

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:**BDT 1.08 Bn incentive for high-yield rice growers**

- The government plans to provide farmers with nearly BDT 1.08 Bn incentive to encourage them to increase cultivation of high-yielding varieties of rice and produce more grains to meet the growing demand for the staple. The incentive will be provided in the form of seeds and non-urea fertiliser to 1.5 Mn small and marginal farmers, the agriculture ministry said in a statement today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tk-108-crore-incentive-high-yield-rice-growers-3468721>

Govt gives nod to build Shariatpur economic zone

- The government recently gave the go-ahead to establish an economic zone for agro-processing industries at Alaolpur union of Gosairhat upazila in Shariatpur, some 55 kilometres south of Dhaka city. On October 26, the Prime Minister's Office declared 686 acres of land in the Charjalalpur area of Alaolpur as an economic zone in accordance with the Bangladesh Economic Zones Act, 2010.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/news/govt-gives-nod-build-shariatpur-economic-zone-3469031>

Bank deposit growth rises YoY in September

- Bank deposits grew 9.51% in September, slightly higher than in the same month last year. According to data from the Bangladesh Bank, the total deposits in banks stood at BDT 16,230 Bn in September, compared to BDT 16,170 Bn in August. In one month, deposits increased by about BDT 54.64 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bank-deposit-growth-rises-yoy-september-738462>

73% NBFIs deposits exceed BDT 5 Mn ceiling. What happens once new law takes effect?

- Nearly three-fourths of the deposits held by non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) will be affected once a new law, which sets a deposit ceiling of BDT 5 Mn per person, takes effect. According to the Bangladesh Bank, the outstanding deposits of NBFIs amounted to BDT 446.83 Bn at the end of June this year. Among them, BDT 120.26 Bn was deposited in accounts with balances less than BDT 5 Mn, while the remaining BDT 326.56 Bn was deposited in accounts with balances exceeding BDT 5 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/73-nbfi-deposits-exceed-tk50-lakh-ceiling-what-happens-once-new-law-takes-effect>

Bangladesh Bank resumes liquidity support to banks

- Cash feeding to banks begins over again in a policy shift by the central bank perforce following liquidity crunch, bankers say about the abrupt bailout action. Economists say the Bangladesh Bank's latest retreat from the contractionary monetary-policy stance for inflation combat comes as costly dollar, loan default and rate raise sap banks' cash stock.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-bank-resumes-liquidity-support-to-banks-1699899691>

Nearly 1 Mn policyholders in limbo over maturity benefit

- Payments against claims of around 1 Mn policyholders are hanging in the balance as 29 life insurance companies are not clearing dues owing to a liquidity crisis, official figures showed. The unsettled claims involved BDT 30.50 Bn in the four years to the second quarter of 2023, according to data from the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nearly-10-lakh-policyholders-limbo-over-maturity-benefit-3468471>

Inflation deals a blow to ice cream sales

- The ice cream industry began the year with robust growth, but by midyear, it had slowed by half. As a result, the industry is falling short of its sales projections for this year. However, industry insiders expect sales will exceed last year's total.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/worldbiz/global-economy/inflation/inflation-deals-blow-ice-cream-sales-738458>

State-run mills start crushing as sugar price jumps

- State-run sugar mills have started crushing locally-grown sugarcane, aiming to produce 33,000 tonnes of sugar in the current fiscal year of 2023-24, said a top official. The amount is 55% higher than the 21,313 tonnes produced by sugar mills under the Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) in fiscal year 2022-23.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/state-run-mills-start-crushing-sugar-price-jumps-3468481>

Once buoyed by growing demand, textile mills sink in gas crisis, fewer orders

- As the global supply chain recovered from the upheaval caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in the latter part of 2021, Western consumers emerged from lockdowns, sparking an unprecedented surge in garment orders for Bangladesh. Consequently, the country witnessed a remarkable 34% increase in exports, reaching USD 52.08 Bn in FY22.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/once-buoyed-growing-demand-textile-mills-sink-gas-crisis-fewer-orders-738990>

Stocks:**JAMUNAOIL | Jamuna Oil's profit surges 83% in FY23**

- Jamuna Oil Company Limited's profit jumped 83% year-on-year to BDT 3.4088 Bn in the financial year that ended on June 30. The state-run petroleum products marketing firm made a profit of BDT 1.8629 Bn a year ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/jamuna-oils-profit-surges-83-fy23-3468576>

SUMITPOWER | Govt extends deals with 3 Summit Power plants, doing away with capacity charge

- The government has extended power purchasing deals with three plants of Summit Power but on 'no electricity no payment' basis. Hence, it will no longer have to pay capacity charge to them.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/govt-extends-deals-with-3-summit-power-plants-doing-away-with-capacity-charge>

ACI | ACI incurs BDT 140 Mn loss in July-Sept

- ACI Limited incurred a loss of BDT 140 Mn in the July-September quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24. During the first quarter of this fiscal year, its revenue grew over 13% to BDT 30.40 Bn than the previous year at the same time. In its statement, the company said it incurred the loss mainly due to an increase of finance cost by 30%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aci-incurs-tk14cr-loss-july-sept-738854>

BSRMLTD, CROWNCEMNT | How BSRM cos, Crown Cement returned to profits in Jul-Sep

- Three publicly listed companies in the construction sector, which had incurred losses in the July to September quarter last fiscal, returned to profits in the same quarter of the ongoing fiscal year despite prevailing economic challenges.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/how-bsrm-cos-crown-cement-returned-profits-jul-sep-738970>

OLYMPIC | Olympic Industries' profit rose 21% in Q1

- Despite a decreased revenue, Olympic Industries- the country's leading branded biscuit manufacturer- posted higher year-on-year profit growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal year. From July to September 2023, the revenue of the company decreased by 7.81% to BDT 6.3337 Bn from BDT 6.8708 Bn compared to the same period of the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/olympic-industries-profit-rose-21-q1-738866>

ZAHEENSPIN | Higher asset class with poor financials raises questions about stock labelling

- Zaheen Spinning has recommended only 0.25% cash dividend for FY23 so that it can retain its status as 'B' stock. Having invested BDT 10 per share in Zaheen Spinning, a shareholder would get BDT 0.025 from the investment. The return is insignificant, but by ensuring that little pay back to investors for the first time, the company can prevent its transfer to the group of junk stocks. It incurred losses for FY20-FY22 before making a profit of BDT 14.80 Mn for FY23.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/higher-asset-class-with-poor-financials-raises-questions-about-stock-labelling-1699898139>

Exchange | Paper and printing industry shows signs of recovery, with rising demand

- Listed paper & printing companies posted a double-digit sales growth for FY23 despite ongoing economic challenges and raw material price hikes amid a dollar crunch. The sales growth is a sign that the paper industry has been gaining back businesses that were lost to the pandemic and the war-induced economic squeeze.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/paper-and-printing-industry-shows-signs-of-recovery-with-rising-demand>

World Stock and Commodities*

| Index Name | Close Value | Value Change YTD | % Change YTD |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Crude Oil (WTI)* | USD 78.43 | USD 3.22 | 4.28% |
| Crude Oil (Brent)* | USD 82.70 | USD 4.92 | 6.33% |
| Gold Spot* | USD 1,945.26 | USD 171.11 | 9.64% |
| DSEX | 6,245.81 | 38.81 | 0.63% |
| S&P 500 | 4,411.55 | 572.05 | 14.90% |
| FTSE 100 | 7,425.83 | -25.91 | -0.35% |
| BSE SENSEX | 64,933.87 | 4,093.13 | 6.73% |
| KSE-100 | 56,526.71 | 16,106.26 | 39.85% |
| CSEALL | 10,898.90 | 2,396.41 | 28.18% |

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 110.68 BDT****1 GBP = 135.84 BDT****1 Euro = 118.43 BDT****1 INR = 1.33 BDT**

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