

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:**Foreign investment proposals rise by 809.75% in July-Sept: BIDA**

- Fully foreign and joint venture investment proposals with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) rose by 809.75%, BDT 170.7967 Bn, during the July-September quarter in 2022 compared to the same period of the preceding year 2021.
- According to the latest data of BIDA, the overall investment proposals with BIDA rose by a staggering 54.46% during the July-September quarter compared to the same period of the preceding year 2021.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-investment-proposals-rise-80975-july-sept-bida-522866>

Bangladesh Bank will go slow in calculating reserves following IMF formula

- The Bangladesh Bank has recently agreed to calculate reserves following the international standard as advised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but the process will be slow considering it as a national sensitive issue, an official said on Sunday.
- As per IMF suggestions, the central bank must follow the standard where spending for export development fund (EDF), loan to Sri Lanka and financing domestic projects from reserves must be excluded.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-bank-will-go-slow-calculating-reserves-following-imf-formula-522862>

Thailand keen on FTA to strengthen bilateral trade

- Thailand is keen on concluding a free trade agreement (FTA) with Bangladesh to further strengthen bilateral trade and business between the two countries, said visiting Permanent Secretary-designate of Thailand, Sarun Charoensuwan, during a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/thai-permanent-secretary-designate-stresses-fta-enhancing-bangladesh-thailand-ties-522722>

Foreign investments will make Ctg port a regional hub

- There is nothing to fear about foreign investments in Bangladesh's ports as the government is determined to serve the country's interest first before accepting any new investment, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury said today.
- "We need foreign investment. We are considering a lot of commercial agreements at this time. We have to run with all these. But if any country comes with investment, the government will serve Bangladesh's interest first."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/foreign-investments-will-make-coxs-bazar-airport-regional-hub-3156211>

Banks to seek more dollar support for essential imports

- Banks are planning to request the Bangladesh Bank for providing them with more US dollar support to meet the cost of import of daily necessities.
- At least 10 bankers, wishing not to be named, told The Business Standard (TBS) that the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers Association (Bafeda) will place the demand for more dollars for essential imports to the central bank at a meeting scheduled for Monday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-seek-more-dollar-support-essential-imports-522386>

Govt entities' fallow lands to be brought under cultivation: minister

- The fallow lands of different government organisations, including sugar mills, will be brought under cultivation, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said today. Steps will be taken to find out the unutilised lands of government organisations, he said.
- The minister made the comments at the review meeting of the annual development programme (ADP) at the secretariat in Dhaka, the ministry said in a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-entities-fallow-lands-be-brought-under-cultivation-minister-3156246>

October's RMG export earnings may fall 20%

- Earnings from apparel shipments in October may dip 20% year-on-year for high inflation in Europe due to the Russia-Ukraine war and a production shortfall for the ongoing energy crisis in factories, said the BGMEA chief yesterday.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, Bangladesh may not achieve its apparel export target, apprehended Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), at a press conference.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/octobers-rmg-export-earnings-may-fall-20pc-3156496>

Govt borrowing from savings tools drops as inflation bites

- The government's borrowing from savings certificates has decreased due to the current inflation and low annual development expenditure, according to the central bank data.
- From July to September, the three months of the current fiscal year, the government's net loan from selling savings certificates stood at BDT 3.30 Bn, which is less than 1% of the fiscal year's target of BDT 350 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-borrowing-savings-tools-drops-inflation-bites-522886>

Current account deficit flashes a warning to economy

- Economists have called for minimising the deficit in the current account balance, as it stood at around 4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of FY22.
- They warned of a full-blown financial crisis and inevitable growth slowdown if the deficit continues to be above the 3% red-line for the next three to five years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/current-account-deficit-flashes-warning-economy-522878>

Bank profits shrink amid high inflation

- Banks are witnessing a downturn in quarterly profits amid a narrowing gap between deposit and lending rates owing to high inflationary pressure. Moreover, a disappointing debt collection due to a surge in business expenses is also contributing to the lower profitability of banks.
- Soaring commodity prices have also put pressure on bank deposits as people barely have any money left to park in banks after meeting the increased cost of living. Some are even breaking their deposits to make ends meet.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bank-profits-shrink-amid-high-inflation-522842>

Energy crunch-hit apparel industry braces for uncertain future

- The ongoing gas and power crunch is hurting the readymade garment industry severely, as apparel-makers face production costs spiralling and export orders plummeting, according to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).
- "If such a situation continues, the country's garment industry will be in serious trouble in the coming months," BGMEA President Faruque Hassan said at a press conference in Dhaka on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/energy-crunch-hit-apparel-industry-braces-uncertain-future-522518>

After record sales, motorcycle market dips to multiyear lows amid high inflation

- Soaring unit prices, fuel prices, and inflation have dragged the motorcycle market to multiyear lows in the last two months following the highest-ever sales for the first seven months of this year.
- According to two-wheeler marketers' intelligence data, the industry registered 22% sales growth to nearly 0.4 Mn units in January-July in continuation of the five-year trend of rising sales. Then, sales kept declining in August and September.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/after-record-sales-motorcycle-market-dips-multiyear-lows-amid-high-inflation-522502>

Stocks:**BERGERPBL | Berger to build BDT 4.8 Bn factory**

- Berger Paints Bangladesh has decided to invest BDT 4.8 Bn to establish a factory in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar. The investment excludes the price of the land that has already been purchased and will come from the company's own sources and in the form of loans from banks, he said.
- The multinational paint maker's profits were battered by high price of raw materials and currency devaluation in the July-September period of 2022. Despite significant growth in revenue in the second quarter of 2022-23, the same was not reflected in the profits due to higher cost of raw materials impacted by currency devaluation, said the company. In the half yearly April-September period of 2022 the company's profits rose to BDT 1.33 Bn, 16% higher than that of the same period of the previous year.
- The company's earnings per share stood at BDT 28.78 in the first half of the year. Its paid-up capital was BDT 460 Mn while reserve BDT 10.08 Bn, shows the DSE data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/berger-build-tk-480cr-factory-3156486>

UPGDCL | United Power makes BDT 10 Bn profit in FY22

- United Power Generation Distribution Company logged a profit of around BDT 9.97 Bn in fiscal year 2021-22 although it was a year-on-year decrease of 8%, something it cited was due to the devaluation of the local currency against the greenback. Based on the profits, the company's board of directors declared a 170% cash dividend for shareholders.
- The Russia-Ukraine war has led to global economic uncertainties, energy supply shortages and a significant price volatility. Spending behind oil purchases rose significantly due to the rapid devaluation of the local currency, said the company.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/united-power-makes-BDT-1000cr-profit-fy22-3156446>

BATASHOE | Bata Shoe's sales surge 51%

- Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Limited's sales rose 51% year-on-year to BDT 2.13 Bn in the July-September quarter on the back of increased turnover during Eid festivals and promotional activities. The multinational company's sales increased 37% year-on-year to BDT 7.44 Bn in the January to September period as well.
- The shoemaker also narrowed losses in July-September of 2022: its earnings per share (EPS) were BDT 4.31 in negative in the quarter against BDT 8.36 in negative during the identical period a year earlier. Riding on the higher sales, the company made a comeback and booked a profit of BDT 275 Mn in July-September after incurring a loss of BDT 147.6 Mn in the previous quarter, according to the financial report of the company.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bata-shoes-sales-surge-51pc-3156441>

BSRMSTEEL | BSRM Steels logs BDT 3.27Bn profit in FY22

- BSRM Steels Limited posted a 7.6% higher profit in the last financial year that ended on June 30. It raked in BDT 3.2783 Bn in profit in 2021-22, which was BDT 3.0452 Bn a year earlier. Thus, the steel making company reported earnings per share of BDT 8.72. It was BDT 8.10 in the year 2020-21. The board of directors of BSRM Steels has recommended a 30% cash dividend for 2021-22.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsrm-steels-logs-tk-327cr-profit-fy22-3156436>

EASTLAND | Eastland Insurance's profit rises over 26%

- Eastland Insurance Company records positive growth in its net premium income and profit after tax for July-September 2022. Net profit stood at BDT 25.44 million in the third quarter after a 26.19% increase from the same quarter last year. According to the statements, EPS was BDT 1.10 for January-September, 2022, up from BDT 0.99 in the previous year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/eastland-insurances-profit-rises-over-26pc-1667108167>

EXCHANGE | IMF to discuss floor price, other issues with BSEC Nov 7

- The International Monetary Fund will hold a meeting with the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission on November 7 to discuss recent capital market issues, including the BSEC-imposed floor price restriction. The IMF team would also discuss the bond market development, risk management and control, compliance infrastructure and enforcement mechanism in the market, finance ministry and BSEC officials said.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/185092/imf-to-discuss-floor-price-other-issues-with-bsec-nov-7>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 87.41	USD 12.20	16.22%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 94.87	USD 17.09	21.97%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,642.95	(USD 186.25)	-10.18%
DSEX	6,334.02	-422.64	-6.26%
S&P 500	3,901.06	-865.12	-18.15%
FTSE 100	7,047.67	-336.87	-4.56%
BSE SENSEX	59,959.85	1,706.03	2.93%
KSE-100	41,140.33	-3,455.74	-7.75%
CSEALL	8,728.60	-3,497.41	-28.61%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 101.69 BDT****1 GBP = 117.96 BDT****1 Euro = 101.22 BDT****1 INR = 1.24 BDT**

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