

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:**NBFIs log record foreign investment to equity capital in FY22**

- Non-bank financial institutions received USD 263 Mn foreign investment to equity capital last year, according to the central bank, which alone accounts for 65% of such investment in more than the past one and a half decades until June this year.
- Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) received USD 267 Mn foreign investment in FY22. Of it, 98% investment or USD 263 Mn came in the sector's equity capital. From 2006 to June this year, the total investment in NBFIs' equity capital was USD 403 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbfis-log-record-foreign-investment-equity-capital-fy22-555842>

Now relaxed loan repayment facility extended for NBFIs clients

- The Bangladesh Bank has extended special concessions on repaying term loans to borrowers from non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) after introducing the provision for scheduled banks on 18 December to curb default risks.
- The provision now allows term loan takers from both banks and NBFIs to repay 50% of what is required between September and December within this period to avoid being classified as defaulters and allow their finances to run smoothly. The remainder of the repayable sum will have to be paid back within one year of maturity, a central bank notification said on Wednesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/now-relaxed-loan-repayment-facility-extended-nbfis-clients-555834>

Bangladeshi firms' investments abroad rise 19% in FY22

- Outward foreign direct investment by Bangladeshi firms through legal channels increased by 19% in the fiscal 2021-22 compared to the same period in the last fiscal year owing to the liberalisation of outbound investment policy by the Bangladesh Bank.
- Local firms invested a total of USD 70.71 Mn, in FY22 – up from USD 59.34 Mn, in FY21, according to the Foreign Direct Investment and External Debt report published by the central bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshi-firms-investments-abroad-rise-19-fy22-555494>

Only two options left for macroeconomic stability

- Bangladesh does not have too many policy options other than reducing consumption of goods and services and making the exchange rate flexible in order to ensure macroeconomic stability, said a central bank report.
- Although the government has tightened rules to contain imports since May after foreign currency reserves began sliding in the face of escalated import bills driven by the Russia-Ukraine war and supply disruptions, there has not been a significant decline in the purchase of goods and services from the international markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/only-two-options-left-macroeconomic-stability-3202236>

Formal talks kick off this week for Cepsa with India

- Formal negotiations for signing a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (Cepa) with India are expected to begin this week during a visit of Tipu Munshi, the commerce minister of Bangladesh, to the neighbouring country.
- Munshi is scheduled to leave today or tomorrow as prime ministers of both countries have agreed on signing this trade deal which not only includes matters pertaining to tariff but also bilateral investment and services.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/formal-talks-kick-week-cepa-india-3202226>

German ink-maker offers hazardous toluene-free food packaging

- Brightly coloured designs of food packets help establish consumer confidence, brand images and promote sales by catching the eye of consumers as they browse along supermarket aisles. But the packaging and wraps – which is meant for better food safety and product genuineness – might have used printing ink with solvent toluene, which according to European Union regulations, is hazardous to human health.
- The chemical for printing food packets is banned in India and China, while Sri Lanka voluntarily stopped using it. Though Bangladesh is yet to have any specific guidelines regarding the topic, Siegwerk – one of the leading global ink and coating manufacturers – offers toluene-free safe food packaging inks to local businesses.
- With a USD 3.45 Mn investment, Siegwerk opened its blending centre in the Meghna Economic Zone in 2021. The ink-maker says it has developed a solid customer base that includes Nestle, Unilever, Arla Foods (Dano), Perfetti Van Melle and Pran.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/german-ink-maker-offers-hazardous-toluene-free-food-packaging-555574>

Tourism lacks proper planning

- The tourism sector in Bangladesh is still suffering and has not flourished properly due to a lack of proper planning, which may be a barrier to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, speakers told a seminar yesterday.
- Many places that could become tourist attractions remain unknown to the public and are yet to be accessible to tourists of all strata, especially those who are financially not that well off, they said. Of the 17 SDG goals, three are directly linked to the tourism sector. Although these targets vary from country to country, at least six goals are connected to Bangladesh, they said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tourism-lacks-proper-planning-3202186>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | Floor removed for 168 scrips, prices allowed to fall by 1% in a day**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), after the session's closing bell on Wednesday, has removed floor prices for 168 scrips — mainly mutual funds and small-cap stocks — to offer the market some breathing space in daily trading.
- However, the 168 scrips are not allowed to fall freely as the regulator narrowed the bottom circuit breaker — the limit to fall in a day — to 1%, from the regular limit of 10%. Upper circuit breaker — the limit of price increase in a day — on the other hand, has been unchanged for all scrips. Also, the scrips beyond these 168 would be allowed to fall up to the regular bottom circuit breaker until hitting the floor.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/floor-removed-168-scrips-prices-allowed-fall-1-day-555810>

YPL | Yeakin Polymer suffers losses in Q1

- Yeakin Polymer Limited reported a doubling of losses in the first quarter of the current financial year. The manufacturer of PP woven bags, garments accessories and household plastic products suffered a loss of BDT 20.6 Mn in July-September of 2022. It was BDT 10.3 Mn during the same quarter last year.
- Thus, the earnings per share stood at BDT 0.28 negative for July-September, doubling from BDT 0.14 negative posted in the same quarter a year earlier, according to the unaudited financial statements of the company.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/yeakin-polymer-suffers-losses-q1-3202206>

UCB | UCB, Trust Bank allowed to issue bonds worth BDT 14 Bn

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has allowed the United Commercial Bank (UCB), and Trust Bank to issue subordinated bonds worth BDT 14 Bn in total. Of this, the UCB will issue a BDT 10 Bn bond, and the Trust Bank BDT 4 Bn. The commission approved the bond issuance of the two banks on Wednesday in a meeting, said a press statement.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ucb-trust-bank-allowed-issue-bonds-worth-tk1400cr-555818>

EXCHANGE | BSEC okays draft prospectus of Ekush Stable Fund

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved the draft prospectus of Ekush Stable Return Fund, an open-ended mutual fund. On Wednesday, the commission approved the prospectus at its 848th meeting, said a press statement. According to the BSEC, the primary target size of the fund is BDT 250 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-okays-draft-prospectus-ekush-stable-fund-555826>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 78.61	USD 3.40	4.52%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 82.47	USD 4.69	6.03%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,819.03	(USD 10.17)	-0.56%
DSEX	6,198.82	-557.84	-8.26%
S&P 500	3,878.44	-887.74	-18.63%
FTSE 100	7,497.32	112.78	1.53%
BSE SENSEX	61,067.24	2,813.42	4.83%
KSE-100	39,342.89	-5,253.18	-11.78%
CSEALL	8,508.53	-3,717.48	-30.41%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 106.03 BDT****1 GBP = 128.58 BDT****1 Euro = 112.86 BDT****1 INR = 1.28 BDT**

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