

"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:**Loans from export fund get costlier**

- Bangladesh Bank yesterday raised the interest rate for loans from its export development fund (EDF) by 1% point to make borrowing costlier and save foreign currencies from falling, a move that comes in less than four months since it increased the rate for loans under this special fund.
- From now on, exporters will have to pay 4% interest annually for foreign currency loans under the special fund from banks, up from 3% earlier.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/loans-export-fund-get-costlier-3164066>

BB relaxes rules for funding coal-fired power plants

- Bangladesh Bank yesterday relaxed its rules to facilitate lending for the establishment of coal-based power plants and buying the dirty fuel to generate electricity. As per central bank guidelines, lenders cannot disburse more than 25% of their capital.
- Now though, the upper limit will not be applicable for the next five years for financing coal-fired power plants, Bangladesh Bank said in a notification. However, the central bank will determine the upper ceiling beyond 25% for this period, it added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-relaxes-rules-funding-coal-fired-power-plants-3164101>

Bangladesh inflation slips below 9% in October

- Planning Minister MA Mannan has said that overall inflation edged down to 8.91 % on a point-to-point basis in October and hoped it would maintain the downward trend in the coming days.
- Meanwhile, the wage growth rate rose to 6.91 % in October from 6.86 % in September, Mannan said after a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council on Tuesday.
- "The slight easing of the inflation rate and the wage growth rate ticking up will give lower-income people some relief," he said. Consumer prices hit a 10-year high of 9.52 % in August before slipping to 9.1% in September.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-inflation-slips-below-9pc-in-october-1667904380>

Govt to shell out BDT 19.14 Bn to set up 5 jetties

- The government is going to undertake a major project to set up five jetties and necessary infrastructure in the economic zones in the country's south-eastern part to ensure the comfortable and safe movement of people and landing facilities and boost tourism.
- The shipping ministry has taken up the project, which may be placed at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-shell-out-tk-1914cr-set-5-jetties-3163156>

Banks allowed to loan working capital to CMSME from refinance scheme

- Banks will be able to provide loans to cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises (CMSME) for their working capital from the refinance scheme of BDT 250 Bn.
- Earlier, banks could not give loans for this, but now banks can provide up to 40% of their disbursed loans to CMSMEs as working capital.
- In a circular issued by the Bangladesh Bank's SME and Special Programs Department on Tuesday, it said due to the current ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and rising global inflation, the entrepreneurs of the CMSME sector in Bangladesh are also facing huge losses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-allowed-loan-working-capital-cmsme-refinance-scheme-528334>

No 3G network in Bangladesh from 2023: Jabbar

- The third generation or 3G network will not remain available in the country from next year as the technology is no longer necessary thanks to the expansion of 4G network, Telecom Minister Mustafa Jabbar said today. "We no longer need 3G. Only 2G and 4G services will remain active." The minister also urged the country's mobile network operators to improve service quality.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-3g-network-bangladesh-2023-jabbar-3163916>

Increasing FDI: where it pinches?

- Bangladesh has made gradual progress in reducing some constraints on foreign direct investments (FDIs). However, many feel a lot needs to be done when it comes to improving the ease of doing business here.
- Corruption has been coined as a major obstacle that continues to hinder foreign investment as per "The 2022 Investment Climate Statement" released earlier this year. Challenges in security, political interference, and land disputes are also acting as major barriers to investment. Coupled with this comes political cronyism and 'licence raj'.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/increasing-fdi-where-it-pinches-3164046>

How to navigate a recession?

- A recession is a substantial decline in overall economic activity, lasting more than a few months, typically visible in real gross domestic product, actual income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales.
- In maximum recessions, economic productivity and employment decline simultaneously. Ultimately, higher unemployment leads to lower consumer spending and that creates a vicious cycle.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/how-navigate-recession-3163136>

BTMA urges govt to discourage yarn import

- Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) has urged the government to discourage yarn imports amid the ongoing dollar crisis as the local spinning mill owners have huge stockpiles due to a decline in demand. On Tuesday, the organisation sent a letter to the Bangladesh Bank in this regard, saying the step would open a way to sell the stockpiled yarn.
- The letter requested the BB governor to take initiatives to discourage imports against back-to-back letters of credit (LC) to save dollars.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/btma-urges-govt-discourage-yarn-import-528358>

Stocks:**IBP | Indo-Bangla pharma posts 80% profit fall**

- Indo-Bangla Pharmaceuticals Limited has reported an 80% decline in profit in the year that ended on June 30. The drug-maker made a profit of BDT 25.6 Mn in 2021-22, way lower than BDT 137 Mn it generated a year earlier. The company reported earnings per share of BDT 0.22 for the last financial year against BDT 1.18 in 2020-21.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/indo-bangla-pharma-posts-80pc-profit-fall-3163951>

MEGHNACEM | Meghna Cement returns to profit

- The cement manufacturer clocked a profit of BDT 55.8 Mn in 2021-22 after incurring a loss of BDT 24.6 Mn a year earlier. The company reported earnings per share of BDT 1.95 in 2021-22 against BDT 0.86 negative in 2020-21. The net asset value per share, however, slipped to BDT 57.90 in the last financial year from BDT 62.49 a year earlier, while the net operating cash flow per share fell to BDT 15.14 from BDT 42.66 during the period.
- The board of directors has recommended a 5% cash and a 5% stock dividend for 2021-22. The board has recommended the bonus share as the retained earnings will be invested in new material handling projects, said Meghna Cement in a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/meghna-cement-returns-profit-3163996>

SAPORTL | Summit Alliance Port's profit surges 50%

- Summit Alliance Port Limited reported a 50% rise in profit in the year that ended on June 30. The inland container depot and container freight services provider made a profit of BDT 281.9 Mn in 2021-22, up from BDT 187.1 Mn a year earlier. The company reported consolidated earnings per share of BDT 1.19 for 2021-22, which was BDT 0.79 a year earlier.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/summit-alliance-ports-profit-surges-50pc-3164001>

EASTRNLUB | Eastern Lubricant profit tumbles on low demand

- The state-owned firm declared 40% cash and 10% stock dividend for FY22, which was 140% cash and 20% stock dividend for the previous year. State-owned Eastern Lubricant Blenders witnessed a blow in FY22 owing to zero import of base oil for lower demand from its distributors – Padma Oil, Meghna Petroleum and Jamuna Oil.
- During the year, the net profit of the company stood at BDT 11.3 Mn, which was BDT 51.9 Mn in the previous fiscal year. Its earnings per share dropped to BDT 9.50 from BDT 52.18 in the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-lubricant-profit-tumbles-low-demand-528382>

SHASHADNIM | Shasha Denims incurs BDT 1.22 Bn losses for closed power plant

- Shasha Denims Limited incurred losses worth BDT 1.22 Bn in fiscal 2021-22 due to the shutdown of its power plant despite making a profit of BDT 400 Mn in its clothing business. Finally, the company's net loss in the last financial year stood at BDT 810 Mn, with earnings per share (EPS) turning negative to BDT 5.75, according to the auditor.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/shasha-denims-incurs-tk122cr-losses-closed-power-plant-528362>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 88.73	USD 13.52	17.98%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 95.27	USD 17.49	22.49%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,710.50	(USD 118.70)	-6.49%
DSEX	6,384.10	-372.56	-5.51%
S&P 500	3,828.11	-938.07	-19.68%
FTSE 100	7,306.14	-78.40	-1.06%
BSE SENSEX	61,185.15	2,931.33	5.03%
KSE-100	42,265.36	-2,330.71	-5.23%
CSEALL	8,267.77	-3,958.24	-32.38%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 100.89 BDT****1 GBP = 116.48 BDT****1 Euro = 101.64 BDT****1 INR = 1.23 BDT**

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