

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, Mexico to expand bilateral trade

- Bangladesh and Mexico have agreed to work together to expand trade, investment, and bilateral relations between the two countries.
- The agreement was reached at a recent meeting of Mexico's Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade, Luz Maria de la Mora Sanchez, and Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Md Shahriar Alam, during the latter's recent visit to Mexico on the occasion of the country's 200th independence anniversary, according to a press release.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-mexico-expand-bilateral-trade-310162>

Govt mulls FTAs with China, India to face post-LDC challenges

- The government is considering free trade agreements (FTAs) with China and India as part of its endeavour to strengthen ties with major trading partners to face post-LDC graduation challenges.
- According to sources at the commerce ministry, China has already expressed its interest to sign a FTA with Bangladesh. On the other hand, the government has moved forward on a feasibility study for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Cepa) with neighbouring India.
- According to the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the country's tariff revenue from imported goods was Tk77,150 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal year and the lion's share of it came from goods imported from China and India. If Bangladesh goes into FTAs with these two countries, it will have to lose a huge amount of revenue.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-mulls-ftas-china-india-face-post-ldc-challenges-310147>

9 firms to invest \$55m in hi-tech parks

- Nine foreign and domestic firms are going to invest \$55 million in Bangladesh's hi-tech parks to set up manufacturing units for a number of products, including semiconductors, digital devices, and medical equipment.
- The companies will also assemble automated teller machines, cash recycling machines, smartphones and other electronics items at the new units, which are expected to create nearly 3,500 job opportunities. The Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) disclosed this information during an agreement signing ceremony to lease the required lands for these projects for a 40-year period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/investments/news/9-firms-invest-55m-hi-tech-parks-2188166>

India, Pakistan surpass Bangladesh in RMG export growth in EU, US markets

- Despite Bangladesh's securing a good number of apparel work orders from the European Union and the United States, it was outnumbered by neighbouring India and Pakistan in terms of export growth in the two major markets in January-July this year. The two countries clearly capitalised on their competitive advantages.
- In the first seven months of this year, Bangladesh's readymade garment exports registered a little over 18% growth in the EU, while the two neighbouring countries saw their exports rise by 22% and 28% respectively, according to Eurostat.
- Apparel exports say an abnormal rise in yarn prices - a key ingredient that accounts for 50-60% cost of a clothing

item - has given the two countries an edge over Bangladesh as they can source yarns domestically at prices 30%-50% lower than in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/india-pakistan-surpass-bangladesh-rmg-export-growth-eu-us-markets-309997>

Deposit rates of 41 banks slide in August

- The weighted average deposit rates of 41 banks dropped further in August against that in the previous month amid a regulatory move to squeeze excess liquidity in the banking sector. The excess liquidity has resulted in a drastic fall in deposit rates in the last one and a half years.
- Amid falling deposit rates in the banking sector, the central bank came up with another surprising move by fixing deposit rates of term deposits as the plunge in interest rates dealt another blow to savers during the Covid outbreak. On August 8, the central bank instructed all banks to keep interest rates for individual term deposits and pensionrelated funds not lower than the inflation rate.
- Apart from setting the deposit rate, the BB bank also launched a liquidity mopping up move by the way of issuing BB bills.
- In September and August, BB bills worth Tk Tk 38,870 crore were sold to the banks as part of the scheme. Besides, the central bank injected over \$936 million on the interbank money market in the fiscal year 2021-2022, allowing it to squeeze liquidity by at least Tk 7,950 crore from the money market.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/150617/deposit-rates-of-41-banks-slide-in-august>

2 more banks fined for breaching stock investment rules

- The Bangladesh Bank yesterday fined two more banks and warned four others for investing in the stock market breaching rules. Exim Bank and Premier Bank were fined Tk 50,000 each as they violated the regulations of the central bank's special package for banks for the stock market.
- Earlier, the BB imposed fines on NRB Bank and NRB Commercial Bank for breaching securities rules.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/2-more-banks-fined-breaching-stock-investment-rules-2188171>

Beximco Pharma completes Sanofi acquisition

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited, a leading manufacturer and exporter of medicine in the country, has acquired a 54.6% stake in Sanofi Bangladesh Limited.
- Sanofi Bangladesh's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility is near Beximco Pharma's manufacturing facility in Tongi, producing approximately 100 branded generic products, mainly for the local market. It has a strong presence in cardiology, diabetes, oncology, and dermatology. International parent company Sanofi SA also provides its global brands of vaccines, insulins and chemotherapy drugs, directly imported by Sanofi Bangladesh.
- This acquisition is the biggest in the history of the pharmaceutical industry in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/beximco-pharma-completes-sanofi-acquisition-310132>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 75.65	USD 27.13	55.92%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 79.10	USD 27.30	52.70%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,757.76	(USD 137.34)	-7.25%
DSEX	7,329.04	1,926.97	35.67%
S&P 500	4,365.11	609.04	16.21%
FTSE 100	7,027.07	566.55	8.77%
BSE SENSEX	58,765.58	11,014.25	23.07%
KSE-100	44,871.70	1,116.32	2.55%
CSEALL	9,442.30	2,668.08	39.39%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.62 BDT****1 GBP = 116.01 BDT****1 Euro = 99.28 BDT****1 INR = 1.16 BDT**

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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited**Research**

Salim Afzal Shaown, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Nazmus Saadat, CFA	Research Analyst	nazmus.saadat@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Anika Mafiz	Research Analyst	anika.mafiz@bracepl.com	01708 805 206
Fahim Hassan	Research Associate	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limitedwww.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (880)-2-9852446-50

Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com