

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:**Forex reserves stabilise at USD40 Bn, for now**

- The intensive effort by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to hunt dollars to meet its import demand coupled with the suspension of LNG purchase from the international spot market has eased pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves.
- The forex reserves have remained stable between USD39 Bn and USD40 Bn this month as the Bangladesh Bank has cut back on dollar sales for importing petroleum products. The central bank has been selling USD50 Mn to USD70 Mn per day to banks this month, which was over USD100 Mn in June.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/forex-reserves-stabilise-40b-now-466438>

SME Foundation to lend BDT4 Bn to small ventures

- SME Foundation will provide a BDT4 Bn loan to micro and small entrepreneurs in the country's rural and marginal population to accelerate economic recovery from the Covid fallout and to improve the rural living standard. Of the fund, BDT750 Mn will be earmarked for women entrepreneurs. The entrepreneurs will be able to get a minimum of BDT100,000 to a maximum of BDT3 Mn at 4% interest and repay in 30 monthly instalments in three years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/sme-foundation-lend-tk400cr-small-ventures-466254>

IMF says it is ready to support Bangladesh after loan request

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Wednesday it would discuss with Bangladesh its loan request after the country became the third in South Asia to seek such support after Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Bangladesh's USD416 Bn economy has been one of the fastest-growing in the world for years, but rising energy and food prices because of the Russia-Ukraine war have inflated its import bill and the current account deficit.
- The IMF said Bangladesh was interested in its new Resilience and Sustainability Facility aimed at helping countries face climate-change challenges and had also requested negotiations for an "accompanying IMF programme". "The IMF stands ready to support Bangladesh, and the staff will engage with the authorities on program design as per the established policies and procedures of the Fund," an IMF spokesperson said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/imf-says-it-ready-support-bangladesh-after-loan-request-466422>

Packaging gets BDT50 Bn investment in Bangabandhu Shilpa Nagar

- Local packagers and accessory-makers are going to invest BDT50 Bn in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar to meet its packaging demand as well as to boost direct packaging export, according to manufacturers. Bangladesh accounts for USD1 Bn annual export to USD800 Bn global packaging and accessories market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/packaging-gets-tk500cr-investment-bangabandhu-shilpa-nagar-465990>

Bangladesh moves to join RCEP

- Bangladesh has taken up the initiative to join Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to retain duty benefits once it makes the United Nations status graduation from a least developed country to a developing one in 2026.

- An inter-ministerial meeting agreed that the county will join the RCEP, an agreement comprising the world's largest trade bloc led by China, if an opportunity is created after negotiations, said the commerce ministry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-moves-join-rcep-3081516>

Slow progress in BREB solar pump project

- A project undertaken by Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) to install 2,000 solar-powered irrigation pumps has been advancing at a snail's pace. The BREB, under the energy and power ministry, took up the BDT3.94 Bn project in 2018 to reduce dependency on electricity generated by fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/slow-progress-breb-solar-pump-project-3081541>

Annual debt servicing crosses USD 2.01 Bn

- Bangladesh's debt servicing crossed USD 2.01 BN in the last fiscal year as payment for some previously borrowed big loans began, officials say, amid reported strains on the country's foreign-exchange reserves. Out of the debt-servicing amount, USD1.42 Bn is paid as the principal and USD468.36 Mn as interest for medium-to-long-term (MLT) outstanding loans during the period from July 2021 to June 2022, Economic Relations Division (ERD) data show.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/annual-debt-servicing-crosses-201b-1658945036>

Expats don't need embassy endorsement for bank account opening

- Bangladeshi expatriates do not need any copy of embassy documents or attestation to open a commercial bank account at home, according to a Bangladesh Bank circular on Wednesday. Bangladeshi nationals staying abroad have to submit several documents from Bangladesh missions abroad to open a bank account at home.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/expats-dont-need-embassy-endorsement-bank-account-opening-466386>

NBFIs asked to reduce power, fuel use by 25%

- Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) have been asked to reduce electricity and fuel consumption by 25% as part of the government's austerity measures to combat the ongoing energy crisis. The Bangladesh Bank gave the instruction in a notification on Wednesday (27 July). The money saved from this austerity move cannot be used in any other sector, the notification said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbfis-asked-reduce-power-fuel-use-25-466346>

Stocks:

Marico revenues grow but higher taxes erode profits

- The profit margin of Marico Bangladesh Limited – an India-based multinational company – shrank in the March-June quarter – despite a 9% growth in revenue – due to a sharp rise in income tax expenses.
- Marico starts its financial year in March. According to its unaudited financials, the company's profits before tax increased 4.52% compared to the same period in the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/marico-revenues-grow-higher-taxes-erode-profits-466374>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 98.77	USD 23.56	31.33%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 107.88	USD 30.10	38.70%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,738.42	(USD 90.78)	-4.96%
DSEX	6,038.00	-718.65	-10.64%
S&P 500	4,023.61	-742.57	-15.58%
FTSE 100	7,348.23	-36.31	-0.49%
BSE SENSEX	55,816.32	-2,437.50	-4.18%
KSE-100	39,972.64	-4,623.43	-10.37%
CSEALL	7,626.69	-4,599.32	-37.62%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 94.42 BDT
1 GBP = 114.96 BDT
1 Euro = 96.43 BDT
1 INR = 1.18 BDT

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