

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.

MFS cash-in hits fresh record at Tk 21,049cr in Oct

- The monthly mobile financial service cash-in transactions reached a fresh all-time high in October as the MFS operators added a number of new services which, in turn, prompted customers to recharge their accounts to enjoy the services. In Oct'21, cash-in amount increased to BDT 21,049.4 crore from BDT 19,777.1 crore in Sep'21. The number of cash-in transactions was 5.92 crore in Oct'21 against 5.57 crore in Sep'21. The float-amounts in MFS accounts inched down to BDT 6,916.1 crore in October from BDT 7,020.4 crore in the previous month. Total cash-out transactions stood at BDT 17,681.7 crore in Oct'21 against BDT 16,463.8 crore a month ago.
- Besides the existing services, leading MFS operator bKash has introduced a micro loan facility for its customers in collaboration with The City Bank. BKash data showed that total 2,689 customers of bKash have received total Tk 68,27,799 as nano loans since the launch of the service on December 15 till Sunday afternoon.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/157836/mfs-cash-in-hits-fresh-record-at-tk-21049cr-in-oct>

Govt to procure 1.6m tonnes of crude oil, 1.29m tonnes of fuel oil, 90,000 tonnes of fertilizer

- The government has approved separate proposals for procuring some 1.60 million tonnes of crude oil, 1.29 million tonnes of fuel oil, and some 90,000 tonnes of fertilizer to meet the growing demand of the country.
- Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) would procure some 1.60 million tonnes of crude oil from ADNOC, Abu Dhabi and Saudi ARAMCO for the 2022 calendar year with around BDT 74.67 billion. BPC would procure another 1.29 million tonnes of fuel oil from Petro China International, Singapore, Unipet Singapore Pte Ltd, Vito Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore with around BDT 76.27 billion for the January to June period of the next year.
- Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) would procure some 90,000 tonnes of granular urea fertilizer from Fertiglobe Distribution Ltd (UAE), KAFCO (Bangladesh), and Muntajat (Qatar) at the cost of BDT 7.26 billion.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-to-procure-16m-tonnes-of-crude-oil-129m-tonnes-of-fuel-oil-90000-tonnes-of-fertilizer-1640004049>

Bangladesh outdoes China, Vietnam in apparel export growth in US

- Bangladesh has outnumbered China, Vietnam and Indonesia in terms of growth in apparel exports to the United States in January-October this year, with many US buyers shifting orders to the supplier country from the three competitors that are going through production disruptions.
- Bangladesh now ranks third in RMG exports to the US, as it fetched USD 5.7 billion from the destination in 10MCY21, up by 27% YoY. China's exports to the US market amounted to USD 16 billion with a 25% growth, followed by Vietnam 14% and Indonesia 10%.
- Industry insiders say Bangladesh apparel makers have been receiving an additional flow of work orders because of a drastic fall in China's factory outputs fuelled by energy shortages, and pandemic-led supply chain disruptions in Vietnam and Indonesia. Executive president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) told The Business Standard that the buyers' sourcing inquiry from the western country has further paced up. He expects the exports will go up all the more in the coming months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladesh-outdoes-china-vietnam-apparel-export-growth-us-346099>

Costly yarn throws weaving industry off balance

- Struggling to tide over the escalating cost of the key raw material, many weaving mills have already cut down the production drastically. The abnormal rise in yarn prices on top of losses induced by the coronavirus pandemic and flooding is pushing away around eight lakh weavers in Sirajganj, Pabna, Tangail, and Kushtia – the major garment-manufacturing hub for the domestic market – from their age-old profession.
- Many weaving mills have reportedly stopped production because of mounting losses as they could not hike the prices of clothes in line with the rise in yarn prices.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/costly-yarn-throws-weaving-industry-balance-346105>

Leather sector gets wider benefits

- Export-oriented leather, footwear and tannery operators can now import the raw materials required by multiple production units based on a single bonded warehouse licence, according to a recent notification from the National Board of Revenue (NBR).
- General secretary of the Bangladesh Tanners Association told that 37 tanners at present import chemicals and other raw materials used to process animal hides under the bonded warehouse benefit. However, the firms with more than one unit face difficulty to import as they were only allowed to import the quantity required by one factory, he said. The new measure would enable them to import the required amount of chemicals for production, as tanners process 27 lakh to 30 lakh square feet of skins and hides each year, he added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/news/leather-sector-gets-wider-benefits-2922196>

In pandemic time local shippers added 32 vessels to fleet

- Bangladesh spends at least USD 9 billion in freight charges per annum. Protection, tax benefits and rising freight charges – all these have encouraged new entrepreneurs to sign up in the ocean-going shipping sector with intent to take a bigger slice of freight charges that now largely go to foreign ship operators.
- Now it has the opportunity to retain at least 20% or USD 2.0 billion annually with the number of flag-carrier ships increasing, according to businessmen and Mercantile Marine Office of the shipping department.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/pandemic-time-local-shippers-added-32-vessels-fleet-346582>

Govt Sukuk auction Dec 29 to raise Tk 50b

- The government will raise BDT 100 billion by issuing two Islamic bonds, the first one worth BDT 50 billion on December 29, to finance public-sector development projects, officials say. As per the BB criteria, Shariah-based Islamic banks, NBFIs and insurance companies will be eligible for getting 70% Sukuk certificates while conventional banks and other financial institutions will be entitled to receive 15% of the bonds.
- Investors will receive a profit of 4.65% on their investment in the Islamic bonds. Profits will be paid on a half-yearly basis. A client will have to invest a minimum of BDT 10,000 in the security, and there is no upper limit. Banks, corporate institutions and individuals will be permitted to invest in securities.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-sukuk-auction-dec-29-to-raise-tk-50b-1640019459>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 68.23	USD 19.71	40.62%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 71.62	USD 19.82	38.26%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,791.48	(USD 103.62)	-5.47%
DSEX	6,736.56	1,334.49	24.70%
S&P 500	4,568.02	811.95	21.62%
FTSE 100	7,198.03	737.51	11.42%
BSE SENSEX	55,822.01	8,070.68	16.90%
KSE-100	44,339.95	584.57	1.34%
CSEALL	11,650.10	4,875.88	71.98%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 86.33 BDT****1 GBP = 113.98 BDT****1 Euro = 97.35 BDT****1 INR = 1.14 BDT**

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