

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:**2nd instalment of USD 4.7 Bn loan: IMF team due in Dhaka tomorrow**

- A team of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is due in Dhaka tomorrow to discuss the progress in the use of the first tranche of its USD 4.7 Bn loan for Bangladesh and release of the second instalment. The Ministry of Finance and Bangladesh Bank sources confirmed to UNB today that during its April 25 to May 2 visit, the IMF team will hold meetings with officials of the ministry's Finance Division, Financial Institutions Division, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Bangladesh Bank, and National Board of Revenue (NBR).
- Bangladesh has received the first tranche of USD 476.2 Mn of the USD 4.7 Bn loan approved by the IMF on January 30. The entire amount of the loan will be paid in seven instalments over three and a half years, until 2026. As such, there are six more instalments left.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/2nd-instalment-47b-loan-imf-team-due-dhaka-tomorrow-3303501>

Govt employees to get 20% dearness allowance in next budget

- Government employees who are expecting a new pay scale in the upcoming budget of fiscal year 2023-24, have to be satisfied with a maximum 20% dearness allowance (DA). Highest importance has been given to the stability of the macro economy of the country in the next budget. The prime minister will finalise the budget proposal in a meeting to be held in the second week of May, finance ministry sources said.
- The ministry, as per the direction of the prime minister, has set a total budget of BDT 7.6 Tn for FY24. Highest allocations have been kept for interest payment and subsidy expenditure. A proposal for a special allowance has been prepared, taking into account the price hike of essentials due to the ongoing inflation, sources said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/govt-employees-to-get-20pc-dearness-allowance-in-next-budget>

Bangladesh on track for meeting all IMF terms but reserve threshold: Officials

- Although Bangladesh is right on track on meeting almost all of the pledges made for the IMF loan package, reaching the net reserve threshold requirement of USD 24.46 Bn by June remains the only concern for finance ministry officials as the global lender begins its first review on Tuesday. According to the Bangladesh Bank data, Bangladesh's gross foreign exchange reserves on 17 April was USD 31.18 Bn. The central bank does not disclose the net reserve amount.
- An official of the Finance Division, wishing to go unnamed, told The Business Standard on Monday, "Bangladesh's net reserves before Eid were slightly more than USD 20 Bn. It will be very challenging to raise it to USD 24.46 Bn next June."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-track-meeting-all-imf-terms-reserve-threshold-officials-621414>

Aussie retailer Best&Less refuses to sign int'l safety accord for Bangladeshi RMG workers

- Australian clothing brand Best&Less has refused to sign the International Accord for Health and Safety in the garment and textile industry, an industry standard workplace safety mechanism covering garment workers in Bangladesh. This is despite the imminent 10-year anniversary of the deadliest catastrophe in the history of the clothing industry – the Rana Plaza building collapse in Dhaka.
- The Accord has been signed by many other Australian clothing brands, including Just Jeans, Kmart, Big W, and in recent months 'THE ICONIC' and Mosaic Brands – owner of Katies, Rivers, and Millers. Over the last 10 years, the Accord has conducted nearly 56,000 inspections across 2,400 garment factories in Bangladesh and identified 170,000 health and safety issues, with 91% of those successfully remediated. The inspections the Accord undertakes and subsequent safety repairs are funded by brands that have signed up for them.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/aussie-retailer-bestless-refuses-sign-intl-safety-accord-bangladeshi-rmg-workers-621394>

Stocks:**EXIMBANK | Exim Bank's profit surges 72% in 2022**

- Export Import (Exim) Bank of Bangladesh Limited's profit soared more than 72% to BDT 3.72 Bn in 2022. The profit stood at BDT 2.15 Bn in 2021. The bank reported consolidated earnings per share of BDT 2.57 for the last financial year compared to BDT 1.49 in 2021. "The EPS increased mainly due to a decrease in provision for investments," said the bank. The consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) slipped to the negative territory at BDT 13.20 from a positive BDT 9.37 during the period. The NOCFPS decreased mainly due to a fall in trading liabilities (borrowings) and a reduction in deposits compared to the previous period, said the filing.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/exim-banks-profit-surges-72-2022-3303461>

TRUSTBANK | Trust Bank profits dropped over 72% in Jan-Mar

- Trust Bank's earnings per share (EPS) dropped over 72% in the January-March quarter of this year. During the period, its EPS was BDT 0.32, which was BDT 1.16 a year ago at the same time. Besides, its net operating cash flow per share became negative at BDT 1.51 as its cash outflow increased than inflow. But the bank did not explain the reason for the drop in its financial report filed on the stock exchanges as per the corporate governance code. The private sector bank also declared a dividend to its shareholders for the calendar year 2022. It proposed a 10% cash and 10% stock dividend for the last year, where its EPS was BDT 3.75.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/trust-bank-profits-dropped-over-72-jan-mar-621162>

AGRANINS | BSEC rejects Agrani Insurance's right share offer

- The securities regulator has not approved Agrani Insurance Company Ltd's right share offer due to failure to submit a Credit Information Bureau (CIB) report. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) said in the report filed at the stock exchanges that the general insurer did not submit a clear CIB report of its directors, which was a violation of securities rules. Earlier, Agrani Insurance had decided to increase its capital by issuing one right share against three existing shares. It also got shareholders' approval at the extraordinary general meeting for issuing the right shares.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-rejects-agrani-insurances-right-share-offer-621130>

EXCHANGE | Why listed firms' IPO projects suffered setbacks

- Companies that got listed on the bourses in the last five to six years, are facing massive slowdown in implementing their initial public offering (IPO) projects, thanks to a number of hindrances that had been showing up one after another starting with the Covid-19 pandemic. When the firms were just starting to recover from the pandemic shock, the Russia-Ukraine thing happened and then the dollar got very pricey. A mix-and-match of these factors led to the slowdown of opening letters of credit (LCs) for the firms to import machinery, which was a major part of their IPO project. Investors are also being deprived of their expected returns from investing in these firms. The firms claim that the Bangladesh Bank has been approving the opening of LCs for essential products, but not for capital machinery.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/why-listed-firms-ipo-projects-suffered-setbacks-621402>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 78.82	USD 3.61	4.80%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 82.77	USD 4.99	6.42%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,997.79	USD 223.64	12.61%
DSEX	6,252.16	45.16	0.73%
S&P 500	4,137.04	297.54	7.75%
FTSE 100	7,912.20	460.46	6.18%
BSE SENSEX	60,056.10	-784.64	-1.29%
KSE-100	41,007.82	587.37	1.45%
CSEALL	9,187.29	684.80	8.05%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 106.08 BDT****1 GBP = 132.57 BDT****1 Euro = 117.32 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
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
----------------------	-------------------------	--	---------------

For any queries or services, you can reach us at care@bracepl.com or hotline **16285**.