

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:**More effective steps needed to widen tax net**

- Of the roughly 10 Mn TIN holders eligible for taxation in various categories, only 3.4 Mn individuals and 34,000 corporates regularly file tax returns. A major reason for this disparity is the lack of close monitoring by the tax regulator, indicating that its steps so far are not enough to widen the tax net.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/more-effective-steps-needed-widen-tax-net-3682496>

China urged to cut interest, extend repayment period by 10 years

- Bangladesh has requested China to lower the interest rate on high-interest loans taken from the country, as well as to extend the repayment period by an additional 10 years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/china-urged-cut-interest-extend-repayment-period-10-years-921441>

Chinese-funded projects will continue: Envoy

- Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen assured that projects funded by China in Bangladesh will proceed as planned. Regarding concerns over Chinese loan interest rates, he said, "Objections raised by Bangladesh regarding the interest rates were discussed. There is an opportunity for further discussions on this matter."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/chinese-funded-projects-will-continue-envoy-921006>

Economy seeing renewed optimism

- Institutional reforms, aimed at improving governance and restoring business confidence, include the appointment of a new Supreme Court chief justice. The resignation of the Bangladesh Bank governor and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission chairman present further paths towards reform.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-seeing-renewed-optimism-3682516>

Sectors & Industries:**BANK | No special liquidity for ailing banks**

- As of August 7, the remaining six lender's current account deficit with Bangladesh Bank stood at BDT 146.21 Bn. However, the combined shortfall is BDT 207.74 Bn if their cash reserve ratio deficit is considered, as per central bank data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-special-liquidity-ailing-banks-3682521>

BANK | Need favourable legal framework to recover NPLs

- A favourable legal framework for facilitating the recovery of non-performing loans (NPLs) should be formed in consultation with the attorney general and legal experts, according to Selim RF Hussain, chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/need-favourable-legal-framework-recover-npls-3682366>

ENERGY | Summit reviewing cross-border power deals after India rule change

- India amended its power export rules less than a week after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled Bangladesh early this month amid deadly protests, enabling Adani Power to connect its Godda coal-fired plant - the only generating station under contract to export all its output - to India's domestic grid.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/summit-reviewing-cross-border-power-deals-after-india-rule-change-1724171973>

BANK | Cenbank allows banks to transfer 30% of capital to offshore units

- According to the circular, "It has also been decided that Off-shore Banking Operations (OBOs) which already have excess borrowings (above 30% of regulatory capital) from Digital Banking Units (DBUs) shall adjust within 31 December 2024."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-allows-banks-transfer-30-capital-offshore-units-921416>

BANK | BB increases foreign currency support for energy import

- According to official sources, the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), which is responsible for petroleum fuel import, has dues of USD 220 Mn while Petrobangla has a pending bill of USD 280 Mn for paying to foreign companies including Chevron Bangladesh for gas purchase.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bb-increases-foreign-currency-support-for-energy-import-1724171986>

Stocks:**NBL | BB dissolves National Bank board for third time**

- In an order issued by BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur, the banking regulator said it has dissolved the bank's board for the sake of the depositors' money and public interest.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-dissolves-national-bank-board-third-time-3682076>

EXCHANGE | BSEC freezes S Alam, allies' stakes in six banks

- The securities regulator earlier in the day was instructed by the central bank to freeze their shares at Islami Bank Bangladesh, First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank, Union Bank, and Bangladesh Commerce Bank so that they cannot buy, sell or transfer the shares without prior approval.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/s-alam-family-members-cant-sell-transfer-shares-6-banks-bsec-921281>

EXCHANGE | BSEC asks all independent director of DSE, CSE to resign

- A source from the BSEC confirmed the matter to The Business Standard, stating that, "as soon as possible, all the independent directors including chairman of the CSE and all independent directors of the DSE were verbally instructed to resign."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-asks-all-independent-director-dse-cse-resign-921391>

EXCHANGE | Legal reforms needed to allow bourses to sell brokers' assets

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has so far paid only BDT 250 Mn from the Investors' Protection Fund to the victims of fund embezzlement on a pro-rata basis. Moreover, BDT 172.38 Mn was collected from Tamha, Crest and Banco securities for refunds.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/legal-reforms-needed-to-allow-bourses-to-sell-brokers-assets-1724172130>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 74.04	USD 2.39	3.34%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 77.17	USD 0.13	0.17%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,519.19	USD 456.21	22.11%
DSEX	5,715.36	-531.13	-8.50%
S&P 500	5,597.12	827.29	17.34%
FTSE 100	8,273.32	540.08	6.98%
BSE SENSEX	80,802.86	8,562.60	11.85%
KSE-100	77,745.52	15,366.11	24.63%
CSEALL	11,504.34	850.18	7.98%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.14 BDT****1 GBP = 155.14 BDT****1 Euro = 132.47 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

Analyst Certification: Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

Disclaimer: Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

Compensation of Analysts: The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

General Risk Factors: BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Rakibul Hasan	Research Associate	rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Md Istiaz Uddin	Research Associate	mistiaz.uddin@bracepl.com	01708 805 202

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

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