

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:**Remittance flow up by 11.76pc in July**

- The country's inward remittance flow rose by around 11.76% to USD 2.09 Bn in July of the current fiscal year (FY), 2022-23, than that of the corresponding period of last fiscal, as per the Bangladesh Bank data -- released on Monday. Bangladeshis staying abroad sent home over USD 1.87 Bn in July of FY 2021-22, the central bank statistics showed.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/remittance-flow-up-by-1176pc-in-july-1659379053>

BB increases interest rate of NFCD

- Currently, Bangladesh Bank (BB) has increased and fixed the interest rate of non-resident foreign currency deposit (NFCD) accounts to encourage inward foreign-currency flow, reports BSS.
- For one year and up to three years of deposit, the account holders, with the regular interest rate, will get 2.25% interest and for three years and up to five years of deposit, they will enjoy 3.25% interest, as per a BB circular issued Monday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-increases-interest-rate-of-nfcd-1659378694>

Rise in remittance, dip in imports: Some breathing space for now

- The country's economy has got a welcome respite from the ongoing volatility, thanks to a rise in remittance inflow and decrease in imports last month.
- Imports in July fell by 31% to USD 5.50 Bn from USD 7.96 Bn a month ago while remittance went up by 14% to USD 2.09 Bn from USD 1.83 Bn, shows Bangladesh Bank data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/state-economy-some-breathing-space-now-3085381>

Trade deficit hits record USD 33.25 Bn in FY22

- Bangladesh's trade deficit hit a historic high of USD 33.25 Bn in the fiscal 2021-22 due to surged up import and commodity price hikes in the global market, according to the Bangladesh Bank.
- The current account deficit also surpassed USD 18.50 Bn during the time, showed central bank data updated on Monday. The trade deficit in FY21 stood at USD 23.78 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/trade-deficit-hits-record-3325b-fy22-469458>

Mn of dollars missed on stalled refinery project

- Bangladesh misses out an opportunity to save annually around USD 250 Mn through lower imports and also to export huge refined petroleum as a much-needed refinery has long been "stalled".
- Had the 3.0-Mn-tonne-capacity crude-oil refinery been built in time, state expenditure on diesel and other petroleum products could be significantly cut down, says a senior official of the state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/millions-of-dollars-missed-on-stalled-refinery-project-1659378467>

Stocks:

Reckitt Benckiser suffers from surging raw material price

- Reckitt Benckiser (BD), a subsidiary of a British multinational consumer goods company has witnessed a deterioration in profit due to surging raw materials prices. As a result, despite an increase in revenue, it reported an 18% fall in profit in the first half of 2022. According to its financials, during the January-June period, its profit stood at BDT239.4 Mn, lower from BDT293.1 Mn in the same time of 2021.
- Its revenue increased to BDT2511.7 Mn, slightly up from BDT2507.6 Mn. However, the cost of goods increased by 18.64% to BDT1342.1 Mn as the price of raw materials kept increasing continuously. After Covid-19 broke out in 2020, the toiletries giant reported good revenue owing to the huge demand for hygiene products. When the pandemic eased down, the sales of its products and revenue declined.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/reckitt-benckiser-suffers-surging-raw-material-price-469418>

Phoenix Ins profit declines in Apr-Jun

- Phoenix Insurance Company Ltd's profit declined 18.57 % year-on-year in the April-June quarter of 2022. According to the insurer's unaudited financial statements, earnings per share fell to BDT 0.57 in the quarter from BDT 0.70 reported in the same period last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/phoenix-ins-profit-declines-apr-jun-3085481>

Dhaka Ins posts lower profit in Q2

- Dhaka Insurance Ltd's profit fell 35 % year-on-year in the second quarter of 2022. Earnings per share of the insurer were BDT 0.65 in April-June compared to BDT 1 during the same quarter last year, according to the unaudited financial statements. In the first half of 2022, the EPS stood at BDT 1.4, a year-on-year decline of 17.64% from BDT1.7 reported in the same first half of 2021.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/dhaka-ins-posts-lower-profit-q2-3085461>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 93.02	USD 17.81	23.68%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 98.94	USD 21.16	27.20%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,774.23	(USD 54.97)	-3.01%
DSEX	6,163.99	-592.67	-8.77%
S&P 500	4,118.63	-647.55	-13.59%
FTSE 100	7,413.42	28.88	0.39%
BSE SENSEX	58,115.50	-138.32	-0.24%
KSE-100	40,075.96	-4,520.11	-10.14%
CSEALL	7,768.57	-4,457.44	-36.46%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 94.54 BDT****1 GBP = 115.86 BDT****1 Euro = 97.08 BDT****1 INR = 1.19 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
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