

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.

DP World to invest USD 1.0b in BD

- DP World, a Dubai-based multinational logistics company, will invest USD 1.0 billion in Bangladesh's supply chain infrastructure, including ports, rail network and inland container terminals. This is within the scope of the government-to-government agreement entered into in 2019 for public-private participation on infrastructure projects.
- The assurance came when a high-level delegation of the Bangladesh government led by State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, visited Jebel Ali Free Zone and the Jebel Ali Port in Dubai on November 21-23. The visit represents a key step in reinforcing DP World's commitment to partner with the government of Bangladesh in enhancing its supply chain infrastructure and processes.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/dp-world-to-invest-10b-in-bd-1638295834>

BD to seek extension of DFQF facility in Thai market

- Bangladesh will seek further extension of duty-free and quote-free (DFQF) facility for Bangladeshi products in Thai market to enhance bilateral trade volume. As part of the exercise, Dhaka is getting prepared to negotiate with the Southeast Asian country in the 6th Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting to be held between the two countries. Bangladesh is expected to host the meeting in January 2022.
- Extension of the Thai DFQF scheme would require approval of the cabinet and the parliament, as the facility is provided to 46 LDCs according to the United Nations list. Bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Thailand dropped to USD 910.05 million in 2020 from USD 1,067.90 million in 2019. In 2019, Bangladesh utilised benefits of the DFQF scheme to the tune of USD 541,000. In 2019, the volume of Thailand's exports to Bangladesh amounted USD 987.16 million, while that of Bangladesh to Thailand was USD 80.74 million.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-to-seek-extension-of-dfqf-facility-in-thai-market-1638295768>

PM for route reopening to boost trade with India

- Stressing the need for enhancing connectivity between Bangladesh and India to boost bilateral trade and commerce, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday said the rail communications on Akhaura-Agartala route should be reopened.
- The trade and communication will be fostered as the connectivity increases between the neighbouring countries, she said. The PM said there is significant progress in trade, business and tourism between the two countries and now they have to remain cautious to tackle the Covid-19.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/pm-for-route-reopening-to-boost-trade-with-india-1638297727>

France gives 2.06m doses of AstraZeneca vaccine

- France has provided 2.06 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines to Bangladesh under Covax facility. The French gesture covers a consignment containing 2,006,400 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine (AstraZeneca) as well as their transport to Dhaka through their own arrangement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/france-gives-206m-doses-of-astrazeneca-vaccine-1638298075>

Private sector credit growth sees big lift in October

- Stoking fears of a liquidity crunch, private sector credit growth, which remained in a slump during the pandemic and amid the pressure of interest rate capping, jumped to 9.44% in October, highest in the past one year. The spike was the result of a rising demand amid resumption of economic activities.
- Credit growth had dipped below 9% in October last year and hit its lowest of 7.55% in May this year. The demand for loans, however, steadily ticked upwards from June, after lifting of the movement restrictions imposed during the pandemic. It climbed to 8.77% in September. Though credit growth has been rising for several months, it is still far below the monetary ceiling of 14.8% set for the current fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/private-sector-credit-growth-sees-big-lift-october-336955>

Abolish AIT, levy income tax only on incomes

- Bangladesh's apex-chamber chief says businesses feel caught in a 'minimum-tax trap' that makes them pay 47-50% corporate tax on their incomes though making that much profit is impossible in the current situation. Md Jashim Uddin, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), says tax is also deducted at 5% to 7% on different supplies of products and services.
- Md Jashim Uddin and President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) Mahmudul Hasan Khasru demanded withdrawal of the minimum-tax provision on withholding tax, saying that "income tax should be imposed on income only". Former president of ICAB Dr Jamal Uddin Ahmed, now general secretary of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) suggests the government should empower the NBR, build its capacity and develop infrastructure to collect more tax by expanding tax net.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/abolish-ait-levy-income-tax-only-on-incomes-1638297919>

NBR pushes for further tax system digitalization

- National Board of Revenue (NBR) officials have emphasised further digitising the tax system of the country in order to provide better services to taxpayers, speeding up revenue collection, and cutting state expenditure. Speaking at a seminar on "Role of Income Tax in Implementation of Vision and Building of Future Bangladesh" on Tuesday, NBR officials called for complete automation of the revenue system.
- Commenting on the digitalisation of the revenue system, NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Munim said that NBR, in collaboration with the Institute of Chartered Accountants, has launched the Document Verification System, which allows authorities to detect Fake Audit Reports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-pushes-further-tax-system-digitalisation-336973>

BB forms special body in line with HC order

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) authorities have formed a special committee to probe the illegal transactions of the unauthorised financial institutions and microcredit organisations across the country. BB Deputy Governor Kazi Sayedur Rahman has been made the chairman of the seven-member committee.
- The BB authorities formed the committee and submitted the list to the High Court (HC) on Tuesday, complying with its earlier directive issued in this regard. Following a writ petition, a HC bench on September 27 this year asked the BB governor to form a special committee regarding the activities of the unauthorised and unregistered financial institutions as well as the microcredit financial institutions across the country and to submit a report to the court within 45 days after receiving the order.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-forms-spl-body-in-line-with-hc-order-1638297974>

Severe gas shortage likely until Jan 15

- Natural gas consumers of the country would suffer from a severe supply shortage for around next 45 days due to a major technical setback in the floating storage and re-gasification unit (FSRU) of Summit Group. The overall LNG (liquefied natural gas) re-gasification capacity is set to reduce by a half within a couple of days as the 'mooring line' of the FSRU tore last week.
- The FSRU will not be able to carry out ship-to-ship transfer of the LNG until a fresh mooring line is built and fixed there, a senior Petrobangla official said. In the statement, the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) expressed the fear about probable natural gas supply shortage as a consequence. The statement also said that building a new mooring line, or repairing it before fixing it at the Summit's FSRU will not be possible before January 15 next.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/severe-gas-shortage-likely-until-jan-15-1638298495>

Luxury hotels struggle to revive business from pandemic blues

- Listed luxury hotels are struggling to revive business from the pandemic shock by reducing expenses and introducing new services. The revenue of Unique Hotel, the owning company of The Westin Dhaka, dropped 57% to BDT 67.54 crore and incurred a loss of BDT 12.77 crore in fiscal 2020-21. Despite the loss, it recommended a 10% cash dividend for the general shareholders but its sponsors and directors will not get any dividend.
- Sea Pearl Beach Resort, which owns Cox's Bazar-based five-star hotel Royal Tulip, performed well in FY2021 when it reported a 40% growth in revenue to BDT 64.39 crore and made a profit of BDT 7.36 crore riding on a large flow of tourists to the country's tourism district. But in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, it incurred a loss of BDT 1.05 crore although it achieved a 16% growth in revenue to BDT 16.32 crore. Besides, The Peninsula Chittagong posted six times growth in profit to BDT 4.87 crore although its revenue fell 10% to BDT 25.42 crore in the last fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/luxury-hotels-struggle-revive-business-pandemic-blues-336538>

BB, BSEC defer decision

- A high-voltage meeting Tuesday between Bangladesh Bank (BB) and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on the capital market agreed on bourse-boosting measures but deferred a decision on two pivotal issues of capital market stabilisation fund (CMSF) and dividend disbursement by losing banks and non-banks.
- Complexities surrounding the capital market stabilisation fund (CMSF) and disbursement of dividend despite cumulative loss by banks and non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) were on top of discussions at the meeting. Regarding application of the CMSF by banks and NBFIs in stock trading and disbursement of such dividend, the meeting agreed to bring amendment or correction to relevant notifications for compliance with the existing rules and regulations properly, the BB officials explained.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-bsec-defer-decision-1638298220>

BSEC approves Premier Bank's perpetual bond

- BSEC has approved the proposal of perpetual bond worth BDT 2.0 billion to be issued by Premier Bank. As per the approval, Premier Bank will raise BDT 2.0 billion issuing perpetual bond to strengthen its additional Tier-I capital base.
- The units worth BDT 1.8 billion will be issued through private placements while the remaining units worth BDT 200 million will be issued through public offer. MTB Capital is working as trustee while UCB Investment is the arranger, issue manager and underwriter of the bond.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-approves-premier-banks-perpetual-bond-1638286278>

Paramount Textile to invest in BMRE, new project

- Paramount Textile, a subsidiary of Paramount Group, has decided to invest an amount of USD 85.45 million in BMRE (balancing, modernization, rehabilitation and expansion) and new project for enhancing its production capacity. The company will import capital machinery, civil construction and other auxiliary work for the planned expansion for enhancing its production capacity.
- The import facilities will be settled down through foreign currency term loans, according to the filing. After completing the expansion project, the company expects to generate extra around USD 7.0 million/month revenue.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/paramount-textile-to-invest-in-bmre-new-project-1638286233>

Stocks plunge after single-day break

- Stocks witnessed yet another massive fall on Tuesday, after a single-day break, due to confidence crisis among investors. DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), plunged 92.25 points or 1.35% to settle at 6,703, which is the lowest in nearly four months since August 12 this year.
- The core index wiped out more than 664 points or 9.01% since it reached 7,367 recorded on October 10 this year. Turnover, however, jumped to BDT 11.46 billion, which was 62% higher than the previous day's seven-month lowest turnover of BDT 7.08 billion.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/stocks-plunge-after-single-day-break-1638286175>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 65.05	USD 16.53	34.07%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 70.32	USD 18.52	35.75%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,774.07	(USD 121.03)	-6.39%
DSEX	6,703.26	1,301.19	24.09%
S&P 500	4,589.50	833.43	22.19%
FTSE 100	7,059.45	598.93	9.27%
BSE SENSEX	57,064.87	9,313.54	19.50%
KSE-100	45,072.38	1,317.00	3.01%
CSEALL	11,440.53	4,666.31	68.88%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.76 BDT****1 GBP = 113.77 BDT****1 Euro = 97.02 BDT****1 INR = 1.14 BDT**

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