

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:**Economy expanded 50% in eight years, but jobs grew only 11%**

- Over the past eight years until fiscal year 2023-24, the country's economy grew by more than 50%, painting a rosy picture of performance by major sectors, while the expansion did not translate into job creation. Employment grew by only 11% during the period, making a clear case of "jobless growth", a term that economists have been using in recent years to refer to the paradox of growing gross domestic product (GDP) without much job creation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/economy-expanded-50-eight-years-jobs-grew-only-11-3945686>

Dhaka seeks a timeframe for third round

- Bangladesh has sought a time frame for resuming the third round of talks on new US tariff with the United States Trade Representative (USTR), sources said. A high-power Bangladesh delegation, headed by Commerce Adviser to the interim government, is expected to visit the country after getting a schedule from the USTR.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-seeks-a-timeframe-for-third-round-1753205115>

Sector & Industries:**TRADE | Modernising ports for trade competitiveness**

- Bangladesh has entered a new chapter under a fresh political horizon, opening new opportunities for development. With a focus on governance reforms, economic liberalisation, and citizen-centric policies, the country aims to achieve stability and sustainable growth.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/modernising-ports-trade-competitiveness-3945726>

TELECOM | Mobile subscribers rise by 1 Mn in May

- The number of mobile subscribers in Bangladesh grew by 1 Mn in May, driven primarily by net additions from the country's two largest operators, Grameenphone and Robi Axiata. With the increase, total mobile subscriptions reached 187.6 Mn at the end of May, according to data released by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mobile-subscribers-rise-10-lakh-may-3945716>

MISCELLANEOUS | Handset production falls 30% in June

- Local handset production dropped by over 30% in June compared to the previous month, with feature phones taking the biggest hit, according to official figures.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/handset-production-falls-30-june-3945706>

TRADE | Customs launches special auction to clear backlog at Ctg port

- Bangladesh will auction around BDT 1 Bn worth of abandoned imports on August 8, in the first such sale held under a special order aimed at easing the severe congestion at the country's ports.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/customs-launches-special-auction-clear-backlog-ctg-port-3945701>

FUEL & POWER | BD inks first short-term LNG deal with Oman's OQ Trading

- The government has signed its first-ever short-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply deal with OQ Trading International of Oman, aiming to boost the country's gas supply and reduce dependence on the volatile spot market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-inks-first-short-term-lng-deal-with-omans-oq-trading-1753201322>

Stocks:**ARAMITCEM | Ex-land minister's Aramit Cement shuts its factory amid crisis**

- Aramit Cement, a publicly traded concern of the Aramit Group owned by former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, has ceased all operations due to a severe cash crisis and acute raw material shortage amid the absence of its owners. Saifuzzaman, who holds a 14.97% stake in Aramit Cement, has been accused of amassing immense wealth illegally and is under investigation for money laundering by the authorities.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ex-land-ministers-aramit-cement-shuts-its-factory-amid-crisis-1194446>

RAKCERAMIC | RAK Ceramics incurs BDT 210 Mn loss in H1 due to slow demand

- RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) posted that it incurred a loss of BDT 210 Mn in the first half of this year mainly due to the slow demands in ceramics tiles, according to the company's financial statements. The UAE-based ceramics manufacturer said, during the January-June period, its revenue slightly fell to BDT 3.10 Bn, compared to the same period last year. As of the end of June, its loss per share stood at BDT 0.49, whereas it had reported earnings per share of BDT 0.09 during the same period last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rak-ceramics-incurs-tk21cr-loss-h1-due-slow-demand-1194201>

WALTONHIL | Walton signs Barbados firm as global distributor

- Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC has signed a global distributorship agreement with Barbados-based private company Bargain Warehouse Inc to expand its international reach. Bargain Warehouse will sell, distribute, and market 13 Walton products in 16 territories under a six-year agreement, according to a disclosure published on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/walton-signs-barbados-firm-global-distributor-3945306>

EXCHANGE | Bond yields tumble as liquidity-rich banks flock to BGTBs

- In a striking shift, the yield on long-term treasury bonds plunged by 187 basis points in a single day, as banks scrambled to park surplus liquidity in risk-free government securities amid tepid credit demand from the private sector. The cut-off yield, generally known as the interest rate, on the 10-Year Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs) dropped to 10.48% on Tuesday, down from 12.35%, according to the auction results.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bond-yields-tumble-as-liquidity-rich-banks-flock-to-bgtbs>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 66.21	(USD 5.22)	-7.31%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 68.76	(USD 5.63)	-7.57%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,427.57	USD 819.09	31.40%
DSEX	5,270.57	54.13	1.04%
S&P 500	6,309.62	402.68	6.82%
FTSE 100	9,023.81	902.80	11.12%
BSE SENSEX	82,186.81	3,986.88	5.10%
KSE-100	139,419.62	24,160.62	20.96%
CSEALL	19,091.93	3,147.32	19.74%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.45 BDT****1 GBP = 164.19 BDT****1 Euro = 142.53 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

Analyst Certification: Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

Disclaimer: Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

Compensation of Analysts: The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

General Risk Factors: BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Rakibul Hasan	Research Associate	rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (88)-02-222282446-47

Fax: + (88)-02-222282452

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com