

*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.*

### **Economy to become 28th largest in 2030**

- Bangladesh's economy will be 28th largest in 2030 and 25th largest in 2035, the UK's Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) has made the projection in a recent report. Bangladesh ranked 59th in 2010 and 48th in 2015. The CEBR in its report also said by 2025, the ranking of Bangladesh will improve significantly to the 34th, the position currently held by African country Egypt. The report said Bangladesh's annual rate of GDP will accelerate to an average of 6.8% between 2021 and 2025. Bangladesh had a PPP [purchasing power parity] adjusted GDP per capita of USD 5,139 in 2020, making it a lower middle-income country in the world. According to the forecast, the country's GDP at local currency at constant prices will stand at BDT11,983 billion (USD 313 billion) in 2021. By 2025, it will go up to BDT15,979 billion (USD 420 billion).

- Bangladesh came 168th in the World Bank's 2020 Ease of Doing Business rankings, suggesting that the regulatory environment is not conducive to a thriving private sector. In 2016, the country's ranking was 173rd. The CEBR report said Bangladesh's economy enjoyed a strong rate of GDP growth in the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite a modest rate of population growth, which averaged just 1.0% per year over the past five years. The government debt as a share of GDP rose to 39.6% in 2020, which remains a low level, it added.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economy-to-become-28th-largest-in-2030-1609089686>  
<https://tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-economy-be-25th-largest-2035-177334>  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/25th-largest-economy-2035-2018409>

### **Bangladesh Bank ensured Bangladesh economy avoided hard landing for pandemic**

- The economic fallout from the global coronavirus pandemic had set the stage for Bangladesh Bank to show its mettle. Like the rest of the world, the central bank was not prepared for the foreign disease. After a cagey start, the central bank came into its own, taking a host of measure that prevented the high-flying Bangladesh economy from crashlanding. Like the rest of the world, the central bank was not prepared for the foreign disease. After a cagey start, the central bank came into its own, taking a host of measure that prevented the high-flying Bangladesh economy from crashlanding.

- To implement the government announced stimulus packages, the BB has injected more than BDT300 billion into the money market in the form of refinancing schemes to support the businesses and farmers. On May 3, it suspended the interest on all types of loans for April and May to help borrowers overcome the economic hit from the countrywide shutdown announced by the government on March 26 to slow the spread of coronavirus.

- Earlier on March 20, the BB announced that no banks would be allowed to downgrade any loan until June 30, meaning that failure of any borrower to repay loan instalments in the January-June period would not result in any default of the borrower. The central bank had to play a proactive role in implementing the stimulus package announced by the government said a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2020/12/28/bb-ensured-bangladesh-economy-avoided-hard-landing-for-pandemic>

### **Ifad Autos has big plans for future**

- Ifad Autos, the sole distributor of Indian commercial vehicle giant Ashok Leyland, is going full steam ahead with its expansion plans even though its profit took a beating for the pandemic. The publicly-traded company on Sunday announced buying additional 33 decimals of land at Tejgaon Industrial Area in Dhaka for BDT198.4 million for business expansion, according to a posting of the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange. Investments are being planned here. This will benefit the shareholders, said company secretary of Ifad Autos The future investment on the land will be carried out with the company's own fund, he added.

- While the company's profit tumbled 79.9% in its 2019-20 financial year that ended on June 30, it picked up from July. Between July and September, Ifad Autos's profit leapt 37.6% year-on-year to BDT1.72 billion. Last year, the company acquired 49% holding of Gulf Oil (BD), a subsidiary company of Gulf Oil International (UK) that sells lubricants, grease and car care products, for about BDT119 million to give a backward linkage.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2020/12/28/ifad-autos-has-big-plans-for-future>  
<https://tbsnews.net/economy/stock/ifad-autos-purchase-land-future-expansion-177280>

### **Energypac Power's IPO lottery draw January 3**

• Energypac Power Generation is set to hold its IPO (initial public offering) lottery draw on January 3, aiming to allocate about 20.15 million ordinary shares among the successful applicants. The stock market regulator, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), approved the company's IPO proposal on October 21. The IPO subscription for shares of the company was held between December 7 and December 13. The cut-off price of Energypac Power shares had been fixed at BDT35 each. The company raised BDT1.50 billion by issuing a total of 40.30 million ordinary shares to expand the LPG business, repay bank loans and bearing the IPO expenses, as per regulatory approval.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/energypac-powers-ipo-lottery-draw-jan-3-1609082854>  
<https://tbsnews.net/economy/stock/energypacs-ipo-lottery-3-january-177274>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$47.94	(\$13.69)	-22.21%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$50.96	(\$17.48)	-25.54%
Gold Spot*	\$1,886.10	\$364.63	23.97%
DSEX	5,328.28	875.35	19.66%
S&P 500	3,703.06	472.28	14.62%
FTSE 100	6,502.11	(1,084.94)	-14.30%
BSE SENSEX	46,973.54	5,331.40	12.80%
KSE-100	43,416.77	2,681.69	6.58%
CSEALL	6,685.64	556.43	9.08%

**Exchange Rates**

**USD 1 = BDT 84.84\***  
**GBP 1 = BDT 114.77\***  
**EUR 1 = BDT 103.42\***  
**INR 1 = BDT 1.15\***

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

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