

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.

Europe's largest packaging industry to build plant in Bangladesh

- Europe's largest packaging enterprise, ALPLA, plans to build its plant in Bangladesh to seize a market share of packaging and its allied products which are complementary to the country's potential readymade garment industry and other export items. The European Union as a bloc is the largest market of Bangladesh's RMG products, and this venture could be a promoter of the apparel industry. ALPLA is an Austrian plastics manufacturer, headquartered in Hard, specialising in blow-moulded bottles and caps, injection-moulded parts, preforms and tubes.
- The company wants to build its factory either in Chattogram or in Dhaka. But one person who is familiar with the matter told the FE that it wants to build its plant near Chattogram seaport in order to get raw materials and make shipment easily. He also says it wants to set up its big-capacity factory on a more than 100,000-square-foot area.
- With a total of 178 production plants in over 45 countries worldwide, employing around 21,600 employees, it had an annual sales turnover of € 3.69 billion in 2020. The company was founded in 1955 as 'Alpenplastik Lehner Alwin OHG'.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/trade/europes-largest-packaging-industry-to-build-plant-in-bangladesh-1634871632>

Bangladesh remains on top in shipbreaking

- As in the first two quarters of this year (January-March and April-June), Bangladesh continued to be the top shipbreaking country in the third quarter (July-September). In the third quarter of this year, 120 ships were scrapped worldwide, of which 41 ships (34%) were dismantled in Bangladesh, according to the latest report from NGO Shipbreaking Platform, a Belgium-based organisation that has been working worldwide on shipbreaking and its harmful effects.
- In the third quarter of last year, 170 ships were scrapped worldwide. Of these, 24 ships (14%) were dismantled in Bangladesh. Ship breaking in the country increased by 170% in the third quarter of the current year compared to the same period in the previous year. In the first three quarters of this year, 582 ships were scrapped worldwide, of which 197 (about 34%) were in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/industry/bangladesh-remains-top-shipbreaking-319333>

Call money market heating up as normalcy returns to economic activities

- Bank borrowing from the call money market has started to heat up amid an increase in the rate of interest and amount of borrowing from the banks. Normal business and economic activities were regaining normalcy after relaxation of restrictions imposed to contain the second wave of coronavirus infections since August 11.
- The latest Bangladesh Bank data showed that the banks' daily average borrowing from the interbank call money market increased by 21.88% or Tk 1,633 crore in October compared with that in the previous month. In August, the banks borrowed a total of Tk 1,64,229 crore in 22 days from the call money market with a daily average borrowing of Tk 7,465 crore. In October, the banks' total borrowing from the market in 13 days reached Tk 1,18,279 crore with the daily average borrowing amounting to Tk 9,098 crore.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/152447/call-money-market-heating-up-as-normalcy-returns-to-economic-activities>

Modernisation of sugar mills stalls

- Uncertainty eclipses modernisation of the public sugar mills as the process of replacing the outworn machinery with modern ones has stalled for several months, officials said. Officials in Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) and the Ministry of Industries (MoI), in fact, have little idea about the fate of the upgrading plan of the struggling corporation. Following a government instruction, the BSFIC stopped production in six of the 15 state-owned mills in December last year for indefinite period.
- The mills' closure came after the corporation discovered that the sugar-producing units had suffered around Tk 8.0-billion losses on average per year since 2015-16 till 2019-20 against sugar crushing. Over the last five years, the BSFIC losses had accumulated into nearly Tk 40 billion. Higher production costs because of the decades-old production bases were mainly blamed behind the poor performances of the mills.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/modernisation-of-sugar-mills-stalls-1634925054>

Curb biggest MFS's mkt dominance

- The Bangladesh Mobile Phone Consumers' Association (BMPCA) has sought intervention of the Bangladesh Competition Commission (BCC) to curtail dominance of the biggest market player in the mobile financial service (MFS) industry. In a memorandum, submitted recently to the commission, the BMPCA said the biggest player in the MFS industry should be announced as a significant market power (SMP) - to enhance competition, reduce charges and fees, and curb its dominance.
- Nagad was launched in March 2019. It has reduced fees on the mostly used service - cash-out - by almost 50% to Tk 11 for each Tk 1,000 transaction. Transactions through the MFS platforms hit a record of Tk 422.36 billion in May, as the major providers offered discount and cash-back to tempt Eid shoppers to pay through their channels. The amount was 20.8% higher than that of the previous month, according to the BB data. At the end of May, the total number of registered MFS accounts reached 70.5 million, excluding Nagad, of which 32.1 million were actively using the service. At the end of April there were 29.1 million active accounts, as per the BB report. Nagad currently has 54 million registered customers.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/curb-biggest-mfss-mkt-dominance-1634925308>

Worry over fast depreciation of BDT vs USD

- Business leaders have raised serious concerns over speedy depreciation of Bangladesh BDT (BDT) against USD as it is pushing the import costs up. The BDT-USD exchange rate in banks was recorded between Tk 86.20 and Tk 89.50 in Chattogram, according to the Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI). But the inter-bank exchange rate as per the Bangladesh Bank (BB) was quoted Tk 85.6 last week.
- The CCCI, one of the leading trade promoters in Bangladesh, has urged the central bank to intervene in the soaring rate of USD. It believes the import of capital machinery and other key food imports will suffer as a result of the volatility in the forex market. CCCI president Md Mahbubul Alam suggested that the regulator take immediate measures in this regard.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/worry-over-fast-depreciation-of-BDT-vs-USD-1634924819>

DSE adds two new companies to core index

- Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has added two newly listed companies to its Broad Index (DSEX) as they met all the criteria of interim quarterly IPO addition. The companies are Baraka Patenga Power Ltd and South Bangla Agriculture & Commerce Bank Ltd. The indices committee of DSE selected the companies after reviewing the performance of the firms for July-September, 2021 quarter in line with the index methodology designed by S&P Dow Jones Indices.

With inclusion of the two companies, the DSEX will have 311 listed companies, around 95% of the prime bourse's total market capitalisation.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/dse-adds-two-new-companies-to-core-index-1634878103>

Institutional support helps jack up market

- The market broke the seven-day losing streak on Thursday, with turnover hitting a three-month low, as some large-cap stocks added strength to the index in the later part of the session. Following the week-long bearish trend, the market witnessed see-saw movement several times before closing higher on the day.
- After witnessing high volatility, DSEX went up 55.61 points or 0.79% to finish at 7,076, after losing more than 347 points in the past seven trading days. Turnover also fell to Tk 13.11 billion, registering a decline of 22% over the previous day's turnover of Tk 16.82 billion. It was the lowest daily turnover in three months since July 19, when turnover was recorded Tk 12.64 billion.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/institutional-support-helps-jack-up-market-1634875146>

SBAC Bank ex-chair, six more officials sued over embezzlement

- Former chairman of South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce (SBAC) Bank Limited SM Amzad Hossain and six other officials of the bank were sued by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on embezzlement and money laundering charges. The accused individuals, in collusion with each other, swindled around Tk206 million from the bank through approving loans to a fake company named Khulna Builders Ltd allegedly owned by the SBAC Bank chairman, according to the case statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/sbac-bank-ex-chair-six-more-officials-sued-over-embezzlement-1634925688>

World Stock and Commodities*

| Index Name | Close Value | Value Change YTD | % Change YTD |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Crude Oil (WTI)* | USD 84.07 | USD 35.55 | 73.27% |
| Crude Oil (Brent)* | USD 85.81 | USD 34.01 | 65.66% |
| Gold Spot* | USD 1,795.40 | (USD 99.70) | -5.26% |
| DSEX | 7,076.23 | 1,674.16 | 30.99% |
| S&P 500 | 4,544.60 | 788.53 | 20.99% |
| FTSE 100 | 7,204.55 | 744.03 | 11.52% |
| BSE SENSEX | 60,821.62 | 13,070.29 | 27.37% |
| KSE-100 | 45,578.36 | 1,822.98 | 4.17% |
| CSEALL | 9,915.22 | 3,141.00 | 46.37% |

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.55 BDT****1 GBP = 117.71 BDT****1 Euro = 99.59 BDT****1 INR = 1.14 BDT**

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