

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.

Macro:**Reserves now USD 34.47 Bn after ACU payment**

- The country's forex reserves stood at USD 34.47 Bn after Bangladesh paid USD 1.3 Bn to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) for the September-October period on Monday.
- Abul Kalam Azad, spokesperson of the Bangladesh Bank, told The Business Standard, "We will get its reflection tomorrow [Tuesday]." So, at the end of Monday, the reserves were still shown at USD 35.77 Bn. In the last four months of the current fiscal year, the central bank sold USD 5.14 Bn from the reserves.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/reserves-now-3447b-after-acu-payment-527694>

IMF didn't raise floor price issue in today's meeting: BSEC

- A rumor was going on that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may ask the stock market regulator to lift the floor price as a condition of a new USD 4.5 Bn loan, but the lender did not raise the issue in a meeting with the BSEC today.
- Rather, the IMF insisted that every activity of the stock market should be automated as it will reduce time and costs of the stakeholders.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imf-didnt-raise-floor-price-issue-todays-meeting-bsec-3162791>

Falling cotton price failing to cheer exporters

- Although cotton prices have declined sharply in the international futures markets, spinners and garment exporters in Bangladesh are not feeling elated owing to the dearer US dollar, the energy crisis, and the fall in demand for finished goods.
- Apparel manufacturers are also receiving fewer orders from international buyers amid the slide in demand from consumers buckling under deep inflationary pains caused by the Russia-Ukraine war.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/falling-cotton-price-failing-cheer-exporters-3163166>

How banks' easy remittance dream turned into a loss-making nightmare abroad

- After an exhausting run, Sonali Bank shuttered its London shop mid-August this year. Operations of the branch dated back to 1999 when the state-owned lender began its UK journey as Sonali Trade and Finance Ltd. The main goal of the London office was to help Bangladeshi nationals abroad in remitting money home.
- In 2001, the office added some extra tasks to the daily routine. It would collect deposits, distribute loans and guarantee letter of credits (LCs) for external trades. As the business expansion was not in line with Sonali's financial health, Bangladesh had to inject dollars from its forex reserve into the ailing lender multiple times.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/how-banks-easy-remittance-dream-turned-loss-making-nightmare-abroad-527362>

Foreign debt burden of pvt sector a concern: IMF

- The private sector's debt from external sources will further increase repayment pressure on Bangladesh, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) observed on Monday.
- In a meeting with the Economic Relations Division (ERD) on the same day, the IMF said Bangladesh would not have faced the problem if only the public sector and state institutions had foreign debts, a source said.
- As all the debt has to be repaid in dollars, the currency crisis is being exacerbated by the foreign debts of the private sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-debt-burden-pvt-sector-concern-imf-527738>

This is how project aid utilization is gearing up

- Ministries and divisions spent more foreign funds in the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to previous years, reflecting that development works gained some pace amid calls for faster project implementation to avail more external assistance.
- The rate of project aid utilization is high in power and energy projects as the country's electricity and gas crisis kept deepening since the Ukraine war that made the global fuel market volatile.
- The Power Division is one of the top performers, utilizing over a fifth of BDT 29.84 Bn project aid allocated for the whole fiscal year 2022-23 in the July-September period. It was followed by the Energy and Mineral Resources Division and the railway, which spent 14% and 11% of their foreign fund allocations of BDT 1.42 Bn and BDT 11.81 Bn respectively for the year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-project-aid-utilisation-gearing-527754>

Legacy issues, not just external factors, behind economic woes: analysts

- Not only the external factors such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the energy crisis and supply bottlenecks but also the unaddressed legacy issues that are responsible for the current ills of Bangladesh's economy, said economists yesterday.
- They listed a surge in inflation, the fluctuation in the exchange rate, depleting reserves, fewer jobs, lack of purchasing power, inequality, lack of good governance in the financial sector and high non-performing loans as the major bottlenecks that are hurting the economy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/legacy-issues-not-just-external-factors-behind-economic-woes-analysts-3163181>

Stocks:**WMSHIPYARD | Western Marine incurs losses for 2nd year**

- Western Marine Shipyard Limited posted losses in the financial year that ended on June 30. The ship manufacturer incurred a loss of BDT 11.8 Mn in 2021-22 against BDT 9.408 Mn a year earlier. The company reported negative earnings per share of BDT 0.05 for the last financial year compared to BDT 0.04 in negative in 2020-21. So, the board of directors did not recommend any dividends for 2021-22.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/western-marine-incurs-losses-2nd-year-3163101>

ISLAMIINS | IPO subscription of Islami Commercial Ins begins Nov 20

- The subscription of the initial public offering (IPO) of Islami Commercial Insurance is going to start on November 20 and will run until November 24, an official of the Dhaka Stock Exchange said. The insurer will issue 20.2 Mn shares to raise BDT 202.6 Mn from the stock market. It will use the IPO proceeds to invest in fixed deposits with banks, government securities and listed stocks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ipo-subscription-islami-commercial-ins-begins-nov-20-3163051>

AOL | Associated Oxygen posts 24% profit drop

- Industrial and medical gas producer and supplier Associated Oxygen Limited has registered a 23.74% year-on-year fall in profit in fiscal 2021-22 in its latest financial report. Following the decline in profit, the company recommended a 10% cash dividend for general shareholders, except director-sponsors, whereas in the previous fiscal year, it had paid a 5% cash and a 7% stock dividend. In fiscal 2021-22, the company posted earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 1.67 which was BDT 2.19 in the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/associated-oxygen-posts-24-profit-drop-527750>

LHBL | LafargeHolcim launches Supercrete Plus

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh launched a new cement brand called "Supercrete Plus", the best fair face cement in Bangladesh, in Dhaka on Sunday. "Supercrete Plus is an unparalleled sustainable and innovative solution for the Bangladesh market. We are confident that customers will like the new innovative construction solution that comes with strength and durability," Surana said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/lafargeholcim-launches-supercrete-plus-3163071>

WALTONHIL | Walton registers loss for the first time in its history

- The rapid appreciation of the dollar against the taka has resulted in losses to Walton Hi-Tech Industries – the country's electronics and technology giant – for the first time in its history.
- In the first quarter of the fiscal 2022-23, Walton incurred a loss of BDT 460 Mn and the earnings per share went down to BDT -1.52 from the BDT 2.8098 Bn profit and BDT 9.28 earnings per share growth in the same period last year. The dollar exchange rate in July 2021 was BDT 84.82, but it started to rise from May this year. In May, the price in the open market exceeded BDT 100. Compared to last year, the value of the dollar rose by 27%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/walton-registers-loss-first-time-its-history-527730>

APEXFOODS | Apex Foods posts stunning 198% profit growth amid revenue fall

- In a surprising turn of events, Apex Foods Limited – a shrimp exporter – has reported a 198% growth in its profit in the first three months of fiscal 2022-23 despite a 48% decline in its revenue. In a stock exchange filing on Monday, the company said its earnings per share (EPS) have increased significantly due to efficiently running the company as well as cost minimisation. During the July-September quarter, it reported BDT 11.4 Mn profit, which was BDT 3.843 Mn in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/apex-foods-posts-stunning-198-profit-growth-amid-revenue-fall-527726>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 91.59	USD 16.38	21.78%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 97.77	USD 19.99	25.70%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,672.81	(USD 156.39)	-8.55%
DSEX	6,393.03	-363.63	-5.38%
S&P 500	3,806.80	-959.38	-20.13%
FTSE 100	7,299.99	-84.55	-1.14%
BSE SENSEX	61,185.15	2,931.33	5.03%
KSE-100	42,047.36	-2,548.71	-5.72%
CSEALL	8,491.80	-3,734.21	-30.54%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 101.27 BDT****1 GBP = 116.55 BDT****1 Euro = 101.39 BDT****1 INR = 101.39 BDT**

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