

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.

Banks to provide BDT4.33 Bn loans to tannery owners

- Banks will provide BDT4.33 Bn loans to tannery owners for purchasing rawhide after Eid-ul-Azha, the highest rawhide collection season in Bangladesh. Of these loans, four state-owned banks (Sonal, Janata, Agrani and Rupali) will provide BDT2.58 Bn, of which, Janata Bank Limited has set a target of providing the highest amount of BDT120 Bn.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/175241/banks-to-provide-tk-433-crore-loans-to-tannery-owners>

Freight costs surge four times over long delay at private ICDs

- Private inland container depots (ICDs) have now been choked with a huge number of export goods mostly sent by readymade garment factories ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha holidays, causing truckers to wait in tailbacks for up to 10 days for unloading.
- That is why trucks, covered vans and prime movers are charging BDT50,000-BDT60,000 to carry export goods from Dhaka to ICDs in Chattogram. In normal times, a covered van completes an unloading of goods within 8-12 hours at an ICD, charging fares between BDT15,000 and BDT16,000, according to sources.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/freight-costs-surge-four-times-over-long-delay-private-icds-454030>

125 firms to import 250,000 tonnes of rice

- The government has permitted 125 companies to import a total of 250,000 tonnes of rice in order to cool down the domestic market for the staple grain in Bangladesh. The firms have been asked to bring the rice – 204,000 tonnes of non-basmati boiled rice and 42,000 tonnes of non-boiled atap rice -- by August 17, according to a food ministry notice issued on Monday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/125-firms-import-25-lakh-tonnes-rice-3065916>

BPC looks for USD2 Bn as fuel stock depletes fast

- The Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has sought around USD2 Bn in foreign currency loan from the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) amid a prolonged dollar crisis that is delaying its petroleum oil import, eventually fuelling the energy crisis in the country. The BPC spent USD967 Mn on importing 1.467 Mn tonnes of crude oil in FY22, while the amount was USD608 Mn for 1.5 Mn tonnes in the preceding fiscal year.
- The high import costs aggravated the dollar crisis in the local market, discouraging state-owned banks to open letters of credit (LCs) against petroleum imports. The BPC is still supplying oil to power producers as per their demand, but it is now in fear of running out of its stock soon if the delay in opening LC prolongs. The country has already been experiencing disruptions in power supply owing to gas shortage.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/bpc-looks-2b-fuel-stock-depletes-fast-454462>

Cross-border data flow curbs may cut digital services exports by 29%-44%

- Bangladesh's ICT sector experienced an impressive growth over the past decade. It had an annual growth facilitated by CBDF, and the country's ICT export stood at about USD2.0 Bn in 2021. But The country's digital services exports (DSEs) might decline by 29%-44%, depending on the severity of cross-border data flow (CBDF) restrictions and retaliatory measures. As a result, Bangladesh's GDP would shrink by 0.6%-0.9%.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/cross-border-data-flow-curbs-may-cut-digital-services-exports-by-29-44pc-1657131176>

Call money rate hits 5.48% amid rising cash demand ahead of Eid

- The interbank call money rate on Wednesday surged to a record 5.48%, with banks rushing to collect liquid cash in the face of rising demand ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bank. The previous peak was recorded on 20 June 2020 when the rate stood at 5.17%. Industry insiders say growing liquidity crisis apart, the two consecutive rises in repurchase agreement (repo) rate also contributed to a big jump in the call money rate.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/call-money-rate-hits-548-amid-rising-cash-demand-ahead-eid-454454>

Default loans in leather sector jumps to BDT15.41 Bn

- At the end of March this year, the amount of defaulted loans in the leather sector stood at BDT15.41 crore, which is 12.57% of the total loans disbursed in this sector. People involved in this sector said the traders were not able to repay the loans as the leather sector hit a snag. The banks have been acting very cautious as many traders became defaulters due to various reasons including the use of leather loans in other sectors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/default-loans-leather-sector-jumps-tk1541cr-454426>

BSEC okays Chartered Life Insurance IPO

- The stock market regulator has approved the initial public offering (IPO) proposal of Chartered Life Insurance Company which will raise a capital worth BDT 150 Mn under the fixed price method. As per the BSEC approval, Chartered Life Insurance Company will offload 15 Mn ordinary shares at an offer price of Tk 10 each under the fixed price method.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-okays-chartered-life-insurance-ipo-1657128640>

eGeneration wins SAP Bangladesh Partner of the Year 2021 Award

- eGeneration, only Gold partner of SAP in the country, has been awarded the "Bangladesh Partner of the Year 2021" by SAP at the SAP Partner Success Summit 2022 held on Tuesday in Goa, India.
- The award was given in recognition of eGeneration's remarkable efforts in helping customers innovate and build resilience together with understanding customer needs and leveraging the best run SAP solutions to exceed their expectations.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/egeneration-wins-sap-bangladesh-partner-of-the-year-2021-award-1657128797>

ONE Bank signed agreement with ShareTrip

- ONE Bank Limited signed an agreement with ShareTrip Limited recently. Under the agreement, both parties will work together to facilitate customers to purchase air ticket and book hotels conveniently.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/one-bank-signed-agreement-with-sharetrip-1657128456>

RN Spinning fined for the undocumented transaction of BDT 1860 Mn

- The stock market regulator has fined RN Spinning Mills – a concern of Far Group – for not providing supporting documents of the BDT 1830 Mn transaction mentioned in their financial statement and for misusing their rights share fund.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rn-spinning-fined-undocumented-transaction-tk186cr-454366>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 98.51	USD 23.30	30.98%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 100.54	USD 22.76	29.26%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,746.05	(USD 83.15)	-4.55%
DSEX	6,366.05	-390.61	-5.78%
S&P 500	3,845.08	-921.10	-19.33%
FTSE 100	7,107.77	-276.77	-3.75%
BSE SENSEX	53,750.97	-4,502.85	-7.73%
KSE-100	41,159.79	-3,436.28	-7.71%
CSEALL	7,117.35	-5,108.66	-41.79%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 93.47 BDT
1 GBP = 111.69 BDT
1 Euro = 95.39 BDT
1 INR = 1.18 BDT

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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
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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