

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:

Singaporean bank DBS to open representative office in Dhaka

- Singaporean bank DBS today announced that it will be expanding its regional footprint with the establishment of a representative office in Dhaka. With this, the bank now has international presence in 19 markets globally, the bank said in a statement.
- DBS has been active in Bangladesh providing trade finance and advisory, in addition to arranging mandates in project investments, according to the statement.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/singaporean-bank-dbs-opens-representative-office-dhaka-3171141>

Relaxed usance period extended for another six months to ease LC payment pressure

- The Bangladesh Bank has extended the relaxed usance period facility for the imports of industrial raw materials including back-to-back imports, agricultural machinery and chemical fertilisers under supplier's or buyer's credit for another six months with a view to lessen the pressure of import payments.
- Banks now will be able to defer the LC payments against the imports of these products until 30 June next for up to 360 days, according to a circular issued by the central bank yesterday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/relaxed-usance-period-extended-another-six-months-ease-lc-payment-pressure-533146>

Workers are heading back overseas: here's how govts should respond

- Deployment of migrant workers from Asia is slowly getting back on track after plummeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic during the first quarter of 2020. Some countries are recording departures of migrant workers exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- In Nepal, labour approvals for overseas employment in 2021 have surpassed 2019 numbers. As of August 2022, Bangladeshis heading for work abroad totaled 784,000, the highest number since 2018.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/opinion/news/workers-are-heading-back-overseas-heres-how-governments-should-respond-3170871>

Boost trade capacity to tackle post-LDC challenges: Stakeholders

- Bangladesh needs to diversify products, develop human resources, increase the number of environmentally friendly factories and strengthen trade diplomacy to tackle post-Least Developed Countries (LDC) challenges, said stakeholders.
- They also stressed the exchange of technologies and increasing negotiation skills at the Dhaka Apparel Summit 2022 Wednesday at the capital's International Convention City Bashundhara.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/boost-trade-capacity-tackle-post-ldc-challenges-stakeholders-533266>

H&M has big sourcing plan for Bangladesh

- H&M has a big plan for sourcing for Bangladesh although the price will increase by up to 12% following the country's graduation from the grouping of the least-developed countries in 2026, said a senior official of the Swedish retail giant yesterday.
- After becoming a developing nation, Bangladesh will lose its preferential market access and face 10 to 12% duty on its exports. However, it will enjoy the duty preference in the European Union up to 2029 as the trade bloc has extended a three-year grace period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/hm-has-big-sourcing-plan-bangladesh-3171626>

Payment complexity clouds Saudi urea import ahead of Boro season

- The import of urea fertiliser from Saudi Arabia is facing precarious payment issues due to credit limits of the kingdom's two banks, raising concerns over sufficient supply of the basic plant nutrient ahead of the next Boro season, the state-owned chemical corporation has said.
- "We are experiencing difficulties in import payments," the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation wrote in letters to the finance ministry and top officials of state-owned banks last week, seeking urgent steps to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertiliser during the plantation of major crop Boro from December.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/payment-complexity-clouds-saudi-urea-import-ahead-boro-season-533274>

Address exporters' high logistics costs to offset post-LDC tariff hikes: Experts

- Bangladesh should address its exporters' high logistics costs to offset the post-LDC graduation tariffs in major export markets and thus sustain economic growth, said experts at a workshop on Wednesday.
- Bangladesh for its common exports to the major destination countries would face 8.6% to 17% tariffs four years later as soon as it graduates from the LDC status, the experts mentioned, adding that halving its highest-among-peers logistics costs across industries, however, might help to retain the country's export competitiveness.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/address-exporters-high-logistics-costs-offset-post-ldc-tariff-hikes-experts-533226>

Freelancers will now receive encashment certificate from MFS

- The Bangladesh Bank today asked banks to provide freelancers with encashment certificates through mobile financial service (MFS) providers so that they can submit the document at the time of income tax payment. Many freelancers prefer MFS providers to receive earnings sent by foreign entities against different outsourcing services. The fund sent from abroad are transferred to MFS providers through banks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/freelancers-will-now-receive-encashment-certificate-mfs-3171161>

Bangladeshi, Singaporean businesses explore collaboration, mergers

- Bangladeshi businesses asked their Singaporean counterparts to invest in their businesses and sought joint ventures after pitching business plans.
- Participants at the International Business Networking event in Dhaka highlighted the business prospects and investment scopes in Bangladesh and Singapore and shared how the firms of both countries can expand businesses for bilateral interests.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshi-singaporean-businesses-explore-collaboration-mergers-533182>

Bangladesh targets to increase cotton production five folds by 2030

- Bangladesh has set a target to increase five times the cotton production by 2030, introducing new varieties and expanding cultivation areas, since the country appeared as the second largest consumer of the industrial crop.
- "Cotton could be a major cash crop as we need to spend USD 3 Bn every year for its import to meet its expanding demand in the textile industry," Cotton Development Board's (CDB) additional director Dr Md Fakhre Alam Ibne Tabib told BSS.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-targets-increase-cotton-production-five-folds-2030-533194>

Iraqi investors keen to invest in pharmaceutical, leather industry

- Iraqi investors are keen on investing in Bangladesh's leather and pharmaceutical sectors, both in sole or joint venture forms, Seerwan Mohammed Mahmood, chairman of the visiting delegates of the Sulaimany Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said.
- He also said that Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) sector is promising in Iraq due to the high demand. He also stressed on launching direct air flight between Dhaka and Baghdad for smoother communication.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/iraqi-investors-keen-invest-pharmaceutical-leather-industry-533130>

Lugang Technology to invest USD 23m in Ishwardi EPZ

- Lugang Technology (Bangladesh) Ltd, a Hong Kong (China) owned company is going to establish a textile industry in Ishwardi Export Processing Zone (IEPZ).
- This fully foreign owned company will invest USD 22.99 Mn where 3,182 Bangladeshi nationals will get employment opportunities. The company will produce annually 5,100 tonnes raw and dyed yarn, reads a press release.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/lugang-technology-invest-23m-ishwardi-epz-533022>

Bangladesh needs to adapt, rejig system: IAF president

- Bangladesh wants to be a top exporter – moving goods worth USD 100 Bn by 2030 – but this ambition comes with the caveat of graduating from status of a least developed country, necessitating a rejig in the country's business model, Cem Atlan, president of the International Apparel Federation (IAF) has said.
- In an interview with The Business Standard on the sidelines of the 37th IAF World Fashion Convention, Atlan said Bangladesh's biggest competitor is Vietnam, but their business model is different.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladesh-needs-adapt-rejig-system-iaf-president-532994>

Stocks:**SAPORTL | Summit Alliance Port's profit doubles**

- Summit Alliance Port Limited (SAPL) reported a 109% increase in profit in the first quarter of the current fiscal year of 2022-23. The inland container depot and container freight service provider raked in BDT 109.0 Mn in profit in the July-September period, which was BDT 52.1 Mn in the same quarter a year earlier.
- Thus, the consolidated earnings per share were BDT 0.46 in the July-September quarter of 2022 against BDT 0.22 in the same three-month period a year earlier, according to the unaudited financial statements. The consolidated net operating cash flow per share rose to BDT 0.66 in July-September from BDT 0.38 during the identical quarter of 2021.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/summit-alliance-ports-profit-doubles-3171571>

MTB | MTB reappoints Mahmudur as MD

- Syed Mahbubur Rahman has recently been reappointed managing director and chief executive officer of Mutual Trust Bank (MTB). He joined the MTB in November 2019. Prior to it, he was serving at Dhaka Bank in the same capacities, said a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/mtb-reappoints-mahbubur-md-3171556>

AFCAGRO | AFC Agro says govt to buy its Covid vaccine, but health ministry unaware

- AFC Agro Biotech has claimed that the government would buy 20 Mn doses of the Covid-19 vaccine from the company but the health ministry said it has no such plan at this moment. In a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Tuesday, the company said in a joint venture with the Dhaka University and expatriate scientists, it has achieved initial success in the production of coronavirus vaccine in the country.
- AFC Agro Biotech also said it wrote to the prime minister and the health ministry to give their consent to the government to buy the vaccine. In view of this, consent has been given from the Prime Minister's Office.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/afc-agro-says-govt-buy-its-covid-vaccine-health-ministry-unaware-533218>

EXCHANGE | High Court stays SME board investment limit of BDT 3 Mn

- The High Court has stayed, for three months, the condition of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to invest at least BDT 3 Mn for an investor to be qualified for trading shares on the Small Capital Platform or the SME board of the exchanges.
- The High Court bench of Justice Md Ashfaquul Islam and Justice Md Suhrawardy issued the stay order on Wednesday. According to the order, the BSEC's condition of a minimum investment of BDT 3 Mn will be suspended for the next three months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/high-court-stays-sme-board-investment-limit-BDT30-lakh-533222>

EXCHANGE | Floor price relaxed for just block market trading

- Amid the low participation of investors, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has relaxed trading in the block market allowing shares to be transacted up to 10% lower than the floor price. In a block market, buyers and sellers are fixed in advance. In other words, they agree to set a price, and then buy and sell shares in this market. But shares cannot be bought or sold for fewer than BDT 0.5 Mn here.
- However, the floor price mechanism imposed by the regulator aiming to save small investors will remain in place on the main trading platform of the Dhaka and Chattogram bourses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/floor-price-relaxed-just-block-market-trading-532558>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 84.58	USD 9.37	12.46%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 91.96	USD 14.18	18.23%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,768.48	(USD 60.72)	-3.32%
DSEX	6,253.35	-503.31	-7.45%
S&P 500	3,958.79	-807.39	-16.94%
FTSE 100	7,351.19	-33.35	-0.45%
BSE SENSEX	61,980.72	3,726.90	6.40%
KSE-100	42,983.75	-1,612.32	-3.62%
CSEALL	8,291.15	-3,934.86	-32.18%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 101.75 BDT****1 GBP = 120.85 BDT****1 Euro = 105.52 BDT****1 INR = 1.25 BDT**

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