

*Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.*

### **Deeper policy reforms recommended for Bangladesh's post-LDC trade**

- Referring to a previously prepared report, the BTC said the commission reviewed 26 regional trade agreements which include five signed between developed nations, 11 between developed and developing nations, and 10 between the developing nations. It says the peripheries of the RTAs are not limited only to commodity trade--issues like trade in services, movement of natural persons, investment, intellectual property rights, trade facilitation, labour, government procurement, e-commerce, competition policy, and environment are also included.
- Bangladesh is presently party to 22 investment deals, but only the post-establishment commitments are included therein. However, reviewing the sample RTAs it was found that in the case of investment, the pre-establishment commitments will also be incorporated which Bangladesh is new to. Bangladesh also needs to set its position immediately regarding trade facilitation-related deals, like Customs Convention on the ATA Carnet for the temporary admission of goods, UN Economic Commission for Europe, Istanbul Convention-1990, and WCO Customs Data Model. The BTC also suggests taking decision through stakeholder consultations whether labour issues will be added or not in to the future FTAs and PTAs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/deeper-policy-reforms-recommended-for-bangladeshs-post-ldc-trade-1639276939>

### **Govt plans to complete 80pc vaccination target by April**

- The government plans to complete 80% per cent of its vaccination target by April next year, the Health Secretary told on Sunday. He added that by Dec'21, 59% of the targeted population will be administered with Covid vaccine. Bangladesh on Sunday received 1.2 million AstraZaneca vaccine doses from three European countries - Sweden, Switzerland and Norway- under the Covax facility.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/govt-plans-to-complete-80pc-vaccination-target-by-april-1639310869>

### **5 more services added to BIDA's One Stop Service**

- Bangladesh Investment Development Authority's (BIDA) online One Stop Service (OSS) has added five more services to its operation for different offices and departments. The services are: Third Adhoc Import Registration Certificate Recommendation (BIDA), Issuance of Income Tax Certificate to Foreign Citizens (NBR), Issuance of Export Registration Certificate (Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports), Trade License (Chattogram City Corporation) and Issuance of Country of Origin Certificate (Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries). With the launch of the new services, a total of 56 services including 18 services of BIDA and 38 services of 17 other organisations will be provided through OSS.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/5-more-services-added-bidas-one-stop-service-342436>

### **Bangladesh steps up yarn, fabrics export**

- Bangladesh shipped yarn and fabrics worth USD 154.29 million in FY21, up 15.52% year-on-year. As a result, Bangladesh is currently the second-largest exporter of garment items worldwide after China with a 6.8% global market share. Yarn, fabrics and waste yarn worth USD 80.48 million were exported from Bangladesh during 5MFY22, registering a 38.73% year-on-year growth, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.
- According to the president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), textile millers and yarn and fabrics users in Turkey, South Korea, Egypt and Taiwan are lobbying with the BTMA to buy more yarn and fabrics from Bangladesh.

He added that local spinners and weavers are expanding their capacity to produce man-made fibres because of its growing demand. In the next two years, he expects that Bangladesh's yarn production capacity will see an addition of 2.5 million spindles. Currently, 13.5 million spindles are used to manufacture textile raw materials, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/news/bangladesh-steps-yarn-fabrics-export-2916236>

### **Teletalk launches 5G service in six areas on trial basis**

- Bangladesh has entered the fifth-generation (5G) era as Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser virtually inaugurated the service at a function in the city on Sunday. The state-owned telecom operator Teletalk launched the service at six sites on a trial basis.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/teletalk-launches-5g-service-in-six-areas-on-trial-basis-1639322857>

### **Raw material price hike sends glass prices soaring 40%**

- Glass traders said prices of architectural, interior, automotive and mirror-making glass have surged by 30%-40% in retail, mostly owing to a supercharged construction demand and international supply crunch of the raw materials. According to glass traders, per square foot of window glass, locally known as "Thai glass", is now at BDT 130, up from the previous BDT 80, mercury glass BDT 100 up from the previous BDT 65, and tinted glass BDT 110 up from the previous BDT 75. Flat glass prices per 0.04 inch have spiked by more than 30%. All the raw materials have registered a 30%-35% hike in the international market, thus driving up the rates of fine products.
- The glass industry in the country is growing by 8%-10% every year, mainly due to the increase in commercial building projects, with local companies meeting 90% of domestic demand, industry insiders say. The annual demand for glass is 25 crore square feet, and the annual production capacity of private and public glass manufacturers is 32 crore square feet. The current size of the local glass industry is to the tune of around BDT 2,500-2,500 crore.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/raw-material-price-hike-sends-glass-prices-soaring-40-342193>

### **Most banks slow to utilise full capacity**

- Thirty-two banks which formed special funds for stock market investments under Bangladesh Bank guidelines are yet to utilise 56% of their aggregated funds even after 20 months of the introduction of the scope by the central bank. The rest of the country's 60 banks have not showed interest till now to invest in the country's capital market by forming special funds.
- The aggregated amount of the funds formed by the banks reached BDT 4,510 crore at the end of November 2021. Of the funds, the banks have so far invested BDT 1,990.04 crore in the capital market, representing 44.1% of the funds formed by them. On average, the banks invested BDT 94.76 crore. Banks' exposure in the capital market was 14.4 per cent in solo basis and 23.9 per cent in consolidated basis at the end of June 2021, a BB report showed.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/157189/most-banks-slow-to-utilise-full-capacity>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.37	USD 23.85	49.15%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.76	USD 23.96	46.25%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,783.10	(USD 112.00)	-5.91%
DSEX	6,920.35	1,518.28	28.11%
S&P 500	4,712.02	955.95	25.45%
FTSE 100	7,291.78	831.26	12.87%
BSE SENSEX	58,786.67	11,035.34	23.11%
KSE-100	43,395.78	-359.60	-0.82%
CSEALL	11,393.48	4,619.26	68.19%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 85.37 BDT****1 GBP = 113.18 BDT****1 Euro = 96.56 BDT****1 INR = 1.13 BDT**

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### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

#### Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	<a href="mailto:salim@bracepl.com">salim@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 221
Nazmus Saadat, CFA	Research Analyst	<a href="mailto:nazmus.saadat@bracepl.com">nazmus.saadat@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 229
Anika Mafiz	Research Analyst	<a href="mailto:anika.mafiz@bracepl.com">anika.mafiz@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 206
Fahim Hassan	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:fahim.hassan@bracepl.com">fahim.hassan@bracepl.com</a>	01709 636 546

#### International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	<a href="mailto:bappi@bracepl.com">bappi@bracepl.com</a>	01730 357 991
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### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

[www.bracepl.com](http://www.bracepl.com)

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (880)-2-9852446-50

Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52

E-Mail: [research@bracepl.com](mailto:research@bracepl.com)