BB sign refinance deal

The Daily Star, March 21, 2023

- Bank Asia Limited has signed a participation agreement with Bangladesh Bank under a refinance fund of Tk 5,000 crore aiming to accelerate green practices and sustainable growth in export-oriented and manufacturing industries.
- Adil Chowdhury, president and managing director of Bank Asia, and Chowdhury Liakat Ali, director of the sustainable finance department of Bangladesh Bank (BB), signed the agreement at the latter's headquarters in Dhaka last week, said a press release.
- Under the deal, Bank Asia will provide credit to borrowers for importing capital machinery and accessories to implement environment-friendly initiatives. Abdur Rouf Talukder, BB governor, Kazi Sayedur Rahman, deputy governor, and Md Khurshid Alam, executive director, were present.
- On December 7 last year, the central bank formed the refinancing scheme named "Green Transition Fund (GTF)" as part of its effort to help manufacturing and export-oriented industries go green with energy-efficient and environment-friendly capital machinery.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bank-asia-bb-sign-refinance-deal-3276496>

## Bourses cut trading by an hour during Ramadan

The Financial Express, March 20, 2023

- The stock exchanges -- Dhaka Stock Exchange and Chittagong Stock Exchange have reduced share trading time by an hour during the month of Ramadan. Share trading on the bourses will begin at 10:00 am as usual and continue until 1:20 pm as a continuous session during Ramadan, according to a statement issued on Monday.
- Besides, a 10 minutes post-closing session will be applicable. Trading at bourses usually takes place from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, including 10 minutes post-closing session.

- The bourses have decided to reduce trading and office time instructed by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission. After Ramadan, trading and office time will resume at the usual time. Trading will begin at 10:00 am and continue until 2:20 pm while the office will start at 9:00 am and continue till 5:00 pm.

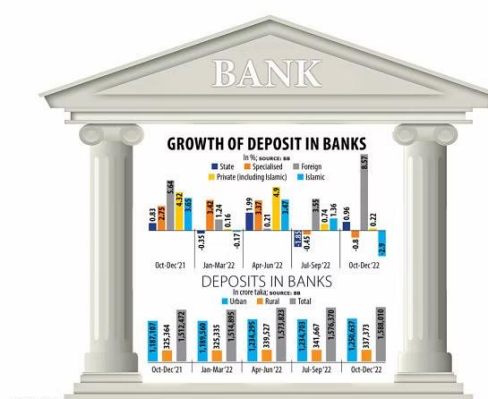
<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bourses-cut-trading-by-an-hour-during-ramadan>

## Economy & Industry

### Foreign banks see spike in deposits

The Daily Star, March 20, 2023

- Foreign banks operating in Bangladesh registered an 8.57 per cent growth in deposits in the October-December quarter of 2022, the highest since 2018, as many savers shifted their funds from local banks amid a confidence crisis.
- Nine multinational lenders logged Tk 73,980 crore in deposits in the fourth quarter, up from Tk 68,143 crore in the third quarter, according to the Quarterly Scheduled Banks Statistics released by the Bangladesh Bank yesterday.
- On a year-on-year basis, the banks recorded a 14 per cent growth in deposits even though several well-known multinational banks offer lower interest rates on deposits compared to their local competitors.
- Government-owned banks witnessed their deposit grow by 0.96 per cent year-on-year to Tk 401,032 crore in the October-December quarter. Private banks, including Islamic ones, saw money parked by savers grow 0.22 per cent.
- Islamic banks lost Tk 11,426 crore in deposits as a section of savers withdrew funds amid a confidence erosion in the wake of allegations of loan irregularities in some shariah-based banks, according to the October-December quarterly report on Islamic banking of the central bank.
- Overall, deposits rose 0.74 per cent to Tk 15,88,010 crore in the fourth quarter of 2022 compared to the third quarter when it stood at Tk 15,76,370 crore.



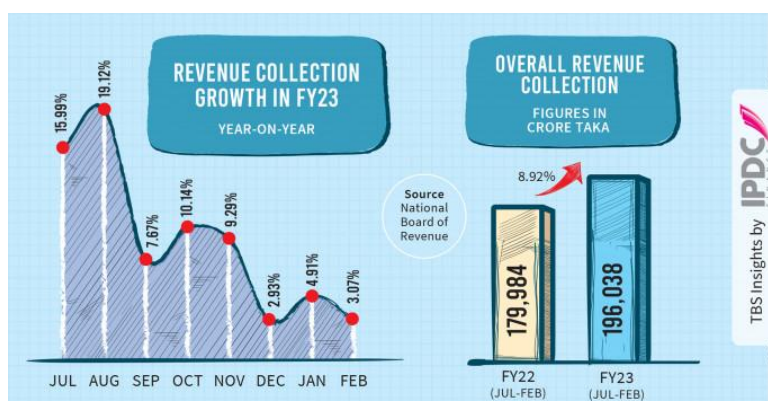
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-banks-see-spike-deposits-3276576>

### Revenue barely grows, raising worries about fiscal balance

The Business Standard, March 20, 2023

- Revenue growth has nosedived and fallen far behind the target in the eight months of the current fiscal year up to February, raising concerns over financing the deficit and development projects with prospects of more domestic resource mobilisation in the rest of the year remaining bleak.
- The downward trend in revenue collection that began in November last year continues with collection growth falling as low as 3.07% this February, sliding by more than a percentage point from 4.91% in January.
- According to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) sources, Tk23,727 crore in revenue – income tax, value-added tax (VAT) and customs tax – was collected in February this year, which was Tk23,020 crore in February of FY22.

- This persistent declining tendency raised questions among economists about the various initiatives taken by the government to reduce imports, as well as the capacity of the NBR as the central revenue-collecting authority.
- At a pre-budget meeting on Sunday, leading economists suggested reforms to the taxation system to increase the country's tax-to-GDP ratio, which is the lowest in South Asia.
- Revenue collection in eight months till February of the current fiscal year runs short of target by about Tk23,000 crore.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/revenue-barely-grows-raising-worries-about-fiscal-balance-602206>

## International

### Relief over Credit Suisse deal crumbles as focus shifts to bond risks

The Daily Star, March 20, 2023

- Banking stocks tumbled on Monday as initial relief over a historic state-backed rescue of troubled lender Credit Suisse by Swiss rival UBS Group gave way to new worries about the risks of high-yield debt issued by big banks.
- In a package orchestrated by Swiss regulators on Sunday, UBS Group AG (UBSG.S) will pay 3 billion Swiss francs (\$3.23 billion) for 167-year-old Credit Suisse Group AG (CSGN.S) and assume up to \$5.4 billion in losses.
- Major central banks, faced with the risk of a fast-moving loss of confidence in the financial system, also scrambled on Sunday to bolster the flow of cash around the world with a series of coordinated currency swaps to ensure banks have the dollars needed to operate.
- While those developments appeared to shore up investor confidence in early Asian trade, the rally quickly evaporated as focus shifted to the massive hit some Credit Suisse bondholders would take under the UBS acquisition.
- Under the deal, the Swiss regulator decided that Credit Suisse additional tier-1 bonds - or AT1 bonds - with a notional value of \$17 billion will be valued at zero, angering some of the holders of the debt who thought they would be better protected than shareholders in the takeover deal announced on Sunday.
- Worries about what that might mean for holders of AT1 bonds issued by other banks added to persistent anxiety about a range of other risks including contagion, the fragile state of U.S. regional banks and moral hazard.
- Standard Chartered Plc and HSBC shares each fell more than 6% in Hong Kong on Monday to more than two-month lows, with HSBC facing the possibility of posting its largest one-day drop in six months. The MSCI index for financial stocks in Asia ex-Japan (.MIAX0FN00PUS) was down 1.3%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-business/news/relief-over-credit-suisse-deal-crumbles-focus-shifts-bond-risks>



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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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