

*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 reports 7-month low of 5.62% positivity rate as 43 more die**

- Health officials reported an 5.62% positivity rate during the same period which is the lowest in around seven months. Earlier on 13 March, the country recorded a 5.13% positivity rate in a day.
- Bangladesh reported 43 more deaths from Covid-19 in the last 24 hours till Sunday 8am. 1,383 more people tested positivity for the virus across the country today. With the latest additions, the death toll reached 27,225 and the infection tally climbed to 15,42,683 till date.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/coronavirus-chronicle/covid-19-bangladesh/bangladesh-reports-7-month-low-562-positivity-rate-43-more>  
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2021/09/19/covid-19-bangladesh-records-43-more-deaths-1-383-new-cases>  
<https://www.theindependentbd.com/post/268191>

### **2cr people to get Covid jabs every month: DGHS**

- Government has taken up a plan to inoculate around two crore people every month against the Covid-19, said Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Director-General Dr ABM Khurshid Alam.
- Bangladesh has received 4.93 crores of vaccine through purchase and gifts so far. Of those, 3.67 crores were given to people as first and second jabs. The government currently has 1.25 crore doses, and 10 lakh of them are from Pfizer. The country is set to receive another 50 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccines and is planning to inoculate school-going children from age 12 to 17 years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/coronavirus-chronicle/covid-19-bangladesh/special-vaccination-campaign-run-2-days-week-union-levels>

### **Bangladesh seeks duty-free access for 137 products to Saudi Arabia**

- Prime minister's private sector industry and investment adviser Salman F Rahman on Sunday has urged Saudi Arabia to give duty free access to some 137 Bangladeshi products to Saudi market.
- The current bilateral trade volume between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia is \$1.3 billion. Extending greetings of the prime minister to the Saudi Badsha and crown prince, Salman Rahman put emphasis on more Saudi investment to Bangladesh to materialize the goal of 2041.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-seeks-duty-free-access-for-137-products-to-saudi-arabia-1631983255>  
<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-seeks-duty-free-access-137-products-saudi-arabia-304372>  
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/2021/09/18/salman-urges-ksa-to-give-duty-free-access-to-138-bangladeshi-products>

### **Revenue growth during pandemic attributed to rise in source-tax**

- Government's growing dependence on at-source-tax collection, including tax on service-holders' pay, is practically shifting tax burden onto common people because of absence of effective refund mechanism (ERM).
- Despite tax squeeze for economic slowdown amid Covid-19 pandemic and corporate- tax cutbacks, the overall tax revenue recorded growth during the last financial year. The rise in the collection of withholding tax or payroll tax had made it possible.

- Some 95.67% of the aggregate income-tax collection in FY 21 came from withholding taxes. Some 2.4 million individual taxpayers submitted their annual tax returns to the NBR, paying BDT 36.92 billion at the time of return submission out of total BDT 852.24 billion aggregate income-tax collection.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/revenue-growth-during-pandemic-attributed-to-rise-in-source-tax-1632019409>

### **Income tax receipts rise by 9.3% in August**

- According to the data, field offices managed to collect BDT 9,623 crore in income tax in August 2021 while the figure was BDT 8,800 in the same month of the previous year.
- 'The number of total TIN holders this fiscal year is more than 60.5 lakh. Half of the TIN holders are yet to submit tax returns but we are working to bring them under the tax compliance net by issuing legal notices to those defaulters,' said a NBR official.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/149570/income-tax-receipts-rise-by-93pc-in-aug>

### **Bangladesh plans to collect, store personal records of all citizens**

- Bangladesh is planning to create a comprehensive database containing a wide range of information, including demographic and biometric records, on citizens of all ages in the country.
- A unique identification number will be assigned to each citizen under which their personal data will be stored, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).
- It will allow the government to maintain a centralised trove of data, including demographic statistics, travel history, religion, caste, birth, death, marriage, and divorce records of citizens.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bangladesh-plans-to-collect-store-personal-records-of-all-citizens-1632065736>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-mulls-new-citizens-database-2179671>

### **Committee formed to resolve local LC opening issue**

- Commerce ministry on Sunday formed a working committee, subject to the commerce minister's approval, to resolve a crisis regarding the opening of back-to-back letters of credit by exporters without bond licence and payment of cash incentives to such exporters.
- Referring to a provision of Foreign Exchange Transaction Guideline-2018, the National Board of Revenue on August 31 sent a letter to the central bank, requesting it not to extend the facility of back-to-back LCs to the exporters without bond licence. It also opposed cash incentive payment against receipts of the factories which do not have bonded warehouse licence.
- Following the NBR letter, the country's readymade garment exporters sought the commerce ministry's intervention so that the exporters who do not hold bond licence could retain the facility of opening back-to-back LCs for sourcing raw materials from the local market.
- They claimed that more than 500 RMG factories procure raw materials from the local market against their master export LCs and if the facility is discontinued, the country would lose export earnings worth \$5 billion a year.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/149572/committee-formed-to-resolve-local-lc-opening-issue>

### **State enterprises' profit drops 21%**

- Net profit of the companies and corporations dropped by 21%, or BDT 22.1 Bn, year-on-year to stand at BDT 85.0 Bn in fiscal 2020-21.
- It was BDT 107 Bn in 2019-20, according to provisional data of the Bangladesh Economic Review 2021. 16 SoEs, out of a total of 49 covered in the review, saw a decrease in the net profit in the last fiscal year. 4 SoEs turned unprofitable.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/state-enterprises-profit-drops-21pc-2179816>

### **BB focuses on stimulus loans disbursement for CMSMEs**

- Bangladesh Bank has emphasised implementation of stimulus package loans phase-2 to help cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) recover from the pandemic shocks.
- As part of the goals, the banks already disbursed Tk3 billion during July-August in the current fiscal year. Bangladesh Bank has been implementing stimulus package phase-2 of Tk200 billion for the fiscal year 2021-22 to the CMSME sector through 57 banks and some other financial institutions.

<https://www.daily-sun.com/post/577483/BB-focuses-on-stimulus-loans-disbursement-for-CMSMEs>

### **Bank commissions cut to squeeze savings certificate sales growth**

- The government presses the brake on sales of national savings certificates (NSC) by way of slashing receivable commissions of commercial banks against transactions in these borrowing tools. The banks will receive commissions at a rate of 0.05 % from now on instead of 0.5 % on sales of the government borrowing tools.
- And banks will not receive more than BDT 500 on each of the registrations or purchases of savings tools, the latest decision says, thus halving the ceiling of receivable commission from BDT 1000.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bank-commissions-cut-to-squeeze-savings-certificate-sales-growth-1632075677>

### **Prime Bank trials SOFR linked transaction**

- Prime Bank Limited has conducted a trial transaction in secured overnight financing rate (SOFR) with Wells Fargo Bank, New York on August 25 as the London interbank offered rate (LIBOR) would cease to exist after June 2023.
- The SOFR is a benchmark interest rate for dollar-denominated derivatives and loans that is replacing the LIBOR. This transition is expected to increase long-term liquidity but also result in substantial short-term trading volatility in derivatives.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/prime-bank-trials-sofr-linked-transaction-2179766>

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/149563/prime-bank-conducts-first-sofr-linked-transaction>

### **Mutual Trust Bank offers MSME loan at 4% interest rate**

- Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) has recently signed an agreement with SME Foundation to disburse stimulus loan arranged by the Government of Bangladesh, according to a press release. MTB is among the 15 (fifteen) banks that are participating under this stimulus package of SME Foundation for Micro, Small and Medium enterprises.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/09/19/mtb-offers-msme-loan-at-4-interest-rate>

**Islamic banks see liquidity glut**

- The excess liquidity in the country's Islamic banking sector grew nearly 20 % in the second quarter (Q2) of the current calendar year amid the depressed demand for investment. Surplus liquidity with the Islamic banking sector rose to BDT 363.65 billion as on June 30, 2021 from BDT 304.09 billion three months before, according to the central bank's latest statistics.
- The excess liquidity of 10 Islamic banks, Islamic banking branches of conventional banks and Islamic banking windows of conventional banks stood at BDT 316.56 billion, BDT 21.00 billion and BDT 26.09 billion respectively.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/islamic-banks-see-liquidity-glut-1632075060>

**BGMEA demands facilitation of customs, bond activities**

- BGMEA emphasised coordinating the activities of the customs and port authorities and arranging for the same-day delivery of imported consignments in the RMG industry.
- BGMEA President Faruque Hassan has requested support from Bangladesh High Commission in Canada in increasing RMG exports to the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bgmea-demands-facilitation-customs-bond-activities-304792>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bgmea-seeks-high-commissions-support-boost-rmg-exports-canada-304705>

**A swift somersault over LNG import**

- The government has reversed its decision to discard import of expensive LNG from spot market within a month following a surge in demand for the fuel in industries and power plants.
- The Petrobangla had stopped importing LNG from spot market in the first week of August following an instruction from the EMRD in view of price rises on the open market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/a-swift-somersault-over-lng-import-1632075253>

**Residential plot sales up as owners reel from Covid woes**

- Sales of residential plots have increased markedly during the pandemic, but the trend is not what it sounds like – the sellers, in most cases, are those who bought the property in the pre-pandemic time.
- About 1.46 lakh residential plots were registered across the country in the first six months this year. The figure is 41,000 and 18,000 less compared to the entire 2020 and 2019, respectively.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/residential-plot-sales-owners-reel-covid-woes-304828>

**MNP hype melts amid methodical complexity, high cost**

- Much-hyped mobile number portability service has lost its appeal in just three years of its launch amid the regulatory failure to ensure affordability of the service as well as smooth service for customers after availing the service.
- Monthly porting of numbers has dropped to around 10,000 recently from around 50,000 in the first year of the service launch in October 2018. Monthly porting even dropped below 5,000 during the first wave of the Covid outbreak when the country went into prolonged movement restrictions.

- Non-delivery of messages from the different service providers, including those from banks after receiving the MNP, has been acting as a major crisis factor and this may make MNP service in non-functional. Many customers, who had changed their mobile operators using the MNP service, were forced to return to the previous operator as they failed to deal with the service complexities and received no remedies from any quarter.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/149573/mnp-hype-melts-amid-methodical-complexity-high-cost>

### **Mobile internet speed increases only by 15% in Bangladesh**

- In last one year, global mobile internet speed has increased by 59.5% while in Bangladesh it has increased by 15.38% only, which is about one-fourth of the global average, revealed a recently published Global Index by Ookla.
- According to the data presented in the index, the average download speed of mobile internet in the world in July 2020 was 34.52 megabytes per second (Mbps). In July this year, it increased to 55.07 Mbps.
- Meanwhile, the average download speed of mobile internet in Bangladesh in July last year was 10.92 Mbps which has increased slightly to 12.6 Mbps by July, this year.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/09/19/mobile-internet-speed-increases-only-by-15-in-bangladesh>

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/149534/mobile-internet-speed-rise-in-bangladesh-much-lower-than-global-average-ookla>

<https://www.theindependentbd.com/post/268187>

### **BTRC approves IP-based data services only for licensed ISPs**

- Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in a statement on Sunday said that it had only approved the IP-based data services (streaming service, IP-TV, video-on-demand) for licensed ISPs.
- Noting that the Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) is the process of broadcasting contents, aired on televisions, using the Internet Protocol Network, the statement said that the ISP operators approved by the BTRC for IPTV service could show the broadcasts of satellite TV channels approved by the information and broadcasting ministry only to their subscribers through the internet.
- BTRC has already stopped 59 unregistered illegal IPTV.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/149567/btrc-approves-ip-based-data-services-only-for-licensed-isps>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/59-unlicensed-iptv-channels-shut-down-2179661>

### **Issuers asked to expedite listing of perpetual bonds**

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has asked issuers to accelerate listing process of perpetual bonds on bourses as part of the regulatory move to diversify the country's bond market.
- In its directive issued in May last, the securities regulator has included a provision for subscription of 10% of a perpetual bond through public offer. And the listing of such bond will be conducted under direct listing method.
- A total of 11 banks so far got the regulatory approval to issue perpetual bond to strengthen their capital bases. Of the banks, The City Bank will issue perpetual bond worth Tk 4.0 billion, Mutual Trust Bank Tk 4.0 billion, One Bank 4.0 billion, First Security Islami Bank Tk 6.0 billion, Trust Bank Tk 4.0 billion, Social Islami Bank Tk 5.0 billion, Jamuna Bank Tk 4.0 billion, Shahjalal Islami Bank Tk 5.0 billion, Islami Bank Tk 8.0 billion, EXIM Bank Tk 6.0 billion and Southeast Bank Tk 5.0 billion.

- Of these banks, Southeast Bank, Trust Bank, The City Bank and Mutual Trust Bank have completed the subscription of perpetual bonds, according to BSEC officials.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/issuers-asked-to-expedite-listing-of-perpetual-bonds-1632024705>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-pushes-direct-listing-11-perpetual-bonds-304801>

### **Regulator goes tough on poor performing investment banks**

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has sought information from merchant banks and portfolio managers on their performance as the regulator believes many of the institutions are not fulfilling their licensing conditions.
- Between 2010 and 2020, some merchant banks were less active in issue management. They are AB Investment, Abaci Investments, Agrani Equity and Investment, AIBL Capital Management, Bangal Investment, BLI Capital, City Bank Capital Resources, Cosmopolitan Finance, Exim Islami Investment, Green Delta Capital, GSP Investment, Hal Capital, IIDFC Capital, Islami Bank Capital Management, Jamuna Bank Capital Management, Meghna Capital Management, Race Portfolio & Issue Management, Riverstone Capital, Roots Investment, Strategic Finance, UCB Investment, and Uttara Finance Capital Management Limited.
- Some merchant banks such as City Bank Capital Resources have been performing well in the bond market.
- On the other hand, ICB Capital Management, AFC Capital Limited, Imperial Capital, LankaBangla Investments, Prime Bank Investments, Banco Finance & Investment, IDLC Investments, AAA Finance & Investment Ltd are mostly active in bringing new issues to the market, sources said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/regulator-goes-tough-poor-performing-investment-banks-304786>

### **Profit taking pulls down stocks**

- On Sunday, DSEX fell by 0.50% to close at 7,191 points. Shares of 376 companies were traded on the DSE on the day, 106 of which advanced, 244 declined and 26 remained unchanged. Turnover at the country's premier bourse declined by 6.33% to BDT 20.3 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/profit-taking-pulls-down-stocks-304735>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/stocks-fall-mutual-funds-bleed-2179821>

### **Keya Cosmetics chairman gets anticipatory bail**

- High Court has granted six-week anticipatory bail to Chairman of Keya Cosmetics Ltd Abdul Khaleque Pathan and his wife in cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission over money laundering and acquiring illegal assets.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/keya-cosmetics-chairman-gets-anticipatory-bail-1632060697>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/court/keya-cosmetics-chairman-gets-anticipatory-bail-acc-case-304813>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2021/09/19/keya-cosmetics-chairman-abdul-khaleq-pathan-his-wife-get-anticipatory-bail>

## **Union Bank gets BSEC (Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission) approval to go public**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved the proposal of Union Bank Limited for issuance of IPO of BDT 4.28 billion under fixed price method, said a statement. It is the largest IPO in terms of size among the banks and the 4th highest in the capital market of Bangladesh.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/union-bank-gets-bsec-approval-to-go-public-1632071060>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/pbil-manages-largest-banking-ipo-304810>

## **MIDAS Financing's Q2 earnings turn positive**

- Its closing price was BDT22.4 during Sunday's trade. With a more than 668% rise, the Q2 (April-June) earnings of MIDAS Financing Ltd turned positive. In a filing with Dhaka Stock Exchange on Sunday, the company said that its consolidated earnings per share (EPS) was BDT1.08 for the Q2 of 2021 as against BDT0.19 in the negative for the same period of the previous year.
- Meanwhile, its consolidated net asset value (NAV) per share was BDT8.97 as of June 30, 2021, and BDT11.69 as of December 31, 2020. The company last offered 2.5% cash and 2.5% stock dividend to its shareholders back in the year 2019. Its closing price was BDT22.4 during Sunday's trade.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/2021/09/19/midas-financing-s-q2-earnings-turn-positive>

## **2 listed companies move to raise capital**

- Publicly listed companies, First Security Islami Bank Ltd (FSIBL) and Sonali Paper & Board Mills on Sunday announced their plans to raise capital by issuing right shares for business expansion.
- FSIBL aims to issue one right share for every two ordinary shares at BDT10 per share. An amount of approximately BDT498 crore will be raised if the right shares are fully subscribed.
- Sonali Paper intends to issue one right share for every two ordinary shares at BDT10 per share after adjusting for the 20% stock dividend the company announced for the year ending on June 30, 2021. An amount of approximately BDT11 crore will be raised if the right shares are fully subscribed, informed a stock broker.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/2021/09/19/2-listed-companies-move-to-raise-capital>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 71.97	USD 23.45	48.33%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.34	USD 23.54	45.44%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,754.34	(USD 140.76)	-7.43%
DSEX	7,191.81	1,789.74	33.13%
S&P 500	4,432.99	676.92	18.02%
FTSE 100	6,963.64	503.12	7.79%
BSE SENSEX	59,015.89	11,264.56	23.59%
KSE-100	46,636.08	2,880.70	6.58%
CSEALL	8,801.95	2,027.73	29.93%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 85.19 BDT****1 GBP = 117.10 BDT****1 Euro = 99.88 BDT****1 INR = 1.16 BDT**



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