

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:**Revenue collection down by 13% in Q1, reaching target a challenge**

- Revenue collection fell by 13% in the first quarter — July to September — after growth in the first two months of the current fiscal year 2022-23, NBR's latest data reveals. According to the latest data, the total revenue collection target through NBR has been set at BDT 3700 Bn in the budget of FY 2022-23.
- The provisional statistics of NBR show that BDT 657.37 Bn has been collected from July to September of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/revenue-collection-down-13-q1-reaching-target-challenge-515218>

Power generation cost up 4 times as local gas supply dwindles

- The cost of generating one kilowatt of electricity has increased four times from BDT 2.50 to BDT 10 over the last 13 years, thanks to a continuous depletion in gas-based generation and a subsequent rise in the share of imported liquid fuels in power production.
- The cost of power generated in plants fired by imported fuels was higher than that of gas-powered electricity, and the cost has soared to a dramatic high owing to the current energy market volatility, bleeding the state-owned power agency white.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/power-generation-cost-4-times-local-gas-supply-dwindles-515342>

App-based economy expands, leaving workers unprotected

- The growing popularity of on-demand online booking for a wide range of services – from ride sharing to repairing tasks or house help – or e-commerce orders is causing a mushrooming growth of relevant online platforms in the country.
- Also, more and more app-based gig workers, mostly the youth, are serving them as independent contractors for a living wage through freelancing, instead of waiting for the desired status as an employee.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/app-based-economy-expands-leaving-workers-unprotected-515318>

Rising external debt poses risks to forex reserves

- Rising external debt may pose some risks to Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves in the future as higher debt servicing will be required on accumulated loans, said the Bangladesh Bank yesterday. The country's external debt has been rising since 2016 in tandem with notable economic growth.
- Outstanding external debt stood at USD 90.8 Bn in 2021, up 28.4% from a year ago. Short-term external debt surged 64.6% last year while long-term external debt increased by 21.8%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rising-external-debt-poses-risks-forex-reserves-3145446>

Movement of containerised cargo drops at Ctg port

- Import and export of containerised cargo through the country's premier seaport in Chattogram fell in the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to that last year, indicating a slowdown in foreign trade resulting from global economic downtrends.
- Transport of imports and exports through the port also underwent a gradual downfall in the last three months till September. Overall container handling at the port also came down to its lowest in September. According to data from Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), 0.353 Mn TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of import-laden containers were unloaded at the port in the last three months till September this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/port-and-shipping/news/movement-containerised-cargo-drops-ctg-port-3144641>

Plots still vacant at 60-year old industrial estates

- Although the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) had established some industrial estates as far back as the 1960s, a number of plots at these estates remain unallocated as work on land filling, constructing roads, ensuring security services and other utilities is still ongoing.
- The industrial estate in Barishal is one such case as it was established back in 1960 on 130 acres of land, 33 acres of which remain low. As a result, 109 of the 470 plots available are yet to be allotted.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/plots-still-vacant-60-year-old-industrial-estates-3145426>

Aggressive IT export campaign urgent with govt support

- Bangladesh's IT industry needs government support to aggressively promote local entrepreneurs' prowess among global clients, said Russell T Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).
- "it is high time to diversify the export basket with technology products and services...A government project of BDT 1 Bn for industry promotion, led by the BASIS, would play a crucial role in IT exports," he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/aggressive-it-export-campaign-urgent-govt-support-3145421>

Bangladesh, India don't compete with each other in garment sector, says BGMEA President

- Bangladesh and India do not compete with each other in the global market for exports of apparels, rather the two neighbours complement each other, said Faruque Hassan, the president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).
- He said when Bangladesh gains from exports of garment products India also gains as many of the inputs like petrochemicals and other accessories come from India.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladesh-india-dont-compete-each-other-garment-sector-says-bgmea-president-514798>

Stocks:

FEKDIL | Far East Knitting clocks 40% higher profit

- Far East Knitting & Dyeing Industries Limited posted more than 40% higher profit in the last financial year. The textile manufacturer made a profit of BDT 227.4 Mn in 2021-22, which was BDT 161.8 Mn a year earlier. The company reported earnings per share of BDT 1.04 for 2021-22, which was BDT 0.74 the previous financial year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/far-east-knitting-clocks-40pc-higher-profit-3145406>

IFADAUTOS | Ifad Autos allowed to divert BDT 3 Bn to associate firm

- Ifad Autos Limited, an authorised dealer and assembler of Ashok Leyland's vehicles, has got exemption from the Bangladesh Securities Exchange Commission's (BSEC) rules so it can divert BDT 3 Bn, which will be raised through the issuance of bonds, to its associate firm.
- As per the BSEC rules, a company is not allowed to invest funds raised through bonds in its associates or subsidiaries or sister concerns. But deeming it appropriate, the commission in a recent notice said Ifad Autos Limited should be exempted from the rules of the BSEC in the interest of investors and the securities market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ifad-autos-allowed-divert-tk300cr-associate-firm-515314>

EXCHANGE | Banks not willing to sell treasury bonds due to price cap

- Banks are reluctant to sell treasury bonds because of the ceiling the securities regulator has imposed on the price in stock market trading.
- Though the trading of government securities began a week ago, general investors are unable to buy the bonds as banks and financial institutions hold almost all treasury bonds. Bankers say the bond pricing should be left to the market – determined by supply and demand.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/banks-not-willing-sell-treasury-bonds-due-price-cap-515334>

APEXFOODS | Apex Foods profit soars 148% riding on shrimp export growth

- Apex Foods Limited registered a whopping 148% growth in its net profit for the 2021-22 fiscal year compared to the previous fiscal, thanks to a surge in the country's shrimp exports.
- The company's net profit increased to BDT 29 Mn in FY22, from BDT 11.8 Mn in FY21. Its earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 5.14 in FY22, according to the company's stock exchange filing on Monday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/apex-foods-profit-soars-148-riding-shrimp-export-growth-515306>

FARCHEM | With BDT 3 Bn investment, Far Chemical enters spinning business

- Far Chemical Industries entered the spinning industry by starting production on a trial basis Monday, according to a company disclosure, as the stock market-listed firm aims at tapping deemed export potentials.
- The business diversification costs Far Chemical BDT 3 Bn in the spinning investment, according to the company disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tk300cr-investment-far-chemical-enters-spinning-business-515350>

BANKASIA | Bank Asia signs 'issuing bank agreement' with Exim Bank of India

- Bank Asia has signed an "Issuing Bank Agreement" with the Export-Import (Exim) Bank of India to avail a "Trade Assistance Programme" (TAP).
- The facility will enable exporters and importers to access reliable and reasonable terms and conditions favourable for trade finance as well as provide liquidity and stability in trade finance systems.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bank-asia-signs-issuing-bank-agreement-exim-bank-india-3145386>

CITYBANK | City Bank offers 2% extra on Malaysian remittance

- City Bank has announced that it would provide Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia 2% of whatever they send home as remittance on top of the 2.5% provided by the government as an incentive. The offer will be effective from October 23 and will continue for three months.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/city-bank-offers-2pc-extra-malaysian-remittance-3145381>

DHAKABANK | Dhaka Bank inks issuing bank deal with Exim Bank of India

- Dhaka Bank signed an issuing bank agreement with Exim Bank of India under the latter's Trade Assistance Programme in Dhaka yesterday.
- Consequently, bilateral trade settlement with India will increase manifold and this agreement will act as a catalyst to alleviate the growing flow of trade.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/dhaka-bank-inks-issuing-bank-deal-exim-bank-india-3144481>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 86.82	USD 11.61	15.44%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 92.93	USD 15.15	19.48%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,644.47	(USD 184.73)	-10.10%
DSEX	6,413.02	-343.64	-5.09%
S&P 500	3,677.95	-1,088.23	-22.83%
FTSE 100	6,920.24	-464.30	-6.29%
BSE SENSEX	58,410.98	157.16	0.27%
KSE-100	41,755.45	-2,840.62	-6.37%
CSEALL	8,990.72	-3,235.29	-26.46%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 101.92 BDT****1 GBP = 115.57 BDT****1 Euro = 100.22 BDT****1 INR = 1.24 BDT**

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