

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:**FDI eludes Bangladesh despite generous baits**

- Open-handed tax incentives and other business-boosting budgetary measures have yet to fully satisfy multinational companies (MNCs) operating in Bangladesh in an uninspiring signal for fresh foreign investment in the country. Several key initiatives and reforms to attract foreign direct investment are on in Bangladesh though central-bank data show net inflows faced a 28% year-on-year drop during H12026.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/fdi-eludes-bangladesh-despite-generous-baits>

Japanese investors plan to invest USD 1.2 Bn in Bangladesh tourism

- A delegation of Japanese investors has announced plans to invest an initial USD 1.2 Bn in Bangladesh's tourism and hospitality sector, opening up fresh prospects for foreign investment in the largely untapped tourism industry.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/japanese-investors-plan-to-invest-12b-in-bangladesh-tourism>

AI threatens 2.0% labour demand in Bangladesh

- Artificial intelligence is likely to negatively impact the country's aggregate labour demand by 2.0% as its working-age population grows, according to an International Monetary Fund analysis.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/telecom/318433/ai-threatens-2pc-labour-demand-in-bangladesh>

Businesses no longer need prior approval for boiler imports

- The industries ministry shared the information through a letter on October 7 to the central bank, and the banking regulator today asked all authorised dealer banks to take necessary action accordingly.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-no-longer-need-prior-approval-boiler-imports-4301841>

BDT 5.60 Bn disbursed under factory revival scheme, but BGMEA units still await funds

- Bangladesh Bank's BDT 200 Bn refinancing scheme to revive closed factories has gained some momentum, with loan disbursements rising to BDT 5.60 Bn by 18 October, although most applications remain under processing.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-banks-tk20000cr-scheme-loans-closed-factories-rise-tk450cr-18-days>

LC openings rise by 18% in first 2 months of FY27

- Stagnation in the country's import trade has begun to ease with positive growth in LC openings. During 2MFY27, LC openings increased by nearly 18% year-over-year. Additionally, LC settlements witnessed growth of over 10%.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/422386/lc-openings-rise-by-18%25-in-first-2-months-of-fy27>

GCC trade pact could cost Bangladesh BDT 17 Bn a year

- Bangladesh could lose up to BDT 17 Bn in annual revenue if it eliminates import duties on goods from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) under a proposed free-trade agreement (FTA), prompting calls for a phased tariff reduction to limit the fiscal impact.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/gcc-trade-pact-could-cost-bangladesh-tk-17b-a-year-1792347994>

Vietnam signs free trade deal with four EU nations

- Vietnam and four European nations outside the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, signed a free trade agreement in Hanoi on Sunday, seeking to diversify their markets as US tariffs disrupt global commerce.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/vietnam-signs-free-trade-deal-four-eu-nations-4302106>

Sector and Industries:**BANK | Sonali Bank's lending to NBL pushes T-bill rates up**

- Treasury bill interest rates rose sharply on Sunday as the government's growing borrowing demand coincided with tighter bank liquidity after state-owned Sonali Bank lent BDT 70 Bn to financially troubled National Bank, turning itself from a major lender into a borrower.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/318582/sonali-banks-lending-to-nbl-pushes-t-bill-rates-up>

BANK | 1,500 staff, deposit risks deter buyers from StanChart retail business

- Several banks that initially expressed interest in acquiring Standard Chartered Bangladesh's retail banking business have stepped back, citing concerns over the cost and complexity of absorbing around 1,500 employees, differences in deposit pricing, and customer behaviour.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/1500-staff-deposit-risks-deter-buyers-stanchart-retail-business-1577056>

TELECOM | BTRC to study telecom gaps in remote areas

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has decided to conduct a study to identify remote, hard-to-reach, underserved and disaster-prone areas where telecom services are inadequate or of poor quality and explore ways to ensure reliable, high-quality connectivity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/btrc-study-telecom-gaps-remote-areas-4302076>

ENERGY | QatarEnergy falls short of LNG supply pledges

- Bangladesh's largest LNG supplier, QatarEnergy, has delivered far fewer cargoes than committed under its long-term supply agreement, forcing the country to turn to the volatile spot market and alternative suppliers at significantly higher prices.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/qatarenergy-falls-short-of-lng-supply-pledges-1792348087>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | BSEC proposes 50% IPO debt repayment cap, mandatory escrow accounts**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has proposed raising the cap on using initial public offering (IPO) and rights offer (RPO) proceeds to repay existing loans from 30% to 50%. It would also make escrow accounts mandatory to ensure the money goes to its declared purposes.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-proposes-50-ipo-debt-repayment-cap-mandatory-escrow-accounts-1576896>

BRACBANK | BRAC Bank, IFPRI to build digital financing ecosystem for farmers

- BRAC Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) have partnered to expand digital payments and access to formal credit across Bangladesh's agricultural value chains. The Gates Foundation supports the initiative, developed under FINNOVISION, BRAC Bank's impact-driven SME Innovation Lab.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dsex-edges-down-sell-continues-second-session-1576906>

IFIC | Imran joins IFIC Bank as AMD

- Imran Ahmed has joined IFIC Bank PLC as Additional Managing Director. Prior to joining IFIC Bank, he served as Deputy Managing Director of National Bank PLC. His previous leadership positions were at Sonali Bank PLC, NRB Bank PLC and Bank Asia PLC.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/business-miscellany/318575/imran-joins-ific-bank-as-amd>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 101.10	USD 43.67	76.04%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 108.36	USD 47.51	78.08%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,188.30	(USD 152.70)	-3.52%
DSEX	5,422.67	557.33	11.46%
S&P 500	7,659.44	760.62	11.03%
FTSE 100	10,881.90	950.52	9.57%
BSE SENSEX	74,729.27	-10,064.31	-11.87%
KSE-100	166,419.70	-7,634.60	-4.39%
CSEALL	20,185.05	-2,439.26	-10.78%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 123.31 BDT

1 GBP = 164.33 BDT

1 Euro = 138.41 BDT

1 INR = 1.29 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
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed, CFA	Research Analyst	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Analyst	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

Kumaresh Saha	CEO (Acting)	kumaresh@bracepl.com
---------------	--------------	--

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: + (88)-02-222282446-47

Fax: + (88)-02-222282452

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com