EBL Securities Ltd.

DSEX 5,735.27

0.72% Gold (Ounce)

\$2,646.20

\$74.49

CSCX 9,760.43

0.47% • Oil (Barrel)

Daily News Flash



22nd September 2024











































Table of Contents

MACRO ECONOMY	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
BD SEEKS \$1.0B AID FROM JAPAN	1
FOREX MARKET ON THE MEND AS REMITTANCES REBOUND	
CHC COLLECTS TK12,353CR REVENUE IN 2 MONTHS	1
BANK & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	1
LIQUIDITY MISHANDLING LANDS DOZEN BANKS IN QUAGMIRE	
NO-FRILLS ACCOUNTS REGISTER DROP IN DEPOSITS IN Q2	
NBFIS LOSES 47,600 MORE DEPOSITORS IN 3 MONTHS	
CENBANK ASSURES LIQUIDITY SUPPORT FOR WEAK BANKS, GOVERNOR URGES PEOPLE	TO STAY
INSURANCE	2
POLITICAL FAVOURITISM ERODED CONFIDENCE IN INSURANCE SECTOR	2
CEMENT	3
CEMENT DEMAND PLUMMETS AS PUBLIC PROJECTS LIE DORMANT	
TEXTILE	3
APPAREL INDUSTRY FACES SURVIVAL THREAT, SETS SECURITY, ENERGY, FINANCING TOP P	RIORITIES
CAPITAL MARKET	
STOCKS GAIN SLIGHTLY IN PAST WEEK	
HOW ICB'S STOCKS INVESTMENT GOES DOWN THE DRAIN	







Sunday, September 22, 2024

MACRO ECONOMY

BD SEEKS \$1.0B AID FROM JAPAN

- Bangladesh has recently sought \$1.0-billion budgetary support from Japan to facilitate the country's post-flood recovery in the eastern region and also to weather the economic storm, officials said on Saturday.
- "We sent a request letter to our friendly country Japan early this month seeking its support. Bangladesh needs sizeable funds to recover the economy, damaged by some wrong macro-economic policies of the Sheikh Hasina government and sudden floods in late August," said a senior official of the Economic Relations Division (ERD).
- The government has also requested the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the New Development Bank (NDB), the French lender AFD and others for the same.

Source: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bd-seeks-10b-aid-from-japan

FOREX MARKET ON THE MEND AS REMITTANCES REBOUND

- After a prolonged period of crisis, the foreign exchange market in Bangladesh, especially the interbank forex market, is showing signs of recovery, driven by a rebound in remittance receipts and key policy interventions by the central bank.
- Currently, the difference in US dollar prices between banking channels and the kerb market stands at
- Each dollar is sold for Tk 118-120 on the interbank forex market while it fetches Tk 120 to Tk 121 in the open market, according to market insiders.

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-market-the-mend-remittances-rebound-3708861

CHC COLLECTS TK12,353CR REVENUE IN 2 MONTHS

- Customs House, Chattogram (CHC) has collected Tk 12,353.95 crore in revenue during the first two months of the fiscal year 2024-25, as part of the government's target to generate Tk 1,24,800 crore in revenue from imports across the country. The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has allocated a significant portion of this target—Tk 83,432 crore—to CHC, the largest customs station in the country.
- CHC authorities, however, noted that the revenue collection could have been higher had the country not faced ongoing instability in recent months.
- Officials from Customs House, Chattogram said that, following the success of the previous fiscal year, the NBR has set a high revenue target for the CHC this year once again. For the current FY25, a revenue target of Tk 1,24,800 crore has been set through the country's 17 customs stations, of which CHC is expected to contribute nearly 60 per cent.

Source: https://businesspostbd.com/economy/chc-collects-tk12353cr-revenue-in-2-months

BANK & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

LIQUIDITY MISHANDLING LANDS DOZEN BANKS IN QUAGMIRE

- At least 11 of mushrooming private commercial banks (PCBs) in Bangladesh faced with financial vulnerability mainly for a lack of proper liquidity management, bankers said, warranting government intervention.
- Weak corporate governance has also encouraged aggressive lending that has also pushed up the volume of classified loans significantly at these banks, they explained.
- "In some cases, the banks have used their capital alongside funds borrowed from other banks and the central bank to finance their lending," says one of them about suspicious lending that economists link to the siphoning off of funds.

Source: https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/liquidity-mishandling-lands-dozen-banks-in-quagmire

















Sunday, September 22, 2024

NO-FRILLS ACCOUNTS REGISTER DROP IN DEPOSITS IN Q2

- Deposits in no-frills accounts (NFAs) declined in April-June 2024, marking a 1.45-per cent deficit from that of the previous January-March quarter, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data.
- However, such deposits saw a substantial 14.31-per cent rise compared to the corresponding period last year.
- Total deposits in Tk 10/50/100 accounts stood at Tk 47.21 billion in the reporting quarter, revealed the central bank data. The deposits in NFAs were more than Tk 47.91 billion between January and March.

Source: https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/no-frills-accounts-register-drop-in-deposits-in-q2-1726936017

NBFIS LOSES 47,600 MORE DEPOSITORS IN 3 MONTHS

- The country's non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) lost 47,604 more depositors in the June quarter of this year, in continuation of the declining trend as the number has decreased every quarter since September 2022.
- According to a Bangladesh Bank report, as of the end of June this year, the number of depositors in the country's 35 NBFIs, including three government-owned ones, stood at 3.80 lakh, down from 4.27 lakh at the end of March.
- Central bank officials attributed the decline to various factors, including corruption, irregularities, and a lack of good governance in many NBFIs, which has eroded public trust.

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbfis-loses-47600-more-depositors-3-months-945531

CENBANK ASSURES LIQUIDITY SUPPORT FOR WEAK BANKS, GOVERNOR URGES PEOPLE TO STAY CALM

- Liquidity support from Bangladesh Bank alone may not be enough to stabilize struggling banks, prompting calls for immediate action to facilitate liquidity transfers from stronger banks to weaker ones, according to financial experts.
- Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur acknowledged the crisis, explaining that the central bank is actively working on providing liquidity support to banks facing difficulties. However, he urged depositors to remain calm. "People should not panic. The central bank and the government are doing everything possible to protect depositors' interests. Money will be returned gradually as needed," Dr. Mansur told UNB.
- Despite these reassurances, a significant number of clients are crowding branches of the affected banks, attempting to withdraw their funds. To address this, Bangladesh Bank has stepped in to offer liquidity support to these institutions. The central bank plans to stabilize the situation before initiating reforms within these banks.

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/cenbank-assures-liquidity-support-weak-banks-governor-urges-people-stay-calm-945426

INSURANCE

POLITICAL FAVOURITISM ERODED CONFIDENCE IN INSURANCE SECTOR

- More than two-thirds of the insurance companies registered in Bangladesh since 1990 were approved during the regimes of the Awami League government led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina. However, these companies could hardly attract clients due to fragile customer confidence.
- In Bangladesh, 72 insurance companies have been registered since 1991, according to the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA). The highest number of registrations, 60, occurred under Sheikh Hasina's governments.
- Economists say political patronage in business licensing activities contributed to a market that is oversaturated relative to the size of the Bangladesh economy.

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/political-favouritism-eroded-confidence-insurance-sector-3708856



NEWS

















Sunday, September 22, 2024

CEMENT

CEMENT DEMAND PLUMMETS AS PUBLIC PROJECTS LIE DORMANT

- Sales of cement nearly halved in the last couple of months as real estate developers shelved construction plans while public projects came screeching to a halt in the face of nationwide unrest and the sudden political changeover.
- According to industry insiders, dwindling sales of the major construction material have had a notable impact on the industry, with difficulties mounting for cement producers.
- "Due to the student movement and sudden change in the political scenario, the demand for cement declined by nearly 50 percent compared to usual," remarked Igbal Chowdhury, chief executive officer of LafargeHolcim Bangladesh Limited (LHBL).

Source: https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/cement-demand-plummets-public-projects-lie-dormant-3708841

TEXTILE

APPAREL INDUSTRY FACES SURVIVAL THREAT, SETS SECURITY, ENERGY, FINANCING TOP PRIORITIES

- Apparel business leaders have set three top priorities for the interim government restoring law and order, ensuring smooth supply of electricity and gas, and disciplining the banking sector - to help the country's largest export sector survive and thrive.
- At a time when neighbouring India announced new incentives for the clothing industry, Bangladesh's apparel sector has seen government incentives reduced, bank finance shrank and energy crisis worsened, they said at a roundtable.
- The industry leaders have called for a radical overhaul of the taxation system to remove procedural hassles that far outweigh the marginal incentives left for the export sectors.

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/apparel-industry-faces-survival-threat-sets-security-energy-financing-top-priorities

CAPITAL MARKET

STOCKS GAIN SLIGHTLY IN PAST WEEK

- Dhaka stocks gained slightly in the past week after decreasing in two consecutive weeks, as a section of investors went for low-priced scrips hoping for quick profits after the price corrections, market
- DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, gained 8.75 points, or 0.15 per cent, in the past week to end at 5,735.27 points, after decreasing by 2.13 points in the previous week.
- EBL Securities in its weekly market commentary said, 'The market began the week on a gloomy note as investors preferred to remain cautious amid the earnings declaration of June-closing companies. 'However, bargain hunters emerged to rescue the market by taking positions on sector-specific scrips, where recent foreign aid commitments to alleviate the foreign exchange reserve crisis also acted as a positive catalyst and ultimately compelled the benchmark index to end in positive territory,' it added.

Source: https://www.newagebd.net/post/stocks/245834/stocks-gain-slightly-in-past-week



















Sunday, September 22, 2024

HOW ICB'S STOCKS INVESTMENT GOES DOWN THE DRAIN

- The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has struggled to achieve profitability although it has invested approximately Tk14,000 crore in the capital market as of March this year, marking a substantial 460% increase since 2010.
- In 2010, according to ICB's financial report, the company recorded an operating income of Tk563 crore and a net profit of Tk436 crore with capital market investments totalling Tk2,480 crore. However, by the end of March this year, ICB reported an operating loss of Tk35.30 crore and a net loss of Tk267 crore, despite its capital market investments growing to Tk13,800 crore.
- Abu Ahmed, chairman of the ICB, told TBS he has yet to see the company's investment portfolio after his taking over the charge recently. He said, "But I heard that ICB has large investments in shares of non-performing, weak companies. Accordingly, I asked the officers concerned why they invested in these shares. "They told me that at various times they had to buy shares of these weak and nonperforming companies under pressure from the stock market regulator."

Source: https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/how-icbs-capital-market-investments-drained-down-946986

NEWS

















Sunday, September 22, 2024







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Back to Table of Contents

















