

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.

December logs highest 6.05% inflation

- Bangladesh inflation surged to 6.05% year-on-year in December, amid spiralling prices of food and other essentials. The spike is the highest in December 2021, while inflation in the previous year was 5.29%.
- The average inflation of 2021 stands at 5.54% – less than 5.69% in the previous year. Though the average inflation last year dropped compared to the previous year, there is uncertainty whether the rate will remain within the 5.30% government ceiling at the end of the fiscal 2021-22.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/december-logs-highest-605-inflation-354145>

Bangladesh Bank extends foreign trade transaction policy support until June 30

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has extended policy support to June 30 next from December 31, 2021, for external trade transactions considering the pandemic effect on economic activities.
- The usance period (allowable period of time, permitted by custom, between the date of the bill and its payment.) for imports of industrial raw materials including back to back imports, and imports of agricultural implements and chemical fertilizers under supplier's/buyer's credit can be extended up to 270 days. Earlier the BB fixed it 180 days for external trade transactions. BB also increased loans' limit from USD 25 million to USD 30 million till June 30, 2022, from the Export Development Fund (EDF) limit for member factories of BGMEA and BTMA.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-bank-extends-foreign-trade-transaction-policy-support-until-june-30-1641473684>

Mobile money booms, empowers unbanked

- Overall transactions through MFS providers shot up to BDT 631,013 crore in 10MCY21, up 40% year-on-year, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed. Merchant payments surged to BDT 27,914 crore during the period, up by a massive 230% YoY. Cash-in rose 36% and cash-out went up 21%.
- Safety net disbursement through MFS providers is expected to increase further in 2022 as the government found the disbursement through MFS ensures better transparency.
- In Bangladesh, the number of registered clients rose 12.13% year-on-year to 10.81 crore in October.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mobile-money-booms-empowers-unbanked-2934251>

LafargeHolcim resumes aggregates business right after securing HC judgment

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh Ltd (LHBL) resumed its aggregates business on Wednesday, immediately after winning its legal battle against the Ministry of Industries. The company informed about continuing with its business of crushing and selling aggregates with a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website.
- Analysts told that LHBL's aggregates business was contributing to around one-fifth of the revenue for the first nine months of 2020, and making up at least one-third of the company's profits over the same period.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/lafargeholcim-resumes-aggregates-business-right-after-securing-hc-judgment-354106>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 79.38	USD 4.17	5.54%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 81.95	USD 4.17	5.36%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,789.13	(USD 40.07)	-2.19%
DSEX	6,987.45	230.79	3.42%
S&P 500	4,706.89	-59.29	-1.24%
FTSE 100	7,450.37	65.83	0.89%
BSE SENSEX	59,601.84	1,348.02	2.31%
KSE-100	45,082.30	486.23	1.09%
CSEALL	13,169.40	943.39	7.72%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.81 BDT****1 GBP = 115.80 BDT****1 Euro = 96.71 BDT****1 INR = 1.15 BDT**

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