

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:**BB income from foreign currency reserve jumps**

- Bangladesh Bank's income from foreign currency reserves has gone up 108% year-on-year to BDT 60 Bn in fiscal year 2022-23, as per the central bank's annual report. The rise was due to foreign currency revaluations and a USD selling spree of the central bank, said its officials.
- The BB has pumped nearly USD 14 Bn into banks from its forex reserve in fiscal year 2022-23. The central bank finalised its annual accounts for the last fiscal year yesterday, all approved in a meeting of its board of directors presided over by Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-income-foreign-currency-reserve-jumps-3400676>

Ctg port may draw USD 7 Bn investment in 3 years

- The Chattogram port has the potential to draw around USD 5 Bn to USD 7 bn in foreign direct investments over the next three years, said Rear Admiral Mohammad Sohail, the newly appointed chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), yesterday. With these foreign investments, the port will be able to play a vital role in the economic development of the country in the coming years, he opined.
- Referring to the interests of different foreign port operators to invest in the ongoing and proposed projects of the port, he said many countries were showing interest. With increased investment, there will be more employment. Modern technologies will be adopted while foreign exchange reserves will also increase and the efficiency and capacity of the port will be enhanced, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/ports-and-shipping/news/ctg-port-may-draw-7b-investment-3-years-3400681>

Bangladesh to request fast disbursement of China funds, cut in lending rates

- Bangladesh has decided to request China to reduce interest rates on their loans bankrolling big-budget development agenda and expedite disbursement of the funds committed for different projects, officials said. As learnt from sources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the matter is expected to be raised during a bilateral meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina scheduled to be held at 2:30pm (local time) on August 23 on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg this week.
- Sheikh Hasina was set to fly for Johannesburg, South Africa, today (Tuesday) and there is a possibility of a one-on-one meeting between the two leaders. However, asked about the matter, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said schedules of sidelines summit talks were not fixed yet. "There is a possibility, but not confirmed," he said when asked whether there would be a bilateral meeting between the leaders of Bangladesh and China-the two Asian nations now having best of relations, especially on the economic front.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-to-request-fast-disbursement-of-china-funds-cut-in-lending-rates>

Empowering Bangladesh's digital future

- In recent years, Bangladesh has experienced a remarkable transformation in its digital landscape, with the proliferation of e-commerce platforms playing a pivotal role. These platforms not only facilitate online buying and selling but have also emerged as powerful vehicles for providing digital financial services, fostering financial inclusion and uplifting communities.
- Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the lifeblood of Bangladesh's economy, comprising 90% of sellers on various e-commerce platforms. However, one of the longstanding challenges faced by these entities has been limited access to financing. Traditional banking systems often require extensive documentation, collateral and a lengthy approval process, making it difficult for these businesses to secure the capital they need to expand and thrive.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/empowering-bangladeshs-digital-future-3400646>

Industrial loans fall by BDT 180 Bn in three months

- Industrial loans declined by BDT 180 Bn in the first three months of this year due to a slowdown in global economic recovery, ongoing political uncertainty, and lower imports of raw materials and capital machinery. According to data from the central bank, businesses in the industrial sector received BDT 1.31 Tn from banks and financial institutions in the January-March quarter, which is a decline from the BDT 1.49 Tn in the previous three months.
- Bankers say higher global prices of essential commodities, such as fuel oil and gas, along with a strong dollar, have led to an increase in import costs. In addition, production has seen a significant drop due to industries being unable to import raw materials owing to the dollar shortage. It has resulted in a decline in loan disbursements in the industrial sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/industrial-loans-fall-tk18000cr-three-months-686462>

Central bank's profit falls by BDT 142 Bn in FY23

- The central bank's profit plummeted by around 95%, or BDT 142.47 Bn, year-on-year, mainly due to lower gains from foreign exchange. According to data from the Bangladesh Bank, its operating profit for fiscal 2022-23 stood at BDT 150 Bn, which was BDT 292.47 Bn in the previous fiscal year.
- On Tuesday, the Bangladesh Bank board, presided over by Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder, approved its financial statement for fiscal 2022-23. Mezbaul Haque, spokesperson for the central bank, told The Business Standard, "A profit of BDT 60 Bn has come from dollar sales and BDT 70 Bn from lending to the government. Besides, it has made a profit of BDT 20 Bn by lending to commercial banks."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/central-banks-profit-falls-tk14200cr-fy23-686954>

BD yet to get any loan from NDB

- Bangladesh has not received any project loan from the BRICS-initiated New Development Bank (NDB) - even after two years of joining the entity, insiders said on Monday. Bangladesh obtained the NDB's first membership in September 2021 after the five BRICS founder-nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). But the Shanghai-based lender is yet to approve any loan for the country, they added.
- Bangladesh also applied for joining the BRICS, a new economic bloc outside the western world. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is joining the BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 22-24. Bangladesh earlier sought at least USD 1.50 Bn worth of funds from the NDB for six projects, said officials.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bd-yet-to-get-any-loan-from-ndb>

NBR initiates public hearings to bridge gap with taxpayers

- Tax officials will now hold public hearings in their respective tax zones across the country to bridge the gap with taxpayers and address their problems. Senior Secretary of the Internal Resources Division (IRD) and National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem initiated the move, the first of its kind, following widespread misconceptions on tax issues among taxpayers, officials said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nbr-initiates-public-hearings-to-bridge-gap-with-taxpayers>

Women workers' outflow falls 27% in 7 months

- The outflow of women workers abroad has declined by more than 27% in the last seven months of 2023 for a significant decrease in hiring by Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the key job destination country for Bangladeshi female workers.
- Data available with the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) shows 48,543 women workers had been abroad with jobs during the January-July period. The number of outbound women workers during the same period of 2022 was 67,127, according to the data.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/women-workers-outflow-falls-27pc-in-7-months>

Banks begin wallowing in cashable assets again

- In a turnaround from months of cash crunch, excess liquidity in Bangladesh's banking industry began ballooning as aggregate cashable assets of the banks amounted to BDT 1.66 Tn end of June 2023. The recent surge in deposits but a continuous fall in the demand for credits from the private sector resulted in the growth in excess liquidity in the country's commercial banks, officials and bankers said.
- According to the statistics of Bangladesh Bank (BB), the central bank, the volume of excess liquidity in banks was over BDT 2.0 Tn in June 2022. But since then, it kept declining to reach BDT 1.36 Tn in February 2023. Thereafter, the banking industry sees an upturn in the volume of idle cashable assets. It stood at BDT 1.66 Tn as of June this year, the BB data showed.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/banks-begin-wallowing-in-cashable-assets-again>

BB allows Nagad to surrender NBFi licence

- Bangladesh Bank today accepted Nagad's application to surrender its licence to run as a non-bank financial institution (NBFi). The central bank's decision came from a board meeting, BB's Executive Director and Spokesperson Md Mezbaul Haque told The Daily Star. On August 1 this year, Nagad Managing Director Tanvir A Mishuk said to the journalists that Nagad had surrendered its NBFi licence as most of the shareholders of the company want to establish it as a digital bank. Nagad received the NBFi licence from the banking regulator in May this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-allows-nagad-surrender-nbfi-licence-3400431>

Airfares up, up and away

- As airfares continue to rise, Bangladeshi travellers are finding themselves having to shell out more than they were ready for. The surge has impacted not only migrant workers and business travellers, students pursuing education abroad have also been facing extra burden because of the price rise. For example, Bachchu Shekh, a Bangladeshi individual, flew to the USA with his family for studies on 28 July by Turkish Airlines. His painstaking planning for the trip was not made any easier by the BDT 145 thousand each ticket for the Dhaka-New York route.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aviation/airfares-and-away-686962>

Padma Bank gets over 2yrs to clear fine of BDT 550 Mn

- Padma Bank, formerly known as Farmers Bank, is going to get over two years, until April 2028, to clear a BDT 550 Mn penalty for its failure to maintain the regulator-stipulated cash reserve ratio (CRR) from 2017 to 2019. The previous deadline to pay the fine was till September 2025.
- The board of directors of Bangladesh Bank at its 429th meeting yesterday decided to extend the timeframe taking into consideration an application of the bank. Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder presided over the meeting.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/padma-bank-gets-over-2yrs-clear-fine-tk-55cr-3400666>

Stocks:**GENEXIL | 60,000 to be installed in Dhaka, Ctg this FY**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR), in association with Genex Infosys Limited, will install electronic fiscal devices (EFDs) at retail and wholesale outlets in Bangladesh to improve the collection of value-added tax (VAT) from these sources. Initially, 60,000 EFDs will be deployed at stores in Dhaka and Chattogram within the current fiscal year while another three hundred thousand devices will be installed all over the country within the next five.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/60000-be-installed-dhaka-ctg-fy-3400661>

AAMRANET | Aamra Networks to issue BDT 930 Mn right shares for loan repayment

- Aamra Networks Limited — a publicly listed internet service provider — has decided to raise BDT 930 Mn by issuing right shares in order to repay loan and expand business. The company said in its disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website on Tuesday, that a portion of the fund will be used to repay loans, and the remaining amount will be used for network system upgradation and network coverage expansion.
- However, the company is yet to disclose how much of the BDT 930 Mn will be used for loan repayment and how much for network expansion. To raise the said capital, the company will issue 30.9 Mn right shares at a ratio of 2:1. This means, one new share will be issued against two existing shares held by an individual investor. The share price will be BDT 30 each, including a premium of BDT 20, the disclosure reads.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aamra-networks-issue-tk93cr-right-shares-loan-repayment-686942>

GEMINISEA | BSEC team to probe Gemini Sea Food's 'inflated' revenue

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) will investigate the financial disclosures of Gemini Sea Food Limited following the discovery of "inflated revenue figures" during a preliminary inquiry by the Dhaka bourse. To this end, the commission on Tuesday formed a three-member committee.
- The committee, composed of BSEC Additional Director Mollah Miraz-Ul-Sunnah, Assistant Director Anwarul Azim, and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Manager Rumana Ferdous Mou, will present its findings to the commission within 60 days. Gemini Sea Food, a pioneer in exporting certified organic shrimp to EU retailers, processes, packages, and exports quality frozen raw shrimp, cooked shrimp, and whitefish.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-team-probe-gemini-sea-foods-inflated-revenue-686926>

RUNNERAUTO | Green Delta Capital completes issuance of Runner sustainability bonds

- Green Delta Capital Limited (GDCL) successfully completed the issuance of Runner Auto Sustainability Bonds of BDT 2,675 Mn, according to a press release. The proceeds from the bonds, with seven years' tenure, will go towards enhancing the credit support facility for Runner customers as well as the construction of a 4MW rooftop solar plant for Runner's three-wheeler manufacturing facility in Bhaluka, Mymensingh.
- This is the first-ever sustainability bond in Bangladesh, certified by Moody's Investors Service Singapore Pte. The features of the bonds are aligned with the International Capital Market Association's (ICMA) Sustainability Bond Guidelines 2021. Moody's is a global integrated risk assessment firm that empowers organisations to make better investment decisions. Moody's Investors Service Singapore Pte is a part of the organisation dedicated to provide independent analysis of sustainable financing frameworks.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/green-delta-capital-completes-issuance-of-runner-sustainability-bonds>

EXCHANGE | RACE Management to give BDT 1 Bn to MFs' unit holders

- Four more closed-end mutual funds, managed by RACE Management, declared cash dividends amounting to BDT 407.70 Mn for FY23 on Monday. The average cash dividends for the four MFs are 4.13%, said an official of RACE Asset Management.
- With this, Race Management will disburse nearly BDT 1 Bn in cash dividends to unit holders of seven close-ended mutual funds and an open-ended mutual fund for FY23. RACE Management leads the closed-end mutual fund sector, managing 10 such funds with combined asset under management (AUM) of BDT 32.29 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/race-management-to-give-tk-1b-to-mfs-unit-holders>

EXCHANGE | DSE looking for ways to list new cos amid dried-up IPO flow

- The Dhaka bourse has been making frantic moves to bring new companies to the capital market as the flow of initial public offerings (IPOs) has dried up this year. The aim is not only to help the market gain momentum but also to salvage the business of the exchange and market operators as daily transactions have kept falling for the floor price.
- On Monday, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) sat with merchant bankers who work as issue managers. "The market needs IPOs to ensure a desired trade volume to avert any possible long-term impact of the bearish market," said DSE acting managing director M. Shaifur Rahman Mazumdar.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/dse-looking-for-ways-to-list-new-cos-amid-dried-up-ipo-flow>

EXCHANGE | 11 listed NBFIs leave investors in dark

- Seven months have passed since the world bid adieu to 2022, but almost half of the listed non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) in Bangladesh have not published their financial statements for the year, breaching securities rules. As a result, hundreds of thousands of general investors who are holding the stocks of the companies have remained in the dark about how the non-banks fared in the year. NBFIs' financial year runs from January through December.
- According to listing regulations, the annual financial statements of listed companies, excluding mutual funds, have to be audited within 120 days after the issuers' financial year ends. And the report must be published within 14 days of the audit. This means NBFIs are compelled to bring out their yearly statements by the middle of May. At present, 23 NBFIs are listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). Of them, 11 are yet to publish the financial reports within the stipulated date.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/11-listed-nbfis-leave-investors-dark-3400701>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 79.74	USD 4.53	6.02%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 84.06	USD 6.28	8.07%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,902.15	USD 128.00	7.21%
DSEX	6,288.52	81.52	1.31%
S&P 500	4,387.55	548.05	14.27%
FTSE 100	7,270.76	-180.98	-2.43%
BSE SENSEX	65,220.03	4,379.29	7.20%
KSE-100	47,516.40	7,095.95	17.56%
CSEALL	11,338.50	2,836.01	33.36%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.44 BDT****1 GBP = 139.47 BDT****1 Euro = 118.81 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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