

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.

Make new budget capable of tackling global shocks: experts

- Bangladesh may face internal and external shocks if in the upcoming budget it does not consider issues related to the Russia-Ukraine war, recovery of economies from Covid-19 pandemic and the latest collapse of the Lankan economy, experts said today.
- They have pointed that the balance of payment (BoP) was more than USD 10 billion in the last 10 months, when the import surged to meet the growing demand. At the end of the fiscal year, the BoP will hit USD 20 billion whereas historically it hovered between USD 7-8 billion.
- Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute, said that considering the current global scenario, the BoP at USD 20 billion is unusual at this moment. Considering the current global context, the government should take a proactive and pre-emptive decision in the upcoming budget so that the externalities can be offset by taking wise decisions, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/make-new-budget-capable-tackling-global-shocks-experts-2996291>

Korean co seeks to form JV in BD

- A Korean company, Ace Pharmaceutical, wants to establish a joint venture company in Bangladesh to produce toiletries and cosmetics items including perfumes and hand sanitizers. It also wants to export its 'cosmetics and hand sanitizers' to Bangladesh.
- Currently, the annual domestic market of cosmetics and toiletries items is around BDT 110 billion. The local producers are undergoing hard times due to huge challenges including huge amounts of imported products, sector insiders said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/korean-co-seeks-to-form-jv-in-bd-1648917358>

Bangladesh has high prevalence of mobile money account use: Survey

- According to a recent survey report published by the GSM Association, 30% of Bangladeshi adults aged 15 and above used mobile money accounts for saving, 15% to pay insurance premiums and 14% to get a loan in 2021. When compared with pre-pandemic times, 32% adults more frequently used mobile money accounts for savings and 22% with no change in frequency. When it comes to getting a loan, it was 35% more frequent than what was before Covid-19, while the use of mobile money accounts was 38% more in paying insurance premiums.
- According to GSMA's Mobile Money Prevalence Index (MMPI), Bangladesh's overall score was between 0.60 and 0.79 for prevalence of mobile money which was categorised 'High'. On this scale, South Asian country India scored less than 0.19 which was categorised 'very low' with Egypt and Pakistan in the medium category, scoring between 0.40 and 0.59.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-has-high-prevalence-mobile-money-account-use-survey-395642>

Nagad gets extension for fifth time

- The Bangladesh Bank has once again renewed the interim licence of Nagad for another six months as the Bangladesh Post Office (BPO) is yet to form a subsidiary to run the mobile financial service. This is the fifth extension after the state-run agency secured provisional approval from the central bank in March 2020.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nagad-gets-extension-fifth-time-2996611>

Apparel exporters on a tightrope ride

- With surging production costs not matching the prices offered by global buyers, Bangladeshi apparel exporters are walking a tightrope amid uncertainty over survival in the long run by overcoming these challenging times. RMG exporters are already grappling with gradual hikes in raw material prices, sky-high freight charges, increase in domestic utility tariffs, and COVID situation in China. As a result, pouring export orders are not ensuring their business viability, industry people say.
- Apparel Industry leaders have told The Business Standard that many readymade garment exporters in the country are now struggling to break-even. Local value addition in the country's RMG industry has dropped to its lowest level in the wake of the upsurge in production costs, they said. Economists, however, have observed that some European countries and the US are grappling with high inflation rates not seen for the last 40 years which might adversely impact the global economy as well as apparel exports growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/apparel-exporters-tightrope-ride-396046>

Ceramic exports to face tough tariffs: study

- Exporters of locally made ceramics will have to endure tough competition after Bangladesh graduates from the least developed country (LDC) status in 2026 as such products will face 12.7% tariff on average when entering international markets, according to a recent study. Bangladesh's ceramic products currently enjoy 10% incentives on export.
- Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said Bangladesh would face competition from countries like India and Vietnam, which have already signed free trade agreements (FTA) with the EU and UK.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ceramic-exports-face-tough-tariffs-study-2996491>

DSE woos Partex Group to go public

- Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) recently held a meeting with Partex Star Group to assess its associated and subsidiary companies' inherent capacity to go public. The main objective of the meeting held on Wednesday in Narayanganj was to motivate the group in offloading the shares of its associated companies in the stock market.
- "Partex Star Group has many companies. We sat with the representatives of the business group as part of our marketing strategy set for inspiring quality companies to raise fund from the primary market," said M. Shaifur Rahman, chief operating officer (COO) of the DSE. "Partex Star Group has many companies. We sat with the representatives of the business group as part of our marketing strategy set for inspiring quality companies to raise fund from the primary market," said M. Shaifur Rahman, chief operating officer (COO) of the DSE.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dse-woos-partex-group-to-go-public-1648916634>

BSEC relaxes rule allowing Sonali Paper to issue rights share

- The stock market regulator has approved the relaxation of a rule relating to issuing right shares of the Sonali Paper and Board Mills, a concern of Younus Group of Industries to comply with the regulatory obligation to maintain a minimum paid-up capital of BDT30 crore. Currently, the paid-up capital of the company is BDT21.96 crore. The company wants to increase its paid-up capital by issuing rights shares at a ratio of 1R:2 (1 right share against 2 existing shares held) at BDT10 per value.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-relaxes-rule-allowing-sonali-paper-issue-rights-share-396034>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 103.12	USD 27.91	37.11%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 109.00	USD 31.22	40.14%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,927.01	USD 97.81	5.35%
DSEX	6,753.76	-2.89	-0.04%
S&P 500	4,602.45	-163.73	-3.44%
FTSE 100	7,578.75	194.21	2.63%
BSE SENSEX	58,683.99	430.17	0.74%
KSE-100	44,337.56	-258.51	-0.58%
CSEALL	9,294.89	-2,931.12	-23.97%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 86.23 BDT****1 GBP = 113.23 BDT****1 Euro = 96.35 BDT****1 INR = 1.13 BDT**

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