

*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.*

### **Govt goes all out to sign FTAs**

- Bangladesh is gearing up to sign free trade agreements (FTAs) and amend labour laws to continue to avail duty benefits on merchandise export once it comes out of the least developed country (LDC) status.
- Negotiations with the European Union (EU) are underway for becoming eligible for the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus after the expiry of the European GSP in 2029. However, to become eligible for the GSP Plus, Bangladesh needs to amend its existing labour law and those involving economic processing zones (EPZs). About 58% of merchandise and 64% of garment exports are destined for the EU from here every year. Failure to avail GSP Plus would result in 12% duty for Bangladeshi exporters to Europe

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-goes-all-out-sign-ftas-2172601>

### **BB softens terms, extends time for SME loan disbursement**

- BB eased some rules related to implementation of the corona recovery stimulus package dedicated to cottage-micro-SME sector. Of the total 200 Billion, 70% will go for cottage, micro and small enterprises while the remaining 30% for medium sector. Out of the 70% allocated for CMSMEs, 65% will go in production and service and 35% in micro-trading. \* % loans will be reserved for women. Package will last up to June 30, 2022 with a subsidy period for 1 year where government will pay 5.0% of the interest and the remaining 4.0% to be paid by the borrower.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-softens-terms-extends-time-for-sme-loan-disbursement-1631249769>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bb-instructs-provide-cmsme-loans-without-complications-300376>

### **Take actions against wilful loan defaulters**

- Non-performing loans stood at Tk 99,205 crore in June, up 11.8% from six months earlier and 3.21% year-on-year. FBCCI yesterday urged banks to take actions against the wilful loan defaulters to bring down the amount of bad loans.
- FBCCI recommended extending the tenure of term loans for the SME sector to 10 to 15 years, including a two-year moratorium period. The payback period is a maximum of 24 months now.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/take-actions-against-wilful-loan-defaulters-2172591>

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/business-leaders-bankers-explore-solution-to-long-term-lending-for-smaller-units-1631249301>

### **Five power plants add 779MW to national grid**

- Four new power plants and an upgraded one, with combined capacity of 779 megawatts of electricity are already connected to the national grid, according to Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the plants through videoconferencing from Gono Bhaban in Dhaka on September 12.. Bangladesh currently has an electricity generation capacity of 25,235MW, including captive power.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/five-power-plants-add-779mw-national-grid-2172596>

### **Group Insurance in industries: Regulator moves to ensure compliance**

- Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has taken up an initiative to make all industries and factories adopt group insurance, made mandatory in the Bangladesh labour law, against the backdrop of recent tragedies in the industrial sector. Under a provision of the labour law, owners of factories and industrial units with 100 or more permanent workers must purchase group insurance for them.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/regulator-moves-ensure-compliance-2172561>

### **Refiners cut sugar prices after govt directive**

- Sugar refiners yesterday lowered the prices of the commodity amid a continuous rise at the retail level. As per the new rate, the price of loose sugar has been set at BDT 74/kg while packaged sugar will cost BDT 75/kg. According to industry insiders, it is not possible to implement the new rates as prices have been increasing at the international level.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/refiners-cut-sugar-prices-after-govt-directive-2172531>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-fixes-sugar-price-300157>

### Bangladesh eases rules for re-exporting products returned by foreign buyers

- Customs authority allows exporters to re-export returned products within one year, by doubling the previous time of six months, from the date of send-back. Also, the timeframe has been made flexible, if needed in any untoward situation, on the basis of application from exporters.
- Two cardinal purposes are meant to be served with this bending of the trade rules: to prevent returned product sale on the local market and restrain some 'unscrupulous' traders from cashing in on cash incentives and duty refund.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-eases-rules-for-re-exporting-products-returned-by-foreign-buyers-1631249532>

### Stocks maintain gaining streak

- Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has maintained an upward trend for 8 consecutive days now. DSEX soared 435 points, or 7.4% in these 8 days. It has surged 62 points, or 0.86%, to 7,258 points on Thursday. Turnover rose to BDT 27.0 Billion while it was Tk 25.6 Billion of Wednesday. Among the 332 stocks to undergo trade, 144 rose, 167 fell and 21 remained unchanged.

[thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/stocks-maintain-gaining-streak-2172511](http://thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/stocks-maintain-gaining-streak-2172511)

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-close-higher-eighth-consecutive-session-300400>

### Special loan facility for rawhide businesses extended

- Businessmen will have the opportunity to reschedule their previous year's unpaid loans for three years with a down payment of 3%. The Bangladesh Bank has extended the tenure of the special loan facility given to businesses to buy rawhide of sacrificial animals. The loans can be rescheduled subject to having stock or supporting collateral in other businesses. In a circular on Thursday, the central bank said rawhide businessmen can take the loans until October 31.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/special-loan-facility-rawhide-businesses-extended-300364>

### World Stock and Commodities\*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD68.62	USD20.10	41.43%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD72.07	USD20.27	39.13%
Gold Spot*	USD1,802.53	(USD92.57)	-4.88%
DSEX	7,258.75	1,856.68	34.37%
S&P 500	4,493.28	737.21	19.63%
FTSE 100	7,024.21	563.69	8.73%
BSE SENSEX	58,305.07	10,553.74	22.10%
KSE-100	46,984.71	3,229.33	7.38%
CSEALL	8,950.23	2,176.01	32.12%

### Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 85.11\*  
 GBP 1 = BDT 117.80\*  
 EUR 1 = BDT 100.65\*  
 INR 1 = BDT 1.16\*

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

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