

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.

NSC sales in July-Nov reaches 95.22% of FY21 target

- Net government borrowing against sales of national savings certificates reached 95.22% of the budgetary target in the first five months of the current fiscal year 2020-2021 amid falling deposit rates in the banking system. The latest National Savings Directorate data showed that net sales of the NSCs reached BDT 190.44 billion against the BDT 200.00-billion projection fixed in the fiscal budget for the year 2020-2021. In July-November of FY21, net sales of the NSCs were 270% or BDT 139.0 billion higher against the National Savings Directorate's net sales of BDT 51.41 billion in the same period of FY20.
- The net NSCs sales, particularly in November of FY21, rose by 961.25% or BDT 30.81 billion to BDT 34.02 billion compared with sales of BDT 3.20 billion in the same month of FY20. Given the existing trend, the NSCs sales in the current fiscal year would be much higher than the government's annual target and the volume may exceed BDT 400.00 billion at the end of the year, a Bangladesh Bank official said. The NSD data also showed that the NSCs sales increased by 390.25% or BDT 32.11 billion in October 2020 against sales of BDT 8.22 billion in the same month of 2019.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/126196/nsc-sales-in-july-nov-reaches-9522pc-of-fy21-target>

Remittance hits USD 21.7 billion, an all-time high

- Remittance hit an all-time high of USD 21.74 billion last year as migrant workers continued to use formal channels sidestepping the hundi system to send home massive amounts of money. Last year, the inflow posted a magnificent growth of 18.59% compared to that in the previous year, showed data from the central bank. Migrant workers remitted USD 2.05 billion in December, meaning that the inflow crossed the USD 2-billion mark for the fourth straight month. The increasing trend has given a boost to government confidence in managing the macro-economy in times of crisis.
- The country's foreign exchange reserve has already surpassed the USD 43 billion mark riding on the upward trend of remittance, a development that will help the government use the foreign exchange reserve on a rainy day. The reserve stood at USD 32.38 billion in March last year when the coronavirus hit the country. Experts hope that the trend would be maintained until at least the end of the pandemic given the global economic scenario and the initiatives taken by the government.
- They, however, said that there was no scope to pinpoint any reason behind the increase in remittance as this was quite an unusual phenomenon from the perspective of the global scenario. Although the country's workforce export came to a halt in April last year because of the pandemic, remittance has kept the ball rolling. Between January and March last year, 181,218 Bangladeshi citizens went abroad, according to data from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/remittance-hits-217b-all-time-high-2022065>

<https://tbsnews.net/economy/remittances-first-6-months-fiscal-sees-over-37-percent-growth-180382>

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/126193/remittance-swells-by-38pc-in-h1>

BB extends deadline until March 31

- The central bank yesterday extended the deadline by three months for banks to disburse BDT 200.00-billion stimulus funds among businesses in the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprise (CMSME) sector following lacklustre lending. Local banks have so far disbursed nearly 46% of the package to beleaguered borrowers in the CMSME sector. The deadline was earlier extended for at least three times, but some banks and non-bank financial institutions are yet to take adequate measures to meet their loan disbursement targets, according to a Bangladesh Bank notice.
- The banks and NBFIs, which have failed to reach the disbursement targets, have been asked to submit monthly plans to the BB in order to achieve their goals within March. The slow pace in lending has put an adverse impact on small businesses, creating an unequal recovery among various sectors. On April 13, the BB announced the stimulus package to help the CMSME sector to tackle the economic slowdown brought about by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The working capital will be given at 9% interest of which 4% will be borne by borrowers and the rest by the government, according to a guideline.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/disbursement-deadline-extended-again-2022061>

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-extends-deadline-until-march-31-1609696844>

<https://tbsnews.net/economy/cmsme-stimulus-rollout-extended-3-months-180349>

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/126192/bangladesh-bank-extends-implementation-deadline-again-amid-dismal-disbursement>

India bans export of Covid vaccine

- India has decided not to allow Serum Institute to export of the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine for several months. The ban on exports means that poorer nations will probably have to wait a few months before receiving their first shots. India's Serum Institute's CEO said that, the vaccine has been granted emergency authorisation by the Indian regulator on Sunday, but on the condition that Serum Institute doesn't export the shots to ensure that vulnerable populations in India are protected.
- They can only give the vaccines to the government of India at the moment, he said, adding the decision was also made to prevent hoarding. He further said that the company also has been barred from selling the vaccine in the private market. Earlier in the day, Serum Institute of India said it intends to concentrate on meeting India's own immediate demand in the next two months before exporting to other interested countries.
- After India's Oxford nod, Bangladesh was closer to the jab. Bangladesh's health ministry hoped to get the vaccine by January. Besides, Serum was planning to give 200 to 300 million doses of the vaccine to COVAX by December 2021. The ban on exports, however, means that poorer nations will probably have to wait a few months before receiving their first shots.

<https://tbsnews.net/coronavirus-chronicle/india-bans-export-covid-vaccine-180499>

Ifad Autos' cabin manufacturing unit begins production

- Ifad Autos has started manufacturing cabins for trucks at its industrial park in Dhamrai in Dhaka, the company said in a disclosure yesterday. The cabin manufacturing unit was set up at an investment of BDT 192 million, a senior official of the company told The Daily Star, adding that the unit was first of its kind in Bangladesh. The localisation of cabin manufacturing will create opportunities to develop local vendors, which will in turn generate many jobs, the official said. According to a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange, production began on December 31 and it was financed using the proceeds from rights share issuance.
- The cabin or cab of a truck or pickup truck is the inside space in a vehicle where the driver is seated. The plant can produce 3,600 cabins in a single shift and it will go up to 10,000 units per annum when it runs at full-swing.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ifad-autos-cabin-manufacturing-unit-begins-production-2022033>

Ibn Sina to enter natural medicine business

- Stocks of the Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical Industry rose 6.60% to BDT 260 yesterday after news broke that it would form a new subsidiary to produce natural medicine products. The listed drug maker plans to launch the subsidiary in the name of "Ibn Sina Natural Medicine" in order to take advantage of the sector's potential. Their plan is to produce Unani, herbal, Ayurvedic, food supplements and medicated consumer products, said the company secretary of the Ibn Sina Pharmaceutical Industry.
- The new company will be launched as the products have huge demand in the local market, he added. The company's authorised and paid-up capital are BDT 400 million and BDT 120 million respectively. The general acceptability and consumption of natural medicine has increased remarkably in comparison with allopathic medicine, the company said in its annual report for 2019-20.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ibn-sina-enter-natural-medicine-business-2022037>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$48.50	(\$0.02)	-0.04%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$51.79	(\$0.01)	-0.02%
Gold Spot*	\$1,914.49	\$19.39	1.02%
DSEX	5,618.96	216.89	4.01%
S&P 500	3,756.07	-	0.00%
FTSE 100	6,460.52	-	0.00%
BSE SENSEX	47,868.98	117.65	0.25%
KSE-100	44,434.80	679.42	1.55%
CSEALL	6,774.22	-	0.00%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.69*

GBP 1 = BDT 115.89*

EUR 1 = BDT 103.72*

INR 1 = BDT 1.16*

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

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