

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:**Low fuel, capital machinery procurement drags down Aug import bill**

- Bangladesh's import bills fell to USD5.38 Bn in August from USD6.79 Bn a month ago thanks to lower fuel and capital equipment procurement, according to the central bank. Fuel oil and capital machinery contributed more than 65% to the USD1.41 Bn import fall in August, as shown in Bangladesh Bank data.
- The country paid USD1.01 Bn in July for crude and refined fuel, which plummeted by more than 57% to USD433 million in August. Capital equipment import in July cost the country USD617 Mn, which dropped by 55% to USD276 Mn in August.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/low-fuel-capital-machinery-procurement-drags-down-aug-import-bill-498262>

Digital payment can be used for CMSME loans: Experts

- Accepting of digital payment through the personal retail account could pave the way for the country's cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) to avail loans from banking channels, experts said today.
- Bangladesh Bank in November 2020 issued a circular enabling the micro and underprivileged businesses—those who have accounts with banks, mobile financial service and payment service providers—to open personal retail accounts without a trade licence.
- "CMSME covers 90% of the country's economic activities employing over 14 Mn people. But about 60% of the CMSME have no access to finance from banks and financial institutions," Shah Zia-Ul Haque, an additional director of Bangladesh Bank. A record or footprint will be created when the CMSMEs would use digital platforms for transactions, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/digital-payment-can-be-used-cmsme-loan-3121561>

Korea RMG market beckons

- Bangladesh's bid to expand into new destinations with its potential export items continues with an eye on a bigger slice of the USD10.5 Bn South Korean apparel market. Business insiders say with apparel manufacturing increasingly moving out of China because of rising costs, Bangladeshi entrepreneurs now have the opportunity to grab the Korean market that currently sources 34% of their clothing items from Beijing.
- The apparel sector expects to hit the USD1 Bn mark export to Korea in the current fiscal year with a diverse basket of items like lingerie, denim, shirt, jacket and pullover, said the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/korea-rmg-market-beckons-498294>

China to help Bangladesh in developing insurance sector

- Bangladesh Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) and Sinosoft Co. Ltd, a China-based company, have signed an agreement to develop the insurance industry in Bangladesh. Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming has said insurance will play an increasingly important role in Bangladesh's social-economic development.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/china-to-help-bangladesh-in-developing-insurance-sector-1663328836>

ADP implementation 3.85% in first two months of FY23

- All ministries and divisions of the government could spend only 3.85% or BDT98.44 Bn of their respective allocations under the annual development programme (ADP) in the first two months (July-August) of the current fiscal year, revealed the latest progress report prepared by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Planning Ministry.
- In the same period of FY21 and FY22, the ADP implementation rate was 3.82% and 3.89%, respectively. The ADP allocation for FY23 amounts to BDT2,560.03 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adp-implementation-385-first-two-months-fy23-496718>

Steel building makers get more time to clear import payments

- Bangladesh Bank yesterday announced that makers of prefabricated steel structures will now have almost a year to clear their letters of credit for raw material imports in a bid to facilitate growth in the industry.
- Previously, payments for raw materials sourced from foreign manufacturers could be deferred for up to 180 days but the central bank decided to enhance the usance period to 360 days after prefabricated building makers urged it to reduce their cost of doing business.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/steel-building-makers-get-more-time-clear-import-payments-3120576>

Fresh fruit imports fall 50% in four months on tightened rules

- Imports of fresh fruits dropped 50% in the four months till August with the government tightening rules regarding the procurement of such non-essential items to ease pressure on depleting forex reserves. The National Board of Revenue raised the regulatory duty on imports of various fresh fruits to 20% from the earlier 3%, while the Bangladesh Bank slapped a 100% cash margin requirement for opening letters of credit for imports of such products.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fresh-fruit-imports-fall-50-four-months-tightened-rules-497950>

Govt working to raise annual exports to USD100 Bn by 2026: Tipu Munshi

- The government and private sector entrepreneurs are working together to boost the country's export earnings to USD100 Bn by 2026, said Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi on Saturday.
- "About USD60 Bn worth of goods and services were exported in the last fiscal year. Efforts are underway to raise the overall exports to USD80 billion in 2024 and USD100 Bn in 2026," he said at a Meet the Press programme organised by the Overseas Correspondents of Bangladesh (OCAB) at the National Press Club in Dhaka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-working-raise-annual-exports-100b-2026-tipu-munshi-498126>

Industries worried over 57% hike in freight forwarding charges

- A whopping 57% increase in freight forwarding charge will cause an additional burden on importers in the country to the tune of BDT5.46 Bn annually, traders say. While local consumers will actually bear the brunt of the hiked charge, exporters fear losing competitive edge as passing the extra cost on foreign buyers will not be easy for them given the slowing trend in export demand, according to businesspeople.
- The Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association (BAFFA) hiked forwarding charges by BDT2,000 to BDT5,500 for each import bill – effective from 1 September – citing the recent increase in fuel prices.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industries-worried-over-57-hike-freight-forwarding-charges-497354>

Businesses can do foreign trade using yuan: BB

- Bangladesh Bank yesterday said local banks would be able to maintain accounts in Chinese yuan or renminbi with their corresponding lenders or branches abroad so as to help local businesses settle transactions for foreign trade using the currency.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/businesses-can-do-foreign-trade-using-yuan-bb-3120621>

Bangladesh e-commerce sales to more than double by 2026: Research

- The business-to-customer e-commerce market in Bangladesh is expected to grow by 17.61% on an annual basis, aimed at reaching BDT659.66 Bn in 2022, according to a recent market research. The e-commerce market size in 2021 was about BDT568.70 Bn and will be around BDT1,500 Bn by 2026, said the Dublin-based trade research institution ResearchAndMarkets.com.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-e-commerce-sales-more-double-2026-research-497134>

Stocks:

Eastern Housing posts record profits as property value soars

- Eastern Housing Ltd (EHL), the lone publicly traded realtor of the country, has made a record profit in 2021-22 fiscal year by realising higher gains amid the recent rises in property prices, according to the realtor's latest price sensitive information.
- The company's net profit after taxes rose 47.6% to BDT549 Mn in the fiscal year that ended on 30 June 2022. Its annual earnings per share (EPS) increased to BDT5.88, from the previous year's EPS of BDT3.98. The EHL board of directors on Thursday recommended a 20% cash dividend for FY22. On 30 June this year, the company's net asset value per share stood at BDT74.21.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-housing-posts-record-profits-property-value-soars-498266>

ADN Telecom recommends 10% cash dividend

- ADN Telecom Ltd has recommended a 10% cash dividend for its shareholders for 2022. It paid a 10% cash dividend also in the previous year. According to its financials, the company's earnings per share (EPS) slightly increased to BDT2.59, which was BDT2.57 in the previous year.
- The net asset value (NAV) per share also increased to BDT27.56, from BDT25.97 in the previous year. The annual general meeting (AGM) will be held on 7 December through a digital platform, and to identify the shareholders entitled to the dividend, the record date has been fixed on 13 October.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/adn-telecom-recommends-10-cash-dividend-498254>

Prime Bank to raise BDT5.0 Bn term loan for Sajida Foundation

- Prime Bank is going to raise a staggering syndicated term loan of BDT5.0 Bn for Sajida Foundation to disburse for the latter's microfinance programme. Zahida Fizza Kabir, chief executive officer of Sajida Foundation, and Hassan O Rashid, managing director of Prime Bank, signed an agreement to this end in Dhaka recently, a press release said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/prime-bank-raise-tk-500cr-term-loan-sajida-foundation-3121846>

IPO of Global Islami Bank to open October 16

- The initial public offering (IPO) of Global Islami Bank will open for subscription on October 16, aiming to raise BDT4.25 Bn from the capital market under the fixed-price method.
- The IPO subscription will close on October 20, according to its abridged prospectus published on Wednesday. It will be the fifth largest IPO after Robi Axiata (BDT5.23 Bn), Grameenphone (BDT4.86 Bn), MJL Bangladesh (BDT4.60 Bn) and Union Bank (BDT4.28 Bn), according to data available with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/ipo-of-global-islami-bank-to-open-october-16-1663215824>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 85.11	USD 9.90	13.16%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 91.35	USD 13.57	17.45%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,675.06	(USD 154.14)	-8.43%
DSEX	6,515.01	-241.65	-3.58%
S&P 500	3,873.33	-892.85	-18.73%
FTSE 100	7,236.68	-147.86	-2.00%
BSE SENSEX	58,840.79	586.97	1.01%
KSE-100	41,679.49	-2,916.58	-6.54%
CSEALL	10,102.70	-2,123.31	-17.37%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 106.72 BDT****1 GBP = 121.88 BDT****1 Euro = 106.89 BDT****1 INR = 1.34 BDT**

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