

## Key News

- ✓ [Dhaka stocks finish flat](#)
- ✓ [Intraco expects yearly turnover to rise threefold after gas supply deal](#)
- ✓ [Keya Cosmetics under BSEC scanner once again](#)
- ✓ [Dollar crisis, inflation, revenue shortfall key issues: economists](#)
- ✓ [Banks alone can't tackle NPLs](#)
- ✓ [Global stocks diverge ahead of key US debt talks](#)

## Stock Market & Company

### Dhaka stocks finish flat

The New Age, May 22, 2023

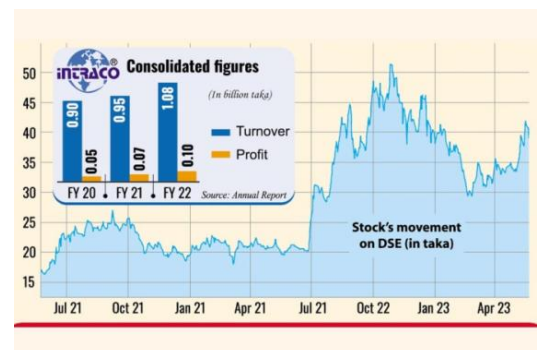
- Dhaka stocks finished almost flat on Monday after a fall in the previous trading session as most of the investors remained on the sideline amid economic worries in the country, market operators said. DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, gained 0.35 points, or 0.01 per cent, and settled at 6,281.65 points after losing 8.90 points on Sunday.
- The DS30 index decreased by 0.30 points to finish at 2,190.60 points and the DSE Shariah index increased by 0.25 points to close at 1,366.48 points on the day. The turnover on the Dhaka Stock Exchange decreased to Tk 707.40 crore on Monday compared with that of Tk 811.74 crore on Sunday.
- Out of the 346 issues traded, 74 advanced, 97 declined and 175 remained unchanged on the day. Bangladesh Shipping Corporation topped the turnover chart with its shares worth Tk 52.43 crore changing hands.
- Intraco Refueling Station, Eastern Housing, Rupali Life Insurance, Orion Infusion, Monno Ceramic, Gemini Sea Food, Simtex Industries, Legacy Footwear and Aamra Networks were the other turnover leaders on the day.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/202310/dhaka-stocks-finish-flat>

### Intraco expects yearly turnover to rise threefold after gas supply deal

The Financial Express, May 23, 2023

- Intraco Refueling Station is expected to see its annual turnover rise threefold as it begins to supply compressed natural gas (CNG) to industrial areas of Gazipur and Bhaluka in the next three to four months.
- It has already inked a deal with state-run Sundarban Gas Company for a period of 10 years. As per the agreement, Intraco will get gas produced by Sundarban Gas Company in Bhola, will compress and then distribute it through its specialised vehicles.



- To carry out the operation, Intraco will set up a plant on its own land near the state-run gas supplier. The company reported a consolidated turnover of Tk 1.08 billion for FY22, up from Tk 955.86 million in the previous fiscal year. Its consolidated net profit margin after tax rose to 9.6 per cent in FY22 from 7.67 per cent reported for the previous fiscal year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/intraco-expects-yearly-turnover-to-rise-threelfold-after-gas-supply-deal>

## Keya Cosmetics under BSEC scanner once again

The Business Standard, May 22, 2023

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) will review the financial statements of Keya Cosmetics for the last five years, as the stock market regulator suspects mismatches in the accounts that misled investors.
- According to BSEC officials, the firm listed on the capital market has failed to comply with regulatory requirements and even did not respond to queries from the commission for a few years.
- Now, the commission is concerned about the business of the company and suspects that it might not have maintained its financials properly, added the officials.
- The inquiry team will also examine the amalgamation scheme through which Keya Cosmetics Limited acquired the assets, liabilities, and equities of Keya Spinning Mills, Keya Cotton, and Keya Knit Composite Limited.
- It will scrutinise the audited financial statements of these entities prepared prior to their amalgamation. In 2015, the regulator approved Keya Cosmetics to proceed with the amalgamation scheme.



<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/keya-cosmetics-under-bsec-scanner-once-again-636374>

## Economy & Industry

### Dollar crisis, inflation, revenue shortfall key issues: economists

The New Age, May 22, 2023

- Preparations for the budget for the 2023-24 financial must balance expectations in an election year with the conditions of the International Monetary Fund and tackle inflation, foreign exchange crisis and revenue shortfall.
- Balancing public satisfaction and protecting the economy is a major issue. Economists said that it had been seen in the past that election year budgets often prioritise public satisfaction over the improvement of the economy.
- As such, the opportunity to deliver a budget that is satisfactory is very limited, said macroeconomist and public policy analyst Debapriya Bhattacharya, who is also a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.
- He told UNB, 'Before the election, all governments want to give a budget that satisfies the people. But due to the financial situation, fiscal deficit and trade deficit, the opportunity is very limited for the government. If such a big effort is made, it will have a negative impact on the overall economy.'
- 'It is important to remember that this budget will be implemented by two governments. In this budget, flexibility must also be preserved. Because, if the government makes any big promises, there is doubt as to how much they can implement,' he pointed out.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/202325/dollar-crisis-inflation-revenue-shortfall-key-issues-economists>

## Banks alone can't tackle NPLs

The Daily Star, May 23, 2023

- The banking sector alone can't tackle the challenge of the higher non-performing loans (NPLs) given the severity of the issue, said the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB) yesterday.
- "The issue of defaulted loans has become a major challenge for the banking sector in recent times," said Selim RF Hussain, the chairman of the platform, which represents the chief executives of all banks in the country.
- "The central bank and commercial banks can't resolve the problems stemming from defaulted loans if the whole country and society do not take concerted efforts to this end." He made the comments at a press conference on "Bangladesh Banking Sector Outlook 2023" at the head office of Brac Bank in the capital.
- Hussain said rules had been relaxed in the banking sector in the last four to five years, particularly since 2019, as the finance ministry had thought that large borrowers would repay bad debts thanks to the flexible policies.
- "But it was found after four years that the relaxed policies have not paid off." Hussain said he had recently had a discussion with the central bank governor where he also agreed that global best practices should be followed to arrest NPLs.
- Default loans in the banking sector increased 16.8 per cent year-on-year to Tk 120,656 crore in 2022. The ratio of the default loans accounted for 8.16 per cent of the outstanding loans given out by banks as of December last year, up from 7.93 per cent a year ago, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-alone-cant-tackle-npls-3327066>

## International

### Global stocks diverge ahead of key US debt talks

The New Age, May 22, 2023

- Stock markets diverged Monday ahead of key US debt talks between president Joe Biden and congressional leaders, with both sides still apart but confident a deal could be reached to avert a catastrophic default.
- Sentiment was also supported by hopes the Federal Reserve would stand firm on interest rates at its next gathering, and Biden saying China-US relations should see a thaw 'very shortly'. The dollar steadied and oil prices advanced. After returning from the G7 summit in Japan, Biden will meet Republican House speaker Kevin McCarthy at the White House, with a warning that the government could run out of cash as soon as June.
- Wall Street opened more or less flat, with the Dow dipping and the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite edging higher. 'The stock market is certainly attentive to the situation, but it does not appear to be overly anxious about the debt ceiling not being raised,' said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare.
- 'That could change the closer we get to June without a deal, yet the futures trade this morning isn't the picture of heightened angst,' he added. In afternoon trading in Europe, London edged higher while Paris and Frankfurt eased. The German index on Friday closed at a record high, with markets recovering slightly in recent weeks on easing recession fears.
- Biden insisted Sunday he would not give in to demands for spending cuts, saying they were 'frankly unacceptable'. 'It's time for the other side to move from their extreme positions,' he said.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/202329/global-stocks-diverge-ahead-of-key-us-debt-talks>

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