

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.

Bangladesh economy further 'informalised'

- Bangladesh economy faced further 'informalisation' with consequent lower wages and higher underemployment under a stumbling upset done by the pandemic, it was revealed Sunday at a conference on post-corona policy choices. And the country's marginal enterprises and underprivileged people were disproportionately affected by the covid-19 fallout. But they are the ones, again, who were "mostly deprived of various recovery schemes" launched by the government. Unavailability of adequate data on the impact of the covid-19 is one of the major causes behind this, said speakers in the opening session of the two-day conference on 'Bangladesh Emerging from the Pandemic: Coping Experiences and Policy Choices'
- The disproportionate impact of the fallout was more prominent in Char, haor and coastal areas, where people had to sell their belongings like livestock, lands and other assets in a bid to cope with the fallouts," he stated in the paper. The people had not only limited access to various services but also they were deprived of digital learning and other issues. Loss of income by the households and long closure of educational institutions paved the way for child marriage and child labour, leading to socioeconomic problems.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-economy-further-informalised-1639362931>

Economy's three looming challenges

- A persistent higher rate of inflation, the upward trend of the foreign exchange rate and deepening liquidity crunch could pose major challenges to the economy as the government looks to keep up the current economic recovery and accelerate it further. Both the government and the Bangladesh Bank should address the issue promptly, or else the economic rebound will stumble in the coming months, economists say.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/economys-three-looming-challenges-2917066>

BB fears security of nearly Tk 10,000cr tied up in MFS

- The experts fear that many people in the country will be affected if a large MFS service provider crashes. At the end of June 2021, the number of registered customers of MFS companies stood at 9.97 crore. But half the accounts of this huge customer base are not active. At the end of June, the combined balance sheet of all MFS accounts held BDT 9,200 crore. About 85 per cent of the amount is under the control of the largest player, bKash, which enjoys close to 50 per cent market share. At present, the number of registered customers of bKash is more than 5 crore. Coronavirus has pushed people's reliance on MFS providers such as bKash, Rocket and Nagad. As a result, the number of customers in mobile banking is increasing in the pandemic period.
- According to the latest statistics Bangladesh Bank on MFS, customers have transacted BDT 65,141 crore through mobile banking in September this year. In other words, the average daily turnover stood at BDT 2121 crore. The average daily turnover in August was BDT 2,007 crore. The total turnover in August was BDT 62,230 crore. However, the information of Nagad was not included in this measure as Nagad is yet to come under the BB control.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/157230/bb-fears-security-of-nearly-tk-10000cr-tied-up-in-mfs>

Maiden green zero-coupon bond for SMEs

- Standard Chartered Bank has arranged the first green zero-coupon bond in Bangladesh for Sajida Foundation, a non-governmental organisation. Sajida Foundation will use the proceeds to finance expansion of its microcredit and SME lending portfolio, through investing in new and existing projects with environmental benefits, said the bank in a press

release. Standard Chartered was the mandated lead arranger for the transaction. The total face-value of the bond is BDT 100 crore.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/maiden-green-zero-coupon-bond-smes-2917041>

DSE, CSE asked to be listed on stock market

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday asked the Dhaka Stock Exchange and the Chittagong Stock Exchange to be enlisted on the country's stock market soon. The BSEC also decided to conduct a special audit by a leading chartered accountant to assess the compliance condition of the two stock exchanges before listing procedures. BSEC commissioner Sheikh Shamsuddin Ahmed told New Age that the regulator had instructed the two bourses to offload shares on the stock exchanges as per obligations under their demutualisation scheme.
- DSE chief operating officer M Shaifur Rahman Mazumdar said that the DSE board had already decided to offload 35 per cent shares (63.13 crore shares) on the market and instructed its management to take necessary initiatives. CSE is yet to find a strategic investor to sell its 25 per cent shares as per its demutualisation scheme, however must offload 35% shares (22.20 crore).

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/157268/dse-cse-asked-to-be-listed-on-stock-market>

DSE to invite big firms to market

- Rangs Group, Transcom, Bashundhara, Nasir Group of Industries, Meghna Group of Industries, Abdul Monem, Rahimafrooz, Nassa Group, Bengal Group of Industries, BRB Cable, Drug International, United Group, Kazi Farms, City Group, Jamuna Group, and Incepta Pharmaceuticals are on the list of invitees.
- The move will be helpful for banks as well as they face trouble in treasury management when giving long-term loans from short-term deposits,

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/dse-invite-big-firms-market-2917046>

Aramit Cement declares a sudden interim cash dividend

- Aramit Cement Limited has suddenly declared a 5% interim cash dividend only for its general shareholders for the current 2021-22 fiscal year. But the company did not pay any dividend for its shareholders in the last fiscal year because of its negative retained earnings. Earlier, the company had paid a 12% cash dividend in FY16. After that, it failed to pay any dividend to its shareholders.
- Meanwhile, based on the sudden declaration of interim cash dividend excluding the sponsor and directors of the company, Aramit's share price increased by 18.50% to BDT 41 each on Monday at the DSE from BDT 34.60 as there was no circuit breaker. According to the company's financials, in the four fiscal years from FY17 up to FY20, it had incurred losses. But it returned to profit by making BDT 2.02 crore in FY21. After adjustment of the profit, its retained earnings or accumulated profit/loss became a negative BDT 59.87 crore as of 30 September 2021. In the July to September quarter of the current fiscal year, the company incurred a loss of BDT 6.64 crore as its revenue fell by 54%, compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aramit-cement-declares-sudden-interim-cash-dividend-343201>

Saif Powertec to enter gas, oil exploration business as first private firm

- Saif Powertec Limited wants to enter the gas and oil exploration business by investing BDT 473 crore as the first local private company in this industry. The board of the company, which got listed on the capital market in 2014, decided on 12 December. The project cost will come from bank loans. According to its website, Saif Powertec's principal activities are to carry on the business of infrastructure-support service.

- It will acquire 55% shares of the subsidiary company by investing BDT 11 crore, while the total project cost is BDT 75 crore. The rest of the amount will come from bank loans. The container terminal will generate BDT 3,482 crore revenue in 20 years. Saif Powertec Ltd will invest 80% of the construction cost. Its share price jumped over 120% to BDT 48 between June and October at the Dhaka Stock Exchange. At the end of Monday's trading session, its share closed at BDT 43.40

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/saif-powertec-enter-gas-oil-exploration-business-first-private-firm-343195>

AIBL Mudaraba Perpetual Bond makes debut on DSE after hiatus of 14 years

- The pro-Rata allotment ceremony of IBBL Second Perpetual Bond and SJIBL Mudarba Perpetual Bond was held in DSE Tower as well. The public offer of both of the bonds are fully subscribed and the trading of these bonds will start soon on Dhaka Stock Exchange. IBBL Second Mudaraba Perpetual Bond is the largest issuance issued by any bank to date.
- UCB Investment Limited is the Issue Manager and Arranger of all three bonds. UCB Investment Ltd. has started the journey last year under the leadership of Tanzim Alamgir, Founding Managing Director & CEO. The company has made strides within just one year. The company is also mandated to raise funds for different banks and NBFIs through the issuance of the perpetual bond, subordinate bond and zero-coupon bond.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/aibl-mudaraba-perpetual-bond-makes-debut-on-dse-after-hiatus-of-14-years-1639408326>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 71.29	USD 22.77	46.93%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 74.39	USD 22.59	43.61%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,785.92	(USD 109.18)	-5.76%
DSEX	6,882.02	1,479.95	27.40%
S&P 500	4,669.15	913.08	24.31%
FTSE 100	7,231.44	770.92	11.93%
BSE SENSEX	58,283.42	10,532.09	22.06%
KSE-100	42,876.37	-879.01	-2.01%
CSEALL	11,662.38	4,888.16	72.16%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.58 BDT****1 GBP = 113.03 BDT****1 Euro = 96.56 BDT****1 INR = 1.13 BDT**

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