

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 Bank pumps BDT 3.6 billion into three banks

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) injected funds amounting to nearly BDT 3.60 billion into three banks on Sunday to help minimise their cash withdrawal pressure ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha, officials said. The central bank provided the funds to the banks using its assured liquidity support facility to help manage their funds smoothly. According to a senior official from BB They have provided the funds to the banks at 6.00% rate. He also said BB may extend the liquidity facility today (Monday), the last working day before the Eid vacation, if any bank seeks such support against their treasury bills and bonds.
- The weighted average rate (WAR) on call money rose to around 4.50% on Sunday from 2.17% on August 12, another BB official said. The inter-bank call money rate has been showing an upward trend since August 12, mainly due to higher withdrawal of cash money from the banks ahead of the Eid. The trend may continue until today, according to the market operators.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-pumps-BDT-36b-into-three-banks-1534700824>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/business/eid-pushes-call-money-rate-1623319>

Four State-owned Banks to lend BDT 6.01 billion to tanners this Eid

- Four state-owned commercial banks (SoCBs) are set to provide BDT 6.01 billion in loans to tanners to help them purchase rawhide of sacrificial animals during this Eid-ul-Azha. The loan facility will be given to the country's 42 traders concerned this year. Around 40 tanners got loans amounting to BDT 5.26 billion during Eid-ul-Azha last year.
- Janata Bank is set to disburse the highest amount of loans to 32 tanners. It would give BDT 2.10 billion to their clients for purchasing rawhide during Eid, said a senior official of the state-owned bank. Rupali Bank will provide BDT 1.75 billion in loan to three parties. Agrani Bank Ltd will disburse BDT 1.46 billion to four clients and Sonali Bank BDT 700 million to three traders, according to sources with the state-run banks. Of the state-owned banks, Janata Bank disbursed the largest amount of credit worth BDT 2.01 billion last year, followed by Agrani Bank with BDT 1.20 billion, Rupali Bank BDT 1.35 billion and Sonali Bank BDT 700 million. Some private commercial banks are also going to disburse loans to the traders concerned on a limited scale.
- Currently, the total amount of banks' non-performing loans (NPLs) with the leather sector stood at BDT 5.0 billion. Most of the loans were disbursed in early 1990s. The government has lowered the price of rawhide and skins of sacrificial animals to BDT 45-50 per square foot (sq ft) in the capital during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha. Last year, the price of rawhide and skins was BDT 50-55 per sq ft in the city.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/four-socbs-to-lend-BDT-601b-to-tanners-this-eid-1534700709>

Mobile data leads to internet boom

- The number of the country's active internet connections increased about 20% year-on-year to 87.8 million at the end of June on the back of fast-growing mobile internet and the government's push for digitalization. The internet industry added more than 14.4 million active connections in the last one year, according to a report of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission published recently. Since the launch of 3G in September 2013, mobile internet connections rose 134.38%, driving digitalisation, said industry leaders.
- Mobile internet users numbered 82.0 million at the end of June, meaning out of the country's 150.9 million active mobile connections, 54.34% have internet connections. When 3G was launched, mobile internet connections stood at 365.0 million. The mobile industry added more than 10 million new connections every year on an average to their network in the last five years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/business/telecom/mobile-data-leads-internet-boom-1623310>

Work on 41 Savar tanneries yet to end

- Forty-one tanneries out of 154 are yet to commence operation at Savar Tannery Estate due to various reasons including unfinished construction work, according to Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). Of them, 15 to 20 tanneries are scheduled to go into operation before this Eid-ul-Azha while the remaining tanneries will be able to commence operation by 2018, according to the Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA). At present, only 40 tanneries are fully operational while the rest of the tanneries are partly operational.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/work-on-41-savar-tanneries-yet-to-end-1534700880>

Powerchina to expand its footprint in Bangladesh

• Chinese state-owned company Powerchina is aiming to boost its presence in Bangladesh's power, infrastructure and water treatment sector. Increased investment in these sectors is vital for Bangladesh's future development process, the company officials have said this week. According to the executive Vice President of Powerchina, So far, they have completed 10 projects in Bangladesh in the areas of power, river training, municipal works and road construction. The total worth of these projects is around USD 750 million. At the same time, they have 12 ongoing projects amounting to USD 4.64 billion in the fields of power, river training works, sewerage treatment plant and railway construction

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/powerchina-to-expand-its-footprint-in-bd-1534701142>

Bangladesh to seek US investment in special economic zones

• Bangladesh would seek US investment in the country's proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the fourth TICFA meeting to be held in Washington on September 13, officials said. Investment opportunities, market access for locally made products, customs and supplementary duty structure, labour issues and implementation of trade facilitation agreement will figure high on the agenda during the meeting, they said.

• Local exporters are interested in manufacturing garment items using US cotton and export them to that country. One of the ministry officials said the US side would focus on the market access for American pharmaceutical products and cotton to Bangladesh. Bangladesh would raise the issue of preferential market access for Bangladeshi products as per the 9th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation in Bali, they said.

• Bangladesh's exports to the US stood at USD 5.27 billion last year. Garments fetched USD 5.06 billion, out of the total export earnings.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-to-seek-us-investment-in-special-economic-zones-1534698606>

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/48821/bangladesh-to-invite-us-to-invest-in-sezs>

Taxmen asked to prioritise VAT returns audit in same tax cycle

• The National Board of Revenue has asked its field offices to carry out scrutiny and other legal activities on Value-Added Tax returns on a priority basis during the same tax period of returns submission to realise lawful revenue, instead of claiming outstanding VAT after five to six years. The VAT wing of the NBR issued the instruction on Thursday to end harassment of VAT payers in the audit process and abate the risk of legal complexities.

• In the instruction issued to its 12 VAT commissionerates, the NBR said that it was the routine responsibility of the field offices to realise applicable and lawful VAT during the same tax cycle of returns submission. It may cause various types of problems both for businesses and tax offices if VAT officials do not perform the routine responsibilities properly and on time, it said.

• They also conduct intensive audit on five-year-old VAT returns but they can also go through returns of previous years based on suspicion and specific proof of VAT evasion or other related offences. Businesses are also to preserve documents related to VAT payments of the last five years. NBR officials said that the VAT wing issued the directives after getting complaints from businesses, especially from the readymade garment sector. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association has been requesting the NBR to refrain from making demands for previous years' documents arguing that it causes extreme level of hassle for businesses.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/48822/taxmen-asked-to-prioritise-vat-returns-audit-in-same-tax-cycle>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$65.67	-0.24	-0.36%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$71.56	-0.27	-0.38%
Gold Spot*	\$1,185.71	+1.46	+0.12%
DSEX	5538.51	+70.76	+1.29%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,669.32	+110.59	+0.43%
FTSE 100	7,558.59	+2.21	+0.03%
Nikkei 225	22,207.61	-62.77	-0.28%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 83.81*

GBP 1 = BDT 106.84*

EUR 1 = BDT 95.80*

INR 1 = BDT 1.20*

**Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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