

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.

USD 5.0 billion IFC investment portfolio likely for BD

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) plans to fortify its footprint in Bangladesh through extending its investment portfolio to nearly USD 5.0 billion in the next five years. IFC vice-president for Asia and Pacific Alfonso Garcia Mora stated that they want to extend investment to the private sector and double the investment in the next 5 years.
- He said Bangladesh was a potential place for investments as the economy was growing at a faster rate prompted by the private sector's contribution. In the past five years, the IFC has lent around USD 2.0-billion loans to the private sector in Bangladesh for business development.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/50b-ifc-investment-portfolio-likely-for-bd-1636220074>

BD, India and Nepal to resume talks in Delhi on Nov 12

- Bangladesh, India and Nepal among BBIN member countries are set to resume the talks on Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) in New Delhi on November 12. The sub-regional connectivity initiative - BBIN MVA (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement) - held its last meeting of the joint working group on February 8, 2020 where Bhutan attended as an observer.
- Since the MVA was signed in Bhutan by the BBIN countries on June 15, 2015 aiming at free movement of cross border road transport of all categories among the four member countries, the initiative had faced bars due to not ratifying the agreement by Nepal and Bhutan on various grounds. Official sources said the meeting was called this November 12 to revive the discussion as all member countries have their observation on the draft protocols. However, the presence of Bhutan in the next meeting is yet not confirmed.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-india-and-nepal-to-resume-talks-in-delhi-on-nov-12-1636221217>

FBCCI seeks investment from British-Bangladeshis

- The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) has requested the UK businessmen to come forward for the development of trade, investment, and economic relations between the UK and Bangladesh. FBCCI President Md Jashim Uddin made the call during a meeting with the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BBCCI) on Friday.
- Md. Jashim Uddin stated the Bangladeshi Diaspora in the UK is taking active participation in trade and investment through business and economic collaboration and there are huge opportunities and prospects for further enhancing the trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. He urged non-resident Bangladeshis (NRB) to invest in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fbcci-seeks-investment-british-bangladeshis-326113>

Jan-Sept RMG exports to US grow 26.37%

- The country's apparel exports to the United States, in terms of both volume and value, continued to rise and maintained a double digit growth during the first nine months of this calendar year. Bangladesh fetched USD 5.0 billion from readymade garment (RMG) exports to its single largest destination during the January-September period of 2021, according to OTEXA, an affiliate of the US Department of Commerce.
- The earnings were 26.37% higher compared to the earnings of USD 3.95 billion in the corresponding period of last year. During the nine-month period under review, Bangladesh shipped 1.86 billion square metres of apparel items, up by 33.83% from 1.39 billion square metres in the same period of 2020. Bangladesh's main competitors China and Vietnam also witnessed 25.13% and 15.11% growth respectively.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jan-sept-rmg-exports-to-us-grow-2637pc-1636220140>

BGMEA to collaborate with Primark on sustainability ambition

- Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has expressed its willingness to collaborate with Primark on the latter's sustainability strategy. The association expressed it on Saturday at a meeting between BGMEA leaders, Primark and its parent company Associated British Foods (ABF) leaders.
- The BGMEA expressed its support for the objectives Primark has set out to change the ways its clothes are made, halve its carbon emissions across its wider supply chain and improve the lives of the workers in the supply chain. Bangladesh is Primark's second largest sourcing market and home to many of Primark's strategic suppliers and their factories. The BGMEA's support, as one of the country's largest trade associations for the garment industry, can play a valuable role in helping engage its members in Primark's sustainability goals.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bgmea-to-collaborate-with-primark-on-sustainability-ambition-1636206717>

Imports lead medical consumables market

- Sales of medical devices in Bangladesh could be as high as BDT 20,000 crore but local manufacturers can meet only 4 per cent of the annual demand while the rest is imported. Over 30,000 types of devices are used in Bangladesh.
- Only a handful of medical consumables are made here, namely disposable and insulin syringes, disposable needles, infusion sets, alcohol prep pads, blood transfusion sets, bags and surgical gloves. Just six firms are engaged in making the products -- JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing, GETWELL of Pran-RFL Group, ANC Medical Device Bd, Opso Saline, Techno Drugs and Incepta Pharmaceuticals.
- There is huge potential for investment in this sector as local manufacturers can cater to just around BDT 700 crore of the total demand. According to JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing Ltd. Chairman Md Abdur Razzak, there is huge potential for investment in this sector as local manufacturers can cater to just around BDT 700 crore of the total demand.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/imports-lead-medical-consumables-market-2223911>

Farm mechanisation awaits investment boom

- With the government focusing on mechanising farm work and subsidising farmers in equipment purchase, local entrepreneurs are gearing up to manufacture heavy agricultural machinery. The BDT 3,020 crore farm mechanisation project will provide 52,000 agro equipment to farmers within 2025 at subsidised rates.
- Farmers may get up to 50% subsidies – 70% in the haor region – on the prices of machinery, such as combine harvesters, reapers, transplanters, etc under the five-year agricultural mechanisation project that started in fiscal 2020-21. This mega project is expected to create a strong market for agricultural machinery in the country. Encouraged by this huge potential, some companies are readying big investments in the sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/farm-mechanisation-awaits-investment-boom-326182>

Fuel price hike threatens agri-production cost to shoot up

- With the upcoming Boro cultivation season, farmers are worried about production costs going up following the recent government decision of fuel price hike. The price hike of diesel comes at a time when the farmers are dealing with an "artificial" crisis in the fertiliser market.
- Agro economists are saying existing irregularities in the fertiliser market, and pricier diesel, which is used in irrigation machineries, will push farmers to the edge. Unable to afford the added production cost many farmers might scale down their usual cultivation range.
- According to Department of Agricultural Extension and Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation data, tractors are used in preparing 95% agricultural land in the country. On the other hand, diesel-powered irrigation machines are still used in about 60% land during the Boro cultivation season, which is also the biggest rice production season of the year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fuel-price-hike-threatens-agri-production-cost-shoot-326170>

RMG faces supply chain hiccups

- The countrywide transport strike disrupted the smooth functioning of the apparel supply chain in Bangladesh hurting the recovery of the garment shipment.
- Because of the strike, which began on Friday in protest of the hike in fuel prices, garment factory owners could not secure raw materials from the Chattogram port to their factories as trucks and covered vans were off the street. Exporters now fear that if the strike persists, it will take a toll on local and export businesses at a time when garment shipment from Bangladesh is surging.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rmg-faces-supply-chain-hiccups-2223921>

Deshbandhu invests BDT 800 crore to expand in export markets

- Deshbandhu Group invested around BDT 800 crore in the last one year despite the business uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic as it looks to expand its footprint in the overseas markets.

- Of the BDT 800 crore, around BDT 200 crore was invested in its food and beverage concern. Export-oriented Deshbandhu Packaging received an investment of BDT 230 crore, the sweaters and apparel concerns BDT 250 crore, and other concerns around BDT 120 crore.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/investments/news/deshbandhu-invests-tk-800cr-expand-export-markets-2223901>

HeidelbergCement merges assets acquired from Aditya Birla

- HeidelbergCement Bangladesh has completed the merger of all assets of the two entities it acquired from UltraTech Cement Middle East Investment Limited, a concern of Indian conglomerate Aditya Birla, for BDT 183 crore last year.
- Of the two companies, Emirates Cement Bangladesh Limited was engaged in cement production at its factory on 16-17 acres of land in Munshiganj, while Emirates Power owns and runs a 10MW power plant in the same area. The merged facility with 6.6 lakh tonnes of annual capacity increased Heidelberg Cement's total annual cement production capacity to 35 lakh tonnes.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/heidelbergcement-merges-assets-acquired-aditya-birla-326191>

BD Thai profit surpasses the pre-pandemic level

- Bangladesh Thai Aluminium Limited, which took a blow last year, has surpassed the pre-pandemic level in terms of profit. In fiscal 2020-21, the pioneer in the aluminium industry posted a 512% growth in profit to BDT 16.03 crore compared to the previous fiscal year.
- According to its financials, the revenue reached the pre-pandemic level in FY21 to BDT 120.36 crore – a 58% jump from the previous year. Despite an amazing growth amid the pandemic, the manufacturer of aluminium products will pay less dividend, compared to the previous year, to its shareholders for spending retained earnings on development work. BD Thai has recommended just a 2% cash dividend for its general shareholders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bd-thai-profit-surpasses-pre-pandemic-level-326179>

Leading pharma cos see moderate growth

- Leading drug makers posted moderate growth in net profits for the fiscal year (FY) 2020-2021 compared to previous FY because of various reasons including rise in sales. The companies saw growth up to 47% in net profits for the outgoing FY from that of previous FY.
- Of the companies, Beximco Pharmaceuticals bagged the highest growth of 47%. The company has reported its EPS (earnings per share) of BDT 11.08 for FY 2020-21 as against BDT 7.54 reported for FY 2019-20. Renata has reported its consolidated EPS of BDT 51.94 for the FY 2020-21, up 26.15% from the EPS of BDT 41.17 for FY 2019-20. Square Pharmaceuticals saw 13.74% growth in EPS.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/leading-pharma-cos-see-moderate-growth-1636214517>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 81.27	USD 32.75	67.50%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 82.74	USD 30.94	59.73%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,818.36	(USD 76.74)	-4.05%
DSEX	6,906.72	1,504.65	27.85%
S&P 500	4,697.53	941.46	25.07%
FTSE 100	7,303.96	843.44	13.06%
BSE SENSEX	60,067.62	12,316.29	25.79%
KSE-100	47,295.80	3,540.42	8.09%
CSEALL	10,632.21	3,857.99	56.95%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.75 BDT****1 GBP = 115.74 BDT****1 Euro = 99.16 BDT****1 INR = 1.15 BDT**

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