

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.

Central bank launches Tk 5.0b scheme for returnee expats

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has created a BDT 5.0 billion refinance scheme to generate employment and to eliminate poverty for the expatriates who have returned home due to Covid 19 pandemic and other reasons. The central bank gave the information in a circular on Monday, reports BSS.
- The interest rate of this lending facility will be 6 % and the tenure of the scheme is a maximum of three years. The scheme was formed under the stimulus package that was announced to deal with the possible economic shock from the shutdown enforced for curbing the spread of COVID-19.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/central-bank-launches-tk-50b-scheme-for-returnee-expats-1641217180>

BDT 500cr rolled out for those who migrated to villages

- The Bangladesh Bank rolled out refinance scheme titled "Ghore Fera" of BDT 500 crore to support people who migrated back to their villages due to the ongoing economic hardship. The returnees will be able to get funds at 6% interest rate from the scheme, without providing any collateral. Banks will get funds at 0.5% interest rate from the central bank. Borrowers who will avail up to BDT 2 lakh will be allowed to repay the loan by two years, which includes a grace period of three months. The repayment tenure will be three years, including a six-month grace period, if the amount of loan ranges between BDT 2 lakh and BDT 5 lakh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/tk-500cr-rolled-out-those-who-migrated-villages-2931806>

Loan moratorium extended until 15 Jan – informally

- Borrowers have until 15 January to avoid being classified as loan defaulters by paying at least 15% of their instalments for 2021. Earlier, the Bangladesh Bank asked them to pay the minimum amount within 31 December 2021, otherwise, they would be categorised as loan defaulters – a negative marking for which they would face barriers in getting loans and availing other facilities in future.
- The Bangladesh Bank on 30 December set a loan moratorium facility for all borrowers at 15% of their total repayable loans in 2021, backtracking from its earlier decision of 25% for large borrowers, in the face of pressure from businessmen and bank owners. The decision was made at a meeting between the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) and the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB) with the central bank governor. Earlier on 14 December, the central bank issued a circular that says borrowers under the loan moratorium facility will not be considered defaulters if they pay 25% of the payable amount for the year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/loan-moratorium-extended-until-15-jan-informally-352717>

Bangladesh's trade gap doubles to USD12.53b in July-November period

- Bangladesh saw its trade deficit more than double in the first five months of the current fiscal year as higher import-payment pressure on the economy causes account imbalance, officials say. The deficit in trade with the rest of the world widened by 148.31 % or USUSD7.48 billion to USD12.53 billion during the July-November of the FY 2021-22 against USD5.05 billion in the same period of FY'21, according to the central bank's latest statistics. During the period under review, import expenses swelled nearly 54 % while export earnings recorded a 22.65-% growth.
- The overall import cost stood at USD31.17 billion in the July-November period of FY '22 against USD20.24 billion in the same period a year earlier while export earnings rose at a slower pace to USD18.64 billion from USD15.19 billion.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladeshs-trade-gap-doubles-to-1253b-in-july-november-period-1641177486>

Remittance flow dips after unusual pickup in 2020

- Remittance from migrant Bangladeshi workers dipped over 12 % in the past calendar year from an unusual pandemic-time pickup in 2020, for reasons that include their higher expenditure. The lure of higher gains from sending money home through alternative channels for greater returns on the dollar in kerb markets is deemed another major reason for fall. Bangladeshis working abroad sent a total of USUSD22.07 billion in 2021-the immediate-past year that saw a letup in the Covid-19 invasion. The figure was much higher at USD24.78 billion in 2020, during prime time of the pandemic, according to Bangladesh Bank statistics.
- The previous calendar year had witnessed a record inflow of remittances worth USD24.78 billion with a stellar growth of 36 % which supported the external account of the country. The inflow of remittances enabled the Bangladesh Bank to maintain an overall balance-of- payments surplus as both the export and import performances were poor in the past year. During the July-November five months of this fiscal year, the current account had shown a deficit worth more than USD6.0 billion. May month's money sent home was the largest amount, nearly USD2.2 billion. On the other hand, the lowest monthly remittance was in November last at USD1.55 billion.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/remittance-flow-dips-after-unusual-pickup-in-2020-1641176391>

Tax receipts rise, still below target

- Revenue collection grew 11 % year-on-year in November powered by the revival of economic activities and higher income tax payments by individuals ahead of the return submission deadline. In November this fiscal year, taxmen collected BDT 21,104 crore, up from BDT 19,064 crore in the same month a year ago, according to data from the National Board of Revenue (NBR).
- With November's receipts, total tax collection by the NBR stood at BDT 100,573 crore since July, the first month of fiscal year 2021-22, registering a 15 % year-on-year growth during the period. The amount was 81 % of the NBR's collection target for the period and 30 % of the whole year's revenue collection goal of BDT 330,000 crore. The tax collector will be required to collect BDT 229,427 crore during the remaining seven months of the fiscal year in order to hit the target.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/tax-receipts-rise-still-below-target-2931846>

Only 37pc taxpayers file returns

- Only 37 per cent of 6.3 million registered individual taxpayers filed income tax returns until January 2 according to the National Board of Revenue (NBR). In addition, 0.36 million taxpayers applied to the tax offices seeking more time to furnish their tax returns for the income year 2021-22, said a senior NBR official. Officials said nearly 2.3 million taxpayers submitted returns since July 1, which was 7 per cent higher than the 2.15 million who submitted returns until December 31, 2020. However, tax payments with returns declined 18 per cent year-on-year to BDT 3,290 crore as of the final day of submission of returns from BDT 4,010 crore a year ago, according to the NBR.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/only-37pc-taxpayers-file-returns-2931781>

BERC lowers LPG prices by 4pc

- Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission has lowered the price of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) by 4 per cent in January. BERC fixed the price of LPG per kg, including VAT, at BDT 98.17, a decrease of BDT 4.15 per kg (4%). The price was BDT 102.32 per kg in December. The price of Autogas, or LPG used in vehicles, has been fixed at BDT 54.94 per litre.

- Accordingly, the price of a 12 kg cylinder came down to BDT 1,178 from BDT 1,228. Consumers, therefore, can save BDT 50 per cylinder, reports bdnews24.com. According to the announcement, the prices of propane and butane in January are fixed at USD 740 and USD 210 respectively, and the price of the propane and butane mixture is fixed at USD 720.50.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/berc-lowers-lpg-prices-by-4pc-1641206198>

BSEC moves to compel DSE, CSE to achieve demutualisation goals

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has made a move to compel the Dhaka Stock Exchange and the Chittagong Stock Exchange to achieve demutualisation objectives that the bourses have failed to do in eight years. The stock market regulator issued a letter on Sunday in this connection, asking the stock exchanges to report the regulator about their initiatives taken for achieving those objectives as per their respective demutualisation schemes issued in 2013.
- According to the letter, the bourses must also appoint compliance auditor to conduct special audit and review the function and compliance with requirements, code of conducts and code of ethics as well as to oversee the accomplishment of demutualisation objectives and initiatives taken by the stock exchanges for achievement within 30 working days.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/159036/bsec-moves-to-compel-dse-cse-to-achieve-demutualisation-goals>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 75.81	USD 0.60	0.80%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 78.98	USD 1.20	1.54%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,804.14	(USD 25.06)	-1.37%
DSEX	6,882.30	125.64	1.86%
S&P 500	4,796.56	30.38	0.64%
FTSE 100	7,384.54	0.00	0.00%
BSE SENSEX	59,183.22	929.40	1.60%
KSE-100	44,886.89	290.82	0.65%
CSEALL	12,625.82	399.81	3.27%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.62 BDT****1 GBP = 115.51 BDT****1 Euro = 96.62 BDT****1 INR = 1.15 BDT**

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