

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:**Five state economic zones got USD 22 Bn investment proposals**

- Five state-run economic zones have received USD 22.17 Bn investment proposals, which are expected to generate employment opportunities for around 0.816 Mn people.
- The economic zones are: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN), Srihatta Economic Zone, Jamalpur Economic Zone, Moheshkhali Economic Zone and Sabrang Tourism Park.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/five-state-economic-zones-got-22-billion-investment-proposals-3150111>

Beza vows to ensure utility services for investors

- Industrial services such as gas, power and water are being provided on a priority basis for investors operating in all economic zones across the country, according to Shaikh Yusuf Harun, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza).
- "Although power production is being temporarily hampered by the ongoing global crisis, the government has vowed to ensure the service on a priority basis for economic zones," he said. Beza has already received investments amounting to USD 22.17 Bn for five of its state-run economic zones, where a total 6,084 acres of land have been leased to 177 investors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/beza-vows-ensure-utility-services-investors-3150366>

Revenue collection growth slows in September

- The revenue collection growth has slowed down in September compared to the previous two months owing to the downturn of the country's economy.
- According to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) data, revenue collection growth, including the collection of income tax, value-added tax and customs duty, increased by 7.67% in September year-on-year while the collection growth in the previous two months increased by nearly 19% year-on-year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/revenue-collection-growth-slows-september-518870>

Insurance claim settlement plunges

- The claim settlement ratio of life insurance companies in Bangladesh plunged to its lowest level at least in a decade in 2021 as their capacity to pay out has been reduced by bad investment, excessive costs and business slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
- In 2021, the claim settlement fell to 68% from 88% the previous year, according to the Financial Stability Report of the Bangladesh Bank for 2021.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/insurance-claim-settlement-plunges-3150541>

Bafeda refixes dollar rates

- Banks in Bangladesh today refixed the rates at which they would buy US dollars from exporters and foreign exchange houses that mobilise remittances from migrant workers. The new rates will come into effect on October 25. Under the new rates, exporters will get BDT 99.50 for each US dollar, compared to BDT 99 now. Banks will pay a maximum of BDT 107 instead of BDT 107.5 to foreign exchange houses.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bafeda-refixes-dollar-rates-3150296>

0.10Mn tonnes of sugar to be imported soon: Bangladesh Bank

- Some 0.10 Mn tonnes of sugar will be imported soon, Bangladesh Bank said today. The central bank issued a notice to this end, saying that there is no supply shortage of sugar in the market now. "We hope sugar prices will get stabilised if a little bit of monitoring is done on the market," according to the notice.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/1-lakh-tonnes-sugar-be-imported-soon-bangladesh-bank-3150306>

PM's Japan visit: Dhaka to seek more investment, financing for big projects

- Bangladesh will seek Japan's "stronger engagement" in its development efforts through "investment and financing" in major projects during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's forthcoming visit to Japan slated for 29-30 November.
- "We are happy with Japan looking at the areas (mega projects) where they are working," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told UNB on Sunday. He said Japan is a "good investor" for Bangladesh, and they are implementing major projects. Now Bangladesh seeks more financing for important projects from Japan.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/pms-japan-visit-dhaka-seek-more-investment-financing-big-projects-518762>

Ratify Hong Kong Convention to lead in ship recycling'

- Bangladesh should ratify the Hong Kong Convention, as the declaration will help the south Asian country become the leader in the ship recycling industry, Norwegian Ambassador Espen Rikter-Svendsen said today.
- "Norway is a shipbuilding nation. Many outdated ships are waiting there to be recycled. Bangladeshi yards can be benefited by take this opportunity. But for that environmental and safety issues should get highest priority."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ratify-hong-kong-convention-lead-ship-recycling-3150256>

Businesses stare at rising losses amid gas crisis

- Ha-Meem Group, a leading textile producer and garment exporter, has been unable to run production in its mills and factories at night over the last one and a half months because of a crisis of gas.
- AK Azad, chairman and chief executive officer of the group, said production in the spinning section alone had fallen by 50% per month, which in terms of sales revenue amounted to BDT 25 Mn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/businesses-stare-rising-losses-amid-gas-crisis-3150536>

Stocks:

PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank to issue BDT 6 Bn bond

- Prime Bank Ltd has decided to issue an unsecured, non-convertible and redeemable subordinated bond of BDT 6 Bn for seven years to enhance its capital base. The bond issuance is subject to regulatory approvals, said the private commercial lender in a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/prime-bank-issue-BDT-600cr-bond-3150391>

QUEENSOUTH | Queen South Textile Mills' profit up 31%

- Queen South Textile Mills Limited's profit rose 31 % year-on-year to BDT 236.1 Mn in the last financial year of 2021-22. The textile company made a profit of BDT 179.9 Mn a year earlier.
- Thus, the export-oriented dying company serving the sweater sector of Bangladesh reported earnings per share of BDT 1.64 for the year that ended on June 30. It was BDT 1.25 in 2020-21. The net asset value per share fell to BDT 16.04 in 2021-22 from BDT 16.31 in 2020-21, while the net operating cash flow per share slipped to BDT 0.54 from BDT 1.05 during the period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/queen-south-textile-mills-profit-31pc-3150401>

WMSHIPYARD | Western Marine incurred losses in Oct-Dec of 2021

- Western Marine Shipyard Limited suffered losses in the October-December quarter of 2021. The ship manufacturer lost BDT 23.5 Mn in the quarter, up from BDT 4.7 Mn during the same period a year earlier. Earnings per share were BDT 0.10 in negative in October-December of 2021 against BDT 0.02 in negative during the same period of 2020, according to the unaudited financial statements.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/western-marine-incurred-losses-oct-dec-2021-3150506>

SQUARETEXT | Higher sales boost profits of Square Textiles, Matin Spinning

- The earnings per share (EPS) of Square Textiles jumped by a staggering 191% to BDT 9.39 in FY22, from BDT 3.41 in the previous fiscal year. An official of the company, seeking anonymity, said the company received more orders and exports increased in FY22, compared to FY21 when the business was affected by the pandemic.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/higher-sales-boost-profits-square-textiles-matin-spinning-518886>

MATINSPINN | Higher sales boost profits of Square Textiles, Matin Spinning

- The EPS of Matin Spinning increased 71% to BDT10.79 in FY22 from BDT6.31 in the previous fiscal year. The company said its EPS increased because of an increase in revenue. Also, there was no significant increase in the company's expenditures. Moreover, the company said it had purchased raw materials at a reasonable price, which helped it to achieve the extra profit margin.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/higher-sales-boost-profits-square-textiles-matin-spinning-518886>

RENATA | Renata declares 147% dividends for 2021-22 FY

- Renata Limited, a manufacturer of pharmaceuticals and animal health products, has recommended 147% dividends (140% cash and 7% stock) for its shareholders for the fiscal year 2021-22.
- During the fiscal year, the net profit of the company stood at BDT 5.1110 Bn, which was BDT 5.0350 Bn in the previous fiscal year. An official of the company said on condition of anonymity that the company made remarkable revenue during the year, but it did not make a profit as expected due to cost of sales and dollar appreciation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/renata-declares-147-dividends-2021-22-fy-518326>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 85.15	USD 9.94	13.22%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 93.58	USD 15.80	20.31%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,654.80	(USD 174.40)	-9.53%
DSEX	6,344.31	-412.35	-6.10%
S&P 500	3,752.75	-1,013.43	-21.26%
FTSE 100	6,969.73	-414.81	-5.62%
BSE SENSEX	59,307.15	1,053.33	1.81%
KSE-100	42,213.48	-2,382.59	-5.34%
CSEALL	8,685.52	-3,540.49	-28.96%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 101.92 BDT****1 GBP = 115.40 BDT****1 Euro = 100.28 BDT****1 INR = 1.23 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
Anika Mafiz	Research Analyst	anika.mafiz@bracepl.com	01708 805 206
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Senior Research Associate	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Fahim Hassan	Research Associate	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Billal Hossain	Research Associate	billal.hossain@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Md. Tanvir Ahmed	Research Associate	mtanvir.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201

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: + (880)-2-9852446-50

Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com