

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.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to go tough against GP, Robi

- The telecom regulator is set to issue two separate show cause notices to Grameenphone and Robi asking them to reply within 30 days why their licences will not be cancelled despite violating the licensing conditions by not paying the telecom regulator's 'dues'. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission has demanded BDT 125.80 billion from Grameenphone and BDT 8.67 billion from Robi as per the finding of the audits into the two operators' books. On Sunday, the BTRC has sent their recommendations to the posts and telecom division and sought the government's approval on the show cause notices.
- As per the telecom act, the BTRC will have to take prior approval from the government to issue show cause notice aiming to cancel any licence or start any licence cancelling procedure. Telecom said that they have received BTRC's recommendation and are now working on it. As a regulator the BTRC has the right to send this type of recommendation to us and they did it. Now they will consider all the related issues and make our decision, he added. As per that section, the telecom regulator can cancel the licence and appoint an administrator if their response is not satisfactory.
- A senior official of the BTRC said they will issue the letter to the two operators, which have more than 120 million active mobile connections between them, soon after getting the approval from the government. A senior executive of a mobile operator said they may even consider moving to the international court to get a solution on the issue and that would be a disaster for industry and the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/telecom/news/btrc-go-tough-against-gp-robi-1782874>

Prices of rawhide remain unchanged

- Prices of rawhides of sacrificial animals during Eid-ul-Azha have been kept unchanged at last year's level amid strong demand for lessening the rates by the tanners and traders concerned. The price of cowhide (salted/non-salted) has been re-fixed at BDT 45-50 per sq ft (square feet) in Dhaka and BDT 35-40 per sq ft outside the capital during this Eid-ul-Azha. Goatskin (salted/salt-free) will sell at BDT 18-20 per sq ft across the country while she-goat's skin at BDT 13-15 per sq ft.
- Commerce minister said it should not be justified to reduce the prices of rawhide this year than that of the last year since there is a humanitarian side. He added there would be bad impact if the prices of rawhides are reduced this year. This year the number of animals to be sacrificed across the country is estimated to be over 11.78 million. Of these, 4.58 million are cows and buffaloes while 7.2 million are goats and sheep. Last year, over 11.55 million animals were sacrificed, according to data from the commerce ministry.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/prices-of-rawhide-remain-unchanged-1565114479>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rawhide-prices-unchanged-eid-1782826>

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/80879/rawhide-prices-set-at-7-yr-low-despite-doubling-of-cow-prices>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2019/08/06/govt-keeps-rawhide-prices-unchanged>

Tanners to get BDT 6.55 billion in loan to buy rawhide

- Four state-owned banks would provide 23 entities with credit facility worth around BDT 6.55 billion for purchasing rawhide on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha, the biggest supply season of the item. They also said that they traders would get loans at the rate of 9 per cent interest for purchasing rawhide. Of the banks, Rupali Bank would provide highest BDT 2.50 billion, Janata BDT 2.00 billion, Agrani BDT 1.35 billion and Sonali rest BDT 700 million. However, the disbursement of the loans might vary due to the existing state of loans repayment by the entities which received loan facility last year.
- Agrani Bank managing director said that the entity has decided to issue BDT 1.35 billion loans to 6 entities for purchasing rawhide on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha. Agrani disbursed BDT 1.05 billion to four entities in this regard last year, he said. Mentioned 75 per cent recovery rate of those loans, he also said that adding that the bank would disburse loans based on the repayment ratio of the entities. The country's export of leather and leather goods constitutes worth around USD 1 billion. Leather businesses collect 50 per cent of their annual requirement during Eid-ul-Azha.
- Janata Bank would disburse BDT 2.00 billion fresh loans to 10 entities in this Eid for purchasing rawhide, said its managing adding that they would charge 9 per cent interest against such loans. Besides, Janata Bank would reschedule loans worth BDT 11.05 billion which were issued for purchasing rawhide in the previous years. Besides the state-owned banks, several private commercial banks were also issuing credit facility to their customers in this regard.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/80915/tanners-to-get-BDT-655cr-in-loan-to-buy-rawhide>

Foreign investors to purchase shares worth USD 100m from United Mymensingh Power

- United Power Generation & Distribution Company Limited and its major shareholder United Mymensingh Power Limited ("UMPL") executed an agreement with an international private equity group for an investment of BDT 8.5 billion (approximately USD 100 million). The investors will purchase existing shares from UMPL. The share sales will be by way of an agreed plan of UMPL and United Power, said a statement. The incoming investment was facilitated by Blue Mount Capital which acted as the international corporate finance advisors.

- United Mymensingh Power, one of the corporate directors of United Power, will sell 10 million shares at prevailing market price in the block market. According to statistics available with the DSE, 770,520 shares of United Power were traded, generating a turnover of BDT 302 million, which was 5.31 per cent of the total turnover. The company's paid-up capital is BDT 4.79 billion and authorised capital is BDT 8.0 billion while total number of scrippities is 479.08 million.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/foreign-investors-to-purchase-shares-worth-100m-of-united-mymensingh-power-1565113072>

World Stock and Commodities*

| Index Name | Close Value | Value Change | % Change |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Crude Oil (WTI)* | \$53.57 | -0.06 | -0.11% |
| Crude Oil (Brent)* | \$58.89 | -0.05 | -0.08% |
| Gold Spot* | \$1,485.75 | +11.33 | +0.77% |
| DSEX | 5,187.29 | +26.92 | 0.52% |
| Dow Jones Industrial Average | 26,029.52 | +311.78 | +1.21% |
| FTSE 100 | 7,171.69 | -52.16 | -0.72% |
| Nikkei 225 | 20,417.56 | -167.75 | -0.81% |

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.46*

GBP 1 = BDT 102.72*

EUR 1 = BDT 94.69*

INR 1 = BDT 1.19*

*Currencies are taken from XE Currency Converter and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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