

*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:****Bangladesh-South Korea bilateral trade crosses USD 3 Bn in last fiscal: State minister**

- State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam on Sunday said that the bilateral trade between Bangladesh and South Korea crossed USD 3.0 Bn in the last fiscal year 2022-23. He thanked the Korean government for granting preferential access to 95% of Bangladeshi products. Ambassador Park Young Sik said that the bilateral ties between the countries are now on a solid footing.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bangladesh-south-korea-bilateral-trade-crosses-3-billion-state-minister>

**Chinese company to invest USD 23.15 Mn in Uttara EPZ**

- Chinese company M/s. Bangladesh Boyang Textile Co. Ltd. is going to set up a textile and home textile manufacturing industry in Uttara EPZ with an investment of USD 23.15 Mn. This fully foreign owned company will create employment opportunities for 1993 Bangladeshi nationals. Bangladesh Boyang Textile Co. will produce annually 50 Mn meters of linen/cotton woven & denim fabrics and 3 Mn pieces of home textile like pillow cases, bed sheets and tablecloths.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/chinese-company-to-invest-2315m-in-uttara-epz>

**Vietnam president attends forum in Dhaka to boost economic cooperation**

- Vuong Dinh Hue, President of the Vietnam National Assembly, has attended an event in Dhaka titled 'Forum on Policies and Laws to Promote Economic, Trade and Investment Cooperation between Vietnam and Bangladesh. During the Forum three b2b MoUs were signed between BMH Vietnam Company and Doreen Group Bangladesh on investment cooperation, technology transfer and development of pre-engineered steel production.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/vietnam-president-attends-forum-in-dhaka-to-boost-economic-cooperation>

**Saidpur's cookware puts footprint in global market**

- Royal Relax Metal Industries, established in Saidpur, Nilphamari, in 1978 to manufacture aluminium products, exports its products to three countries, India, Bhutan and Nepal, with an annual turnover ranging from USD 0.3 - 0.5 Mn. In the current month, the company plans to export products worth USD 22,000 to Bhutan. Despite its growth and potential the company faces various challenges like non-availability of uninterrupted power supply and harassment by VAT and tax officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/saidpurs-cookware-puts-footprint-global-market-706026>

**Agri loans remain strong as credit, recovery grow**

- At a time when the credit flow to the private sector is on a downward trajectory, the disbursement and recovery of agricultural loans through banks increased in the first two months of the current fiscal year. A total of BDT 53.08 Bn agricultural loan was disbursed in July-August of FY24, marking a 38% increase from BDT 38.37 Bn in the same period last fiscal. Bankers say agricultural loans are easy to recover, leading to their ready issuance. Additionally, the central bank's agricultural credit targets prompt banks to disburse these funds diligently.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/agri-loans-remain-strong-credit-recovery-grow-706470>

**Another 36,000 RMG workers to receive salary through bKash payroll solution**

- Another eight leading RMG companies in the country started using bKash's digital payroll solution to disburse salaries and allowances to their workers. With this latest addition, currently more than 1,100 factories are disbursing salaries and allowances to over a million workers through bKash's digital payroll solution, says a press release. In addition, bKash facilitates services like instant digital nano loan, savings from bank and NBF, insurance service for the workers.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/another-36000-rmg-workers-to-receive-salary-through-bkash-payroll-solution>

**Cenbank fixes forward forex rate**

- The central bank fixed the forward foreign currency selling and buying rate on Sunday. From now on, banks can fix the rate of forward dollar by adding the maximum six months moving average rate of treasury bill (SMART) + 5% per year to the current dollar rate. A senior official of the central bank told The Business Standard, by fixing the forward selling and purchasing rates of foreign currency, a consumer's exchange rate risk is decreased.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-fixes-forward-forex-rate-706494>

**Banks asked to work together to stabilise forex market**

- The Bangladesh Bank today asked banks to work jointly to get rid of the volatility in the country's foreign exchange market. The central bank instruction came at a meeting between Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder and a delegation of the Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB) at the BB headquarters. Neither central bankers nor the CEOs of the commercial banks agreed to comment on the outcome of the meeting.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-asked-work-together-stabilise-forex-market-3427161>

**Govt's bank borrowing in check**

- The government's borrowing from the banking system has remained in check so far in the ongoing fiscal year thanks to lower expenditures and higher revenue collection. This is a reverse from a trend seen in the last fiscal year when the government took a record BDT 980 Bn in loans from the Bangladesh Bank to run its operations, which contributed to stoking inflation.
- The inflationary situation, which has remained at an elevated level for the past one and a half years, forced the government to change its borrowing policy for the current fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govts-bank-borrowing-check-3426321>

**US wants govt action against counterfeit apparel exports**

- The United States has urged Bangladesh to take action to address the export of counterfeit clothing items from the second-largest garment supplier to the world's largest economy. Earlier, the USTR identified Bangladesh as one of the top five sources for counterfeit clothing items globally, a discredit that stakeholders have identified as a matter of concern. The US conveyed to Bangladesh that supporting workers' rights, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, is a top priority for the Biden-Harris administration.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/us-wants-govt-action-against-counterfeit-apparel-exports-3427281>

**Dollar rates raised to BDT 110 for remitters, exporters**

- Banks have once again raised the official rate of the dollar by BDT 0.50 for remittances, export proceeds, and import settlements amid volatility in the country's foreign exchange market. The new dollar rates are BDT 110 for remittances and export proceeds and BDT 110.50 for import settlements.
- A source present at the meeting said some bank MDs offered various prices to customers to increase remittances. However, the proposal was not accepted considering that if it is introduced, an unfair practice may be introduced in collecting remittances among the banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/dollar-rates-raised-tk110-remitters-exporters-706518>

**Forex holdings in banks fall in August**

- Commercial banks witnessed a drop in foreign currencies last month from that in the preceding month mainly due to a sharp fall year-on-year in the inflow of remittance and a relatively small growth in export earnings. The gross foreign currency balance with the banks stood at USD 5.80 Bn in August, down from USD 5.90 Bn in July, as per the latest data of Bangladesh Bank. Industry insiders said the foreign currency balance of banks generally falls when remittance earnings fall and import payments increase.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-holdings-banks-fall-august-3427291>

**Shopowners' Association seeks withdrawal of 1% supervision charge in CMSME loans**

- Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity, an association of shopowners, has demanded withdrawal of 1% supervision charged in CMSME loans. Helal Uddin, president of Dokan Malik Samity said if the supervision charge is not withdrawn and the money taken already is not returned by October 15, shopowners will move against it across the country.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/shopowners-association-seeks-withdrawal-of-1pc-supervision-charge-in-cmsme-loans>

**Exporters' dollar retention limit cut by 50% to curb greenback shortage**

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has cut the dollar retention limit by 50% for the exporters to curb shortage of the greenback in the interbank market and boost its flow. Merchandise exporters can retain up to 60% of their repatriated export incomes, depending on their local value addition
- According to bankers, foreign exchange reserves are declining due to an increase in import spending, surpassing remittance income and expatriate export earnings. Consequently, the flow of dollars in the market has declined, prompting the decision to take action.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/exporters-retention-limit-cut-50-boost-dollar-flow-706502>

**Bike-sharing thru' apps on decline, forcing cos to halt service**

- The once-thriving bike-ride sharing trend via apps has taken an unexpected hit, as a sharp decline in usage is forcing companies to halt their services, with 13 out of the 15 registered companies having non-renewed yearly licences. Only two companies - Pathao and Uber - have secured timely permit renewals, indicating their strong business performance. Meanwhile, the BRTA warned of tougher action, and said it will not let anyone run a ride-sharing service without valid permission.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bike-sharing-thru-apps-decline-forcing-cos-halt-service-706030>

**Stocks:****EMERALDOIL | Emerald Oil, Minori Bangladesh, Jamuna Edible Oil partner to upturn rice bran oil production**

- Publicly listed Emerald Oil Industries, along with Minori Bangladesh Ltd, has signed an agreement with Jamuna Edible Oil to increase the production of rice bran oil. Under the agreement, Emerald Oil will refine crude oil at the Jamuna Edible Oil plant to produce oil. Half of the production will be exported to Japan. Minori Bangladesh Managing Director Mia Mamun said all three companies will be able to make a profit.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/emerald-oil-minori-bangladesh-jamuna-edible-oil-partner-upturn-rice-bran-oil>

**MIRAKHTER | Mir Concrete Block leaps to grab stake in concrete brick market**

- Mir Concrete Block, a prominent player in the concrete block manufacturing industry, has started a new production unit with an investment of over BDT 300 Mn aiming to strengthen its position in the thriving local concrete brick market, which is presently estimated to be valued at approximately BDT 1.20 Bn.
- Sakhawat Hossain, deputy general manager (DGM) of Mir Concrete Block, highlighted that approximately 350 Bn pieces of clay bricks, amounting to around BDT 100 Bn, are used annually in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/mir-concrete-block-leaps-grab-stake-concrete-brick-market-706058>

**ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC gets Remittance Award**

- Muktaadhara New York Inc has awarded Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC with the Remittance Award for collecting the highest remittance in Bangladesh. The award was presented at the closing session of the 2-day Bangladeshi Immigrant Day and Trade Fair 2023 organized by USA-Bangladesh Business Link and Muktaadhara New York Inc in association with FBCCI and Greater New York Chamber of Commerce in New York on Saturday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/islami-bank-bangladesh-plc-gets-remittance-award>

**PUBALIBANK | Timely steps alleviate forex crunch of Pubali Bank**

- Pubali Bank Limited has successfully dealt with the ongoing foreign currency crunch courtesy of timely restrictions on the import of luxurious items, foreign fruits and ornaments, said the top official of the private commercial lender. "In the last month, we had only 2.12% NPLs. It was 2.6% in December last year," said Mohammad Ali, managing director and chief executive officer of the bank. Despite the global situation, the bank's operating profit has grown over 25%, he added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/timely-steps-alleviate-forex-crunch-pubali-bank-3427056>

**PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank inks deal with Le Meridien Dhaka**

- Prime Bank recently signed a strategic partnership with Le Meridien Dhaka. Under the deal, Visa and Mastercard platinum credit cardholders, World Mastercard credit cardholders and monarch (priority banking) customers of the bank will enjoy "Buy 1 Get 1 Free" service. Apart from this, all cardholders of the bank will enjoy up to 15% discounts on restaurant, café and health club membership at the hotel.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/prime-bank-inks-deal-le-meridien-dhaka-3427201>

**BSCCL | Govt wants Submarine Cable shares at rate 66% lower than market price**

- The Posts and Telecommunications Division of the government wants the shares of Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL) against the share money deposit at a 66% lower rate than the prevailing market price on the Dhaka bourse. According to the company's Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) filing on Sunday, BSCCL will issue 22.1 Mn shares against the government's share money deposit of BDT 1.66 Bn.
- Azam Ali, managing director of the BSCCL, told The Business Standard, "Since the government has not taken any dividend or interest against this share money deposit for the last six years, we feel that the government has made a reasonable proposal."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/govt-wants-submarine-cable-shares-rate-66-lower-market-price-706526>

**EXCHANGE | Financial crimes: Brokers' own capital determines risk clients are exposed to**

- Fund misappropriation by four brokerage firms, between 2019 and 2021 drew attention anew to the matter of regulatory capital that a broker must have to minimize risk to investors. But negative equity and repeated time extensions to meet provisioning requirement against unrealised losses in the brokers' own portfolios make it imperative for the regulators to set a minimum paid-up capital that they must have for the sake of safety of stock investors.
- The securities regulator issued a directive in October 2022 on reportage of brokers' capital adequacy ratio online. The exact number of the TREC holders which so far have fully complied with the capital adequacy provision could not be known.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/financial-crimes-brokers-own-capital-determines-risk-clients-are-exposed-to>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 90.30	USD 15.09	20.06%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 93.62	USD 15.84	20.37%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,923.56	USD 149.41	8.42%
DSEX	6,280.93	73.93	1.19%
S&P 500	4,320.06	480.56	12.52%
FTSE 100	7,683.91	232.17	3.12%
BSE SENSEX	66,009.15	5,168.41	8.49%
KSE-100	46,436.41	6,015.96	14.88%
CSEALL	11,256.52	2,754.03	32.39%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.73 BDT****1 GBP = 134.31 BDT****1 Euro = 116.82 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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