

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:**Banks now can lend more than 25% of their capital to power producers**

- The Bangladesh Bank has withdrawn the single borrower exposure limit for the next six months in the case of lending to power producers. From now on, banks will be allowed to extend credit to power sector borrowers, exceeding 25% of their regulatory capital, according to a circular issued by the central bank on Tuesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-now-can-lend-more-25-their-capital-power-producers-465682>

Duty slashed for imports from OIC, D-8 countries

- The authorities have reduced duty to 10% for imports from Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) countries under two separate trade agreements. Officials said the duty reductions will have an insignificant impact on revenue collection, but the country's export will benefit substantially from it.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/duty-slashed-imports-oic-d-8-countries-465662>

RMG exports to Japan cross Bn dollars

- Bangladesh's RMG exports to Japan crossed the Bn USD mark in FY 2021-22 after a decline in the previous two fiscals. Bangladesh exported apparel items worth USD1.098 Bn marking over 16% growth in FY22, according to data of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).
- It fetched USD944.82 Mn in FY21. RMG exports first crossed Bn USD with USD1.091 Bn earnings in FY19. Apparel exports, including knit and woven items, were USD478.48 Mn in FY 2012-13 which was only USD74.33 Mn in FY09.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/rmg-exports-to-japan-cross-billion-dollars-1658858787>

Kenya seeks Bangladeshi investment in agriculture, ICT

- Director General of Bilateral and Political Affairs of Kenya Amb Moi Lemoshia has invited Bangladeshi entrepreneurs to invest in the agriculture and ICT sector in Kenya, which will give them access to other African countries since Kenya is a member of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and East African Community (EAC).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/kenya-seeks-bangladeshi-investment-agriculture-ict-465486>

7 cos to invest USD94 Mn in Sabrang Tourism Park

- Seven more companies have come forward to invest over USD94 Mn in Sabrang Tourism Park, the country's first exclusive tourism park, under construction in Cox's Bazar. The businesses will build luxury hotels, resorts and cottages in the tourist centre, located about 450km from Dhaka. The new investments are expected to generate around 2,000 jobs.
- Ifad Group will invest heavily in building various tourist facilities, such as a five-star hotel. Ifad Autos, a sister concern of the group, will invest USD31.69 Mn in building a hotel on a six-acre site, which will generate employment for 350 people. Ifad Motors Limited, another company belonging to Ifad Group, wants to invest USD16.20 Mn on a one-acre plot of the 1027-acre park located in Sabrang union of Teknaf Upazila.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/7-cos-invest-94m-sabrang-tourism-park-465242>

Govt wants cut in taxes on olive, canola, sunflower oils

- The commerce ministry has asked the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to cut all kinds of duty, tax and tariff value on sunflower, olive and canola oils at import stage, aiming to cut dependency on widely consumed soybean and palm oils. The move has also been taken to rein in the possible spiralling prices of soybean and palm and also to bring relief among the consumers, said sources.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-wants-cut-in-taxes-on-olive-canola-sunflower-oils-1658858533>

Bangladesh seeks USD4.5 Bn IMF budget support

- Bangladesh has officially sought USD4.5 Bn from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to ride out the ongoing financial shock triggered and subsequently worsened by persisting energy and dollar crises. Now the IMF headquarters will form a team to formally negotiate with Bangladesh, said finance ministry officials, adding that the process may take up to a year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-seeks-45b-imf-budget-support-465722>

NBR, UGC issue directives to reduce office expenditure

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Tuesday issued 14-point directives, including printing on both pages of a sheet of paper, to ensure maximum use of paper and other equipment to reduce overall expenditure in daily office work, amid rising price pressure in the country.
- For a similar purpose, the University Grants Commission (UGC) also directed public universities not to use more than 50% of the allocation for entertainment expenses, other allowances, computers and accessories, electrical equipment, and the furniture sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/nbr-ugc-issue-directives-reduce-office-expenditure-465730>

100% interest for encashing ERQ account deposits before term end

- The central bank has directed commercial banks to provide exporters 100% interest for encashing termed deposits kept in Export Retention Quota (ERQ) accounts even before they are matured. Exporters deposit a certain portion of their income in the ERQ accounts against their exported goods and services. Due to the current dollar crisis in the country, exporters have been given a facility to redeem dollars from these accounts before maturity, said officials concerned.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/100-interest-encashing-erq-account-deposits-term-end-465710>

Dollar rally puts some banks in trouble to settle LCs

- A severe shortage of dollars has forced banks in Bangladesh to delay payments to foreign suppliers against import LCs (letters of credit), damaging the reputation of the local banking industry in the global arena and putting the country at risk of losing its credit rating. The cash USD rate climbed to an all-time high of BDT112 on Tuesday while the import LC rate surged to BDT105, adding to price pressures and high inflation rate.
- The inflation rate in the country hit an eight-year high of 7.42% in May this year. Industry experts have said the unusual rise in dollar price will fuel inflation further. The inter-bank exchange set by the Bangladesh Bank verbally remained ineffective due to the large difference from the market rate. The inter-bank exchange rate was BDT94.70 on the day.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/dollar-rally-puts-some-banks-trouble-settle-lcs-465718>

Stocks:

Mercantile Bank to buy floor space from its chairman

- Mercantile Bank is going to buy a commercial space in Noakhali from its Chairman Morshed Alam – also a parliament member from that area and chairman of Bengal Group – for BDT 81.5 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mercantile-bank-buy-floor-space-its-chairman-465626>

BTRC withdraws bandwidth capping of Aamra Technologies

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (BTRC) has withdrawn the 50% bandwidth capping of Aamra Technologies Limited — an international internet gateway service provider in the country.
- According to company sources, Aamra Technologies has not paid BTRC's revenue on time. As a result, the listed company owed around BDT 340 Mn to the telecom regulator. The non-payment of the dues prompted the regulator to take action against the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/btrc-withdraws-bandwidth-capping-aamra-technologies-465630>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 95.28	USD 20.07	26.69%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 104.42	USD 26.64	34.25%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,717.26	(USD 111.94)	-6.12%
DSEX	6,112.25	-644.41	-9.54%
S&P 500	3,921.05	-845.13	-17.73%
FTSE 100	7,306.28	-78.26	-1.06%
BSE SENSEX	55,268.49	-2,985.33	-5.12%
KSE-100	39,894.05	-4,702.02	-10.54%
CSEALL	7,630.17	-4,595.84	-37.59%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 94.57 BDT
1 GBP = 113.98 BDT
1 Euro = 96.58 BDT
1 INR = 1.18 BDT

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