

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:**Small businesses to get easy loans**

- The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) teamed up with Bengal Commercial Bank yesterday to extend loan assistance to help cottage, small and medium entrepreneurs run their businesses.
- "We have already signed agreements with 15 associations to ensure that small and medium entrepreneurs get loans on easy terms," said the Managing Director of the Bengal Commercial Bank, Tarik Morshed. "Last year, around 23% of our disbursed loans went to the SME sector. We want to distribute at least 55% to the SME sector this year," he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/small-businesses-get-easy-loans-3218776>

Apparel makers for raising garment accessories manufacturing capacity to achieve USD 100 Bn exports by 2030

- Apparel exporters have called for further raising garment accessories manufacturing capacity in the country so that they can achieve the target of USD 100 Bn in clothing exports by 2030.
- "Increasing productivity and the capacity to locally manufacture the accessories are a must to achieve the USD 100 Bn apparel export target," Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Faruque Hassan said. Bangladesh exported apparel items worth USD 43 Bn in FY22 and has a target of raising it to USD 100 Bn by 2030.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/apparel-makers-raising-garment-accessories-manufacturing-capacity-achieve-100b-exports>

Economic zones create 50,000 jobs so far

- The economic zones (EZs) across the country have already created 50,000 jobs and will create more in near future as new industrial units are set to go into operations there, said Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) on Tuesday.
- "Around 50,000 people have so far been employed in the economic zones," said BEZA Executive Chairman Shaikh Yusuf Harun. Six more companies are likely to begin commercial operations at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar within the next six months, he added.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/economic-zones-create-50000-jobs-so-far-1673411206>

Cenbank eyes stabilising forex market in new monetary policy

- The Bangladesh Bank is planning to reduce the gap in multiple dollar rates to a maximum of 2% from the existing 7% in the upcoming monetary policy for the next six months of the current fiscal year, scheduled for announcement on 15 January.
- At present, there are four kinds of dollar rates in the market: a maximum of BDT 107 for importers, BDT 102 for exporters, BDT 107 for remitters, BDT 100 at which the Bangladesh Bank sells a dollar. Previously, one rate was maintained for dollar sales, which was used as a reference rate.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/cenbank-eyes-stabilising-forex-market-new-monetary-policy-566090>

BGMEA seeks Bangladesh mission's support to promote trade opportunities in Canada

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has sought the support of the Bangladesh High Commission in Canada to explore more trade opportunities, including apparel exports, in the North American country. Bangladesh High Commissioner in Canada Dr Khalilur Rahman paid a visit to BGMEA President Faruque Hassan in Dhaka Wednesday.
- They talked about the current state of affairs in the readymade garments (RMG) industry, especially how the sector had been navigating through a rough patch in recent times amid a depressed global economy and rising inflation.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bgmea-seeks-bangladesh-missions-support-to-promote-trade-opportunities-in-canada-1673457545>

Worker outflow hits record high but remittance falls

- Bangladesh sent the highest number of migrant workers in its history in 2022 thanks to a surge in demand for labourers in the Middle Eastern countries but remittance receipts did not go up proportionately.
- More than 1.135 Mn Bangladeshis left the country for jobs abroad last year, nearly doubling from 617,000 migrant workers who flew abroad the previous year, data released by the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/worker-outflow-hits-record-high-remittance-falls-3218836>

World Bank cuts Bangladesh's growth forecast to 5.2% for FY23

- The World Bank has forecast a 5.2% growth for Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) in the current fiscal year – down from the 7.2% growth in the previous year.
- "In Bangladesh, growth is expected to slow to 5.2% in FY2022/23 due to rising inflation and its negative impact on household incomes and firms' input costs, as well as energy shortages, import restrictions, and monetary policy tightening," the World Bank said in its latest edition of Global Economic Prospects released on Tuesday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/world-bank-lowers-bangladesh-growth-forecast-further-to-52pc-for-fy23-1673414558>

Foreign loans turn sour for private borrowers

- Once considered a much cheaper source, foreign commercial loans are now costlier than even local currency loans, driving private sector borrowers to turn to local banks and ramping up the ongoing liquidity crisis.
- At a time of rising interest rates in advance and emerging markets during a period of tight global financial conditions, the effective interest rate for foreign borrowing now stands at 8.30%, while the maximum rate for local loans is 9%. Borrowers turning to local banks which are already in liquidity crisis. Depreciation fears another factor in foreign currency loans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-loans-turn-sour-private-borrowers-566530>

Half-yearly monetary policy too soon

- Bangladesh's central bank is agog to launch the country's half-yearly monetary policy Sunday, while many targets last set for up to December have gone missing largely for global and local disarrays.
- The monetary-policy targets were actually meant for containing the inflationary pressures on the economy, which surged significantly higher -- even touched nearly 10% during last few months of the calendar year to December.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/half-yearly-monetary-policy-too-soon-1673405611>

Stocks:

BRACBANK | Brac Bank to borrow USD 50 Mn loan from German finance institution

- Brac Bank Limited is going to get USD 50 Mn loan from a German development finance institution to support SMEs, women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. To this end, Brac Bank has signed an agreement with the Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG) to take the long-term loan, the bank said in a press release today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/brac-bank-borrow-50m-loan-german-finance-institution-3218126>

BANKASIA | Bank Asia, BB sign deal on agri refinance fund

- Bank Asia Limited has signed a participatory agreement with Bangladesh Bank (BB) under a refinance scheme of BDT 50 Bn for the agriculture sector aiming to ensure food security of the country. Under this agreement, Bank Asia will disburse agricultural credit to the marginal farmers at an interest rate of 4% through its own network, said a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bank-asia-bb-sign-deal-agri-refinance-fund-3218686>

EMERALDOIL | Emerald Oil to issue shares for new sponsors at one-third of market value

- Emerald Oil Industries has decided to issue fresh shares for its new sponsor-directors at a face value of BDT 10 each against their investment at a time when the shares are traded in the secondary market at more than three times higher rates.
- As per the decision, Emerald Oil Industries will issue 36.2 Mn new shares, which are almost half of the existing shares, in favour of Minori Bangladesh, allowing the new investors to secure a majority stake in the company's board.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/emerald-oil-issue-shares-new-sponsors-one-third-market-value-566526>

PUBALIBANK | Ali becomes Pubali Bank's new MD

- Mohammad Ali has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of Pubali Bank Limited by the board of directors. Ali has been holding the position of additional managing director and chief operating officer of the bank since July 1, 2020, said a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/ali-becomes-pubali-banks-new-md-3218691>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 77.63	USD 2.42	3.22%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 82.87	USD 5.09	6.54%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,880.90	USD 106.75	6.02%
DSEX	6,209.52	2.52	0.04%
S&P 500	3,969.61	130.11	3.39%
FTSE 100	7,724.98	273.24	3.67%
BSE SENSEX	60,105.50	-735.24	-1.21%
KSE-100	40,758.20	337.75	0.84%
CSEALL	8,380.87	-121.62	-1.43%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 104.12 BDT****1 GBP = 125.78 BDT****1 Euro = 112.09 BDT****1 INR = 1.26 BDT**

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