

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.

Savings certificate sales rise 35% in Jan

- In Jan'22, both sale of savings certificates and the government's net debt increased about 35.37% compared to the previous month. Customers bought savings certificates worth BDT 99.66 Bn in Jan'22, which was BDT 73.62 Bn in Dec'21. In the wake of the new profit rate set in Aug'21, the sale of savings certificates and the amount of net debt of the government decreased for three consecutive months.
- Government borrowings from savings certificate stood at borrowed 37% of the target BDT 320.0 Bn during 7MFY22. During FY21, the government's net debt from savings certificates was BDT 419.6 Bn, while the target borrowing was BDT 200.0 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/savings-certificate-sales-rise-35-jan-381424>

Russia resumes potato import from Bangladesh

- Russia has lifted the previously imposed restrictions on potato import on 5 March. The Russian embassy also noted that the decision was made based on the assurance from Bangladeshi authorities responsible for quarantine and protection of plants. Before the ban imposed in 2015, the country used to export 20,000 tons yearly to Russia.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/russia-resumes-potato-import-bangladesh-381322>

BGMEA wants removal of trade barriers in Indonesia

- Bangladesh is pursuing the next level of growth through diversification of products especially high-end non-cotton apparel products and technical textiles, which has created the demand for man-made fibers and fabrics. Indonesian textile can meet the demand of Bangladesh's RMG sector, he said adding that Indonesia can import ready-made garments from Bangladesh. Faruque Hassan stressed the need for identifying and removing barriers on the way of trade, especially for Bangladesh's RMG exports to the Indonesian market.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bgmea-wants-removal-of-trade-barriers-in-indonesia-1646655709>

BTRC to auction spectrum on March 31

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission has scheduled the auction of 180MHz spectrum from two spectrum bands on March 31 as part of its initiative to improve service quality of mobile phone operators and the launch of 5G services. To this end, the commission on March 3 issued an instruction for the mobile phone operators.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/164741/btrc-to-auction-spectrum-on-march-31>

NBR's tax receipts from DSE fall by 43.38% in Feb

- The government revenue earnings from the Dhaka Stock Exchange fell by 43.38 % in Feb'22 compared with that in Jan'22. In Feb'22, the National Board of Revenue received BDT 224.8 Mn in tax against BDT 396.9 Mn in January. In February, the amount of tax receipts from the members of the stock exchange or trading right entitlement certificate holders' commission fell by 29.15 % to BDT 220.8 Mn against BDT 312.0 Mn in the previous month. The amount of tax from the share sales by sponsor-directors and placement holders fell by 95.36 % to BDT 3.9 Mn in February from BDT 84.9 Mn in January.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/164748/nbrs-tax-receipts-from-dse-fall-by-4338pc-in-feb>

Al-Madina Pharma to raise BDT 50 Mn through SME platform

- Al-Madina Pharmaceuticals Limited wants to raise BDT 50.0 Mn through a qualified investor offer (QIO) from the SME platform of the Dhaka Stock Exchange under the book-building method. As per the book-building criteria, the company will arrange a virtual roadshow on 20 March in Dhaka, where it will introduce itself to institutional investors. Al-Madina Pharma was incorporated on 27 July 2006. Its factory is situated in Tongi, Gazipur.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/al-madina-pharma-raise-tk5cr-through-sme-platform-381373>

High raw material costs drag Aramit Cement down to big losses

- Aramit Cement suffered heavy losses due to the pandemic in 2020 and returned to the black during the following fiscal year, has again plunged back into the red zone owing to surges in raw material costs. In 1HFY22, Aramit Cement incurred a loss of BDT 139.4 million as its revenue tumbled 58% to BDT 398.7 million. The loss per share rose to BDT 4.11 from BDT 0.23 a year earlier.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/high-raw-material-costs-drag-aramit-cement-down-big-losses-381379>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 121.24	USD 46.03	61.20%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 126.22	USD 48.44	62.28%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,987.38	USD 158.18	8.65%
DSEX	6,456.00	-300.66	-4.45%
S&P 500	4,201.09	-565.09	-11.86%
FTSE 100	6,959.48	-425.06	-5.76%
BSE SENSEX	52,842.75	-5,411.07	-9.29%
KSE-100	43,266.97	-1,329.10	-2.98%
CSEALL	10,960.49	-1,265.52	-10.35%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.98 BDT****1 GBP = 93.50 BDT****1 Euro = 112.85 BDT****1 INR = 1.11 BDT**

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