

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:**World Bank urges prompt fulfillment of conditions for USD 250 Mn budgetary support**

- The World Bank (WB) has urged Bangladesh to quickly implement the conditions to receive an additional USD 250 Mn as budget support under the Bangladesh Second Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Credit. Under this loan agreement, the organisation gave USD 250 Mn in budget support to Bangladesh in March last year.
- At that time, the WB imposed 12 conditions on the country including formulating the national tariff policy, automated invoicing system for income tax, amending the Bank Company Act, formulation and implementation of a reclassification list of social protection etc – most of which have not yet been finally implemented.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/world-bank-urges-prompt-fulfillment-conditions-250m-budgetary-support-592218>

Japan keen to develop projects centring Matarbari

- As part of building stronger bonds, Japan suggested partnering with Bangladesh to further develop the southern Chattogram area centring the Matarbari Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI) project in the context of connectivity.
- Both sides agreed that these projects, being built under Japan's Big-B initiative, have potentials to benefit not only Bangladesh but also the entire region, as per a BSS report. These were discussed during the fourth Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Tokyo between the two countries to comprehensively discuss bilateral relations, and regional as well as global issues, a foreign ministry press release said on Tuesday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/japan-keen-to-develop-projects-centring-matarbari>

Bangladesh economy shows signs of improvement riding on export earnings: MCCI

- The Bangladesh economy has been showing signs of improvement riding mainly on increased export earnings, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, widely known as MCCI, said in its economic review for the December quarter of 2022.
- The improvement came as the export-oriented garment, leather, plastic and jute sectors, along with domestic market-oriented steel, food-processing and transport sectors, have been in full-swing operation, it observed. The import payments and inward remittances, however, decreased during the December quarter, which had multiplier effects on other economic sectors, it added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-economy-shows-signs-improvement-riding-export-earnings-mcci-592166>

RMG exports to EU post 15.04% growth in July-Jan

- Bangladesh apparel export to the European Union's (EU) market saw 15.04% growth during July-January of fiscal 2022-23. As per the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the apparel export increased to USD 13.73 Bn during July-January of fiscal 2022-23 from USD 11.94 Bn in July-January FY22.
- Germany, being the largest European market, fetched USD 4.06 Bn with only 0.83% growth compared to the same period of the previous year, reports BSS.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/rmg-exports-to-eu-post-1504pc-growth-in-july-jan>

Garment export to US falls

- Bangladesh's garment exports to the United States of America (US) declined in January this fiscal year, suffered by dip in shipments of knitwear items to the biggest market. Exporters sent USD 4.98 Bn worth of garments in the July-January period of the current fiscal year (2022-23), down 1.98% from USD 5.08 Bn the same period a year ago, data compiled by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) showed.
- Woven garment exports grew 6.7% while shipments of knitwear slumped 17.6% during the period. Until December this fiscal year, export receipts for apparels shipped to the US, which bought nearly one fifth of the overall earnings from clothing exports last year, was positive. This is first time in four years that apparel exports to the US declined amid fears of recession.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/garment-export-us-falls-3260031>

Call for allowing black money investment in real estate at 10% tax for up to 10 years

- The Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) has proposed to allow black money investment in the housing sector at a 10% tax with no questions asked. The association demanded the facility for the next five to ten years during the pre-budget discussion held at the Revenue Building in Agargaon area of the capital yesterday.
- Presenting the REHAB's proposals at the discussion, its Vice President Shohel Rana said a lot of money is being laundered abroad from the country these days due to the opportunity to buy second homes in different countries. Moreover, foreign governments ask no questions in such cases.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rehab-unconditional-black-money-investment-10-tax-10-years-591986>

Truck sales drop for lower demand

- The sales of commercial vehicles, particularly heavy-duty trucks, fell nearly 22% year-on-year in 2022 in Bangladesh due to their higher price, a surge in fuel costs and lower imports. According to data from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, 4,528 units of trucks were registered in 2022, down from 5,789 units in the previous year.
- "The decline in the sales of heavy-duty trucks points to the overall slowdown in the economy that started since the peak of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020," said Abdul Matlub Ahmad, chairman of Nitol Niloy Group, the distributor of Indian automobile giant Tata.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/truck-sales-drop-lower-demand-3260036>

Evaly customers get back only BDT 145,000 so far

- Although Evaly owes BDT 4 Bn to BDT 10 Bn to its thousands of customers and merchants, only 14 clients have got back BDT 145,000 after a refund process began last month, commerce ministry officials said. Thanks to the refund process, customers of the controversial e-commerce platform are set to get BDT 20 Mn out of the BDT 258.5 Mn stuck with three gateways since 2021.
- The BDT 20 Mn was paid by Evaly customers through the payment gateways on September 14, 15 and 16 September of 2021, and the fund has been stuck with the gateways after the introduction of an escrow system, said Md Sayed Ali, deputy secretary at the Central Digital Commerce Cell of the commerce ministry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/evaly-customers-get-back-only-tk-145-lakh-so-far-3260016>

LC restrictions cut fruit imports by 38%

- The ongoing dollar shortage has limited the number of letters of credit which fruit importers can open, reducing inbound shipments. While prices have gone up and importers warn that a continuation of the situation could lead to a crisis, a walk around Dhaka's popular kitchen markets, however, reveals shops with stocks aplenty.
- Fruits worth USD 157.38 Mn were imported during the July-January period of the current fiscal year, according to data from Bangladesh Bank. Year-on-year, it has gone down 37.79%. Of the most common ones, apples come from South Africa, Brazil, China and Australia, pomegranates from India, pear from Pakistan, sweet orange from Egypt, tangerine from China and India and grapes from India and Pakistan.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lc-restrictions-cut-fruit-imports-38-3259696>

Stocks:**FUWANGFOOD | Fu Wang Foods posts 55% profit growth**

- Fu Wang Foods Ltd posted a 55% increase in profit to BDT 15.5 Mn in the July-December half of the current financial year. This compared to BDT 9.98 Mn profit the food manufacturer made in the same half a year ago. The company reported earnings per share of BDT 0.14 for the first half of 2022-23, up from BDT 0.09 in the July-December of 2021-22, according to the audited financial statements.
- The net operating cash flow per share of Fu Wang Foods fell to BDT 0.08 in July-December of FY23 from BDT 0.40 a year earlier. The net asset value, however, rose to BDT 3.74 on December 31 from BDT 3.46 on June 30.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/fu-wang-foods-posts-55-profit-growth-3259996>

IPDC | IPDC Finance makes BDT 902 Mn profits in 2022

- PDC Finance Limited reported a 2.35% higher profit for the year ended on December 31, 2022, thanks to higher interest income. The non-bank financial institution made a profit of BDT 902 Mn in 2022 which was BDT 881 Mn a year earlier. Thus, its earnings per share were BDT 2.43 in 2022, up from BDT 2.37 in 2021, according to its audited financial statements.
- Based on the profit, the board of directors has recommended a 10% cash dividend for the year ended on December 31, 2022, the lowest dividend declaration in four years since 2018. The final approval of the dividend will come from the AGM scheduled to be held on April 27. The record date is March 21.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/ipdc-finance-makes-tk-902m-profits-in-2022>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 77.29	USD 2.08	2.77%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 83.89	USD 6.11	7.86%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,829.06	USD 54.91	3.10%
DSEX	6,216.95	9.95	0.16%
S&P 500	3,970.15	130.65	3.40%
FTSE 100	7,876.28	424.54	5.70%
BSE SENSEX	58,962.12	-1,878.62	-3.09%
KSE-100	40,510.37	89.92	0.22%
CSEALL	9,315.87	813.38	9.57%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 104.63 BDT****1 GBP = 125.87 BDT****1 Euro = 110.75 BDT****1 INR = 1.27 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 Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Senior Research Associate	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Billal Hossain	Research Associate	billal.hossain@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Md. Tanvir Ahmed	Research Associate	mtanvir.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
Syed Tawsifuzzaman	Research Associate	s.tawsifuzzaman@bracepl.com	01708 805 202

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	Chief Executive Officer	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
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