

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.

Expatriates send USD 1.65 Bn in 26 days of May

- Bangladesh has, meanwhile, received inward remittance of USD 1.65 Bn in 26 days of May. Bangladesh has received USD 18.97 Bn since June 1 to May 26 of FY22.
- The Ministry of Finance in a report said that over 550,000 workers went abroad in the post Covid-19 period from the country, as many countries of the Middle East and Europe are hiring more workers to meet the huge non-skill and semi-skilled manpower. Besides, Qatar's football World Cup preparations have also created huge job demand in the service sector in the Middle East.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/171939/expatriates-send-165b-in-26-days-of-may>

Bangladesh plans adopting payment systems of Hong Kong, Singapore

- Bangladesh is considering adopting new payment methods developed in Hong Kong and Singapore as an alternative to move away from the SWIFT system and save up dollars. The government has instructed the Bangladesh Bank to look into the new systems and act accordingly. The central bank is bringing in around USD 4-5 Bn in funds from Hong Kong, which offered to open a Letter of Credit to pay off producers at a much lower interest rate if Bangladesh enters an agreement with them. Singapore is also offering similar benefits.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-plans-adopting-payment-systems-of-hong-kong-singapore-1653919835>

Hike in key interest rate: Case for lifting lending rate cap strengthens

- The case for withdrawing the lending rate cap has strengthened after the Bangladesh Bank hiked its key interest rate for the first time in a decade to cool inflationary pressures. Experts urged the central bank to move away from the ceiling in order to bring back stability to the financial sector, which is facing a crisis owing to depleting foreign currency reserves and the devaluation of the local currency.
- Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said that the Taka would become dearer if the central bank withdrew the lending cap. The policy rate hike will not tighten the money supply to a significant level, Mansur said. The withdrawal of the lending rate cap is also expected to bring back stability to the foreign exchange market.
- Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of the central bank, suggested the central bank not impose any ceiling on the exchange rate of the Taka against the US dollar. Md Habibur Rahman, chief economist of the central bank, said that BB are not thinking about the lending rate cap at the moment, however, they are now observing the market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/case-lifting-lending-rate-cap-strengthens-3035661>

India seeks shipment status against LCs already opened

- India seeks to know the latest status of shipments against the letters of credit (LCs) already opened by Bangladesh for importing wheat so that they could deliver the grain leapfrogging a ban, officials say. The information is expected to help them (India) take a prompt decision on exporting the commodity under government-to-government (G2G) arrangement, they add.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/india-seeks-shipment-status-against-lcs-already-opened-1653963679>

BD plans to import 18 LNG cargoes from spot mkt

- Bangladesh has planned to import a total of 18 LNG cargoes from the spot market during the Jul'22-Dec'22 period – 50% higher than the Jan'22-Jun'22 import. Separately, Bangladesh will be importing more than two dozens of LNG cargoes from long-term LNG suppliers during 2H'22. Bangladesh imports around 138,000 cubic metres of LNG in each cargo from the spot market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-plans-to-import-18-lng-cargoes-from-spot-mkt-1653934318>

Agritech startup iFarmer raises USD 2.1 Mn

- iFarmer, a full-stack agriculture platform providing agri based services to farmers, has recently raised USD 2.1 Mn in a new financing round from IDLC Venture Capital Fund, the VC arm of IDLC Finance.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/agritech-startup-ifarmer-raises-21m-1653927874>

Cricketer Shakib, others allowed to acquire AI-Amin Chemical

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday allowed a group of institutions and individuals to acquire AL-Amin Chemical Industries Limited, which had remained on the over-the-counter market of the country's stock exchanges since 2009. BSEC requires the buyers to start the production of the company and regularise all pending issues within three months after the completion of the takeover.
- Monarch Mart Limited and Monarch Express Limited, which are owned by Shakib, will buy 2.40% and 4.8% shares of AI-Amin Chemical respectively. Eshaal Communication will buy 14.40%, AFM Rafiquzzaman 10%, Mashuk Alam 6%, Lava Electrodes Industries Limited 2.40% and Munshi Shofiuddin 8.17% shares of AI-Amin Chemical.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/171957/cricketer-shakib-others-allowed-to-acquire-al-amin-chemical>

World Stock and Commodities*

| Index Name | Close Value | Value Change YTD | % Change YTD |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Crude Oil (WTI)* | USD 117.93 | USD 42.72 | 56.80% |
| Crude Oil (Brent)* | USD 122.43 | USD 44.65 | 57.41% |
| Gold Spot* | USD 1,850.44 | USD 21.24 | 1.16% |
| DSEX | 6,388.66 | -368.00 | -5.45% |
| S&P 500 | 4,158.24 | -607.94 | -12.76% |
| FTSE 100 | 7,600.06 | 215.52 | 2.92% |
| BSE SENSEX | 55,925.74 | -2,328.08 | -4.00% |
| KSE-100 | 43,040.14 | -1,555.93 | -3.49% |
| CSEALL | 8,231.33 | -3,994.68 | -32.67% |

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 89.08 BDT****1 GBP = 112.40 BDT****1 Euro = 95.72 BDT****1 INR = 1.13 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 |

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