

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:**USD2 Bn apparel market in reach in Japan, now target gets higher**

- With high-value products, apparel makers now aim to gain a bigger slice of the USD24 Bn Japanese market taking advantage of growing exports to the potential destination.
- The country's apparel shipments to Japan regained the USD1 Bn-mark in FY22 after two consecutive years of the pandemic-induced slowdown, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/2b-apparel-market-reach-japan-now-target-gets-higher-502634>

Glass market expanding amid rapid urbanisation

- The market for glass used in construction has increased steadily in Bangladesh over the past 15 years thanks to expansion in the real-estate sector resulting from rapid urbanisation, according to industry insiders.
- The country annually consumes around 270,000 tonnes of glass, including float, reflective and soundproof glass, leading to a market size of no less than BDT20 Bn at present compared to BDT3 Bn when the industry started out.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/glass-market-expanding-amid-rapid-urbanisation-3126166>

Banks' stock investment rises with spike in margin loan

- Banks' lending to the stock market increased substantially in the April-June quarter of this year amid rising private sector credit growth.
- Growing demand from individual investors for margin loans to invest in stocks has prompted banks to lend to their subsidiary investment banks, say industry insiders.
- The total loan to shares and securities rose by 17.37% or BDT12 Bn to BDT81.4 Bn quarter-on-quarter in just three months – the highest amount of lending to the stock market by banks in a single quarter in recent years, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-stock-investment-rises-spike-margin-loan-502150>

Bangladesh Bank platform eases local trade in foreign currency

- A new digital platform rolled out by the Bangladesh Bank has opened a new horizon for local businesses to do trade with foreign currencies on a real-time basis.
- Under the new platform, businesses that largely supply raw materials through letters of credit (LCs) meant for domestic use are now able to receive their money from buyers instantly instead of having to wait up to 10 days.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bb-platform-eases-local-trade-foreign-currency-3126196>

Foreign aid release drops 24% in first two months of FY23

- The release of foreign aid has experienced a 24% fall in the first two months of FY23 because implementing agencies usually go slow when it comes to spending on development projects in the initial months of a fiscal year.
- In July-August, development lenders disbursed a little more than USD864 Mn in contrast to USD1.14 Bn in the same time a year ago, according to the latest report of the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-aid-release-drops-24-first-two-months-fy23-501618>

Interest waivers by private banks rise 12-fold in Apr-Jun

- Private banks seem to be waiving interests too generously, which bankers say, to ease recovery of loans that remained unpaid for a long time.
- In April-June this year, the waived loan interests registered a 12-fold jump to BDT25.57 Bn from only BDT1.91 Bn in the previous quarter, according to the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/interest-waivers-private-banks-rise-12-fold-apr-june-501194>

Govt's foreign loans: Weak taka makes repayment costlier

- The government's foreign debt repayment has become costlier owing to the sharp depreciation of the taka against the US dollar in recent months.
- Bangladesh repaid foreign debts amounting to USD289.78 Mn in July and August, down 2.83% cent from USD298.22 Mn during the identical two-month period a year ago, data from the Economic Relations Division (ERD) showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/weak-taka-makes-repayment-costlier-3126206>

83.9% MIs faced Covid-induced business loss, says study

- As high as 83.9% of Microfinance Institutions (MIs) in the country faced reduced income or loss in business due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, according to a new study.
- Also, 40% of the respondents mentioned no work or loss of jobs, while 22% of respondents said they were unable to pay loan instalments on time, according to the study by International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions (INAFI) Bangladesh.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/839pc-mis-faced-covid-induced-business-loss-says-study-1664021405>

Govt curbs causing difficulties in capital machinery import: MCCI president

- Some businesses are facing difficulties in importing capital machinery due to the government's import control aimed at reducing pressure on dollar reserves, said Md Saiful Islam, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI).
- "One of our members recently faced trouble while bringing in capital machinery, but we all know the contribution of capital machinery to the economy," he told reporters yesterday at the MCCI office in Dhaka's Motijheel area.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-curbs-causing-difficulties-capital-machinery-import-mcci-president-502594>

Bangladesh, Cambodia to sign FTA

- Bangladesh and Cambodia are expected to sign Free Trade Agreement as the prime ministers of both the countries have agreed to do it for further expanding the area of trade cooperation.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/181830/bangladesh-cambodia-to-sign-fta>

Stocks:

Orion Pharma, Beximco grab 25% of weekly turnover on DSE

- Ten most-traded companies accounted for 44% of transactions on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in the outgoing week, with Orion Pharma leading the turnover list.
- For the past few weeks, some selective stocks have dominated the DSE turnover chart. Two of them, Orion Pharma and Beximco, jointly captured 25% of this week's total turnover.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/orion-pharma-beximco-grab-25pc-of-weekly-turnover-on-dse-1663991143>

AB Bank perpetual bond struggling for subscribers

- AB Bank is struggling to get subscribers for its perpetual bond as investors have low confidence in the lender, according to market insiders.
- The private bank got approval to raise BDT6 Bn in November 2021 by issuing a transferable, unsecured, non-cumulative and contingent-convertible perpetual bond.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/ab-bank-perpetual-bond-struggling-subscribers-3126121>

BSEC looks into Progressive Life Insurance as claims remain unsettled

- The stock market regulator has formed a three-member committee to look into the financial details of Progressive Life Insurance Company Ltd. Customer complaints have been piling up regarding the non-settlement of insurance claims by it.
- According to its officials, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has come to know about a large number of customer complaints that the company has not been settling the claims despite the maturity of their insurance policies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-looks-progressive-life-insurance-claims-remain-unsettled-502626>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 78.74	USD 3.53	4.69%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 86.15	USD 8.37	10.76%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,643.94	(USD 185.26)	-10.13%
DSEX	6,564.01	-192.65	-2.85%
S&P 500	3,693.23	-1,072.95	-22.51%
FTSE 100	7,018.60	-365.94	-4.96%
BSE SENSEX	58,098.92	-154.90	-0.27%
KSE-100	40,620.21	-3,975.86	-8.92%
CSEALL	9,964.80	-2,261.21	-18.50%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 102.09 BDT****1 GBP = 110.77 BDT****1 Euro = 98.93 BDT****1 INR = 1.26 BDT**

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