

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.

ADB approves USD 250m policy-based loan for Bangladesh CMSMEs

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$250 million policy-based loan which is the first sub-programme of the programmatic USD 500 million Sustainable Economic Recovery Program. The loan will support Bangladesh to facilitate rapid and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, generate employment, and expand economic activities for micro-entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- ADB has stated that the loan will be pursued via policy reforms that will create fiscal space to enhance public expenditure and support the recovery and growth of cottage, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (CMSMEs).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/adb-approves-250m-policy-based-loan-for-bangladesh-cmsmes-1632567670>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/adb-gives-250m-loan-economic-recovery-2184281>

Bangladesh's development plan to address Covid-19 consequences: Official

- At a webinar titled "Reflection of Youth's Perspective in the 8th Five-Year Plan", jointly organized by SANEM and Action Aid Bangladesh, Commission Member Nasima Begum stated that it is necessary to review the literature of the five-year plan as it was finalized before the pandemic. Such review and inclusion of the required measures would allow the youth, a major victim of the pandemic, to tap the benefits of the long-term plan.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladeshs-development-plan-to-address-covid-19-consequences-official-1632561417>

Stimulus: boon to midsize units, bane for minors

- Loan disbursement from the stimulus package dedicated to CMSMEs was far below the mark, but, yet, midsize ones made the most out of it for their closer kinship with the formal banking channel.
- The Bangladesh Bank has so far amended its circular about 12 times to facilitate the funding of the CMS. But, of the 72% disbursement, majority went to the medium entities, according to banks.
- To ensure access for the CMS, the Bangladesh Bank in the latest notification ordered the banks for 70% disbursement for them and only 30% for the minors.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/stimulus-boon-to-midsize-units-bane-for-minors-1632536889>

Proposed new GSP may make Bangladesh's gains harder in EU

- The European Commission has proposed a new GSP (generalized scheme of preferences) framework which focuses on core issues like climate protection and good governance, and lowers thresholds for exports.
- The new proposal sets the general threshold at 47% and textile threshold at 37%, down from existing 57% and 47.2% respectively. The new threshold is expected to benefit goods that are not exported much by Bangladesh, however, major export items such as apparels which are well above those thresholds may not gain much.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/proposed-new-gsp-may-make-bangladeshs-gains-harder-eu-307522>

FBCCI urges expatriate businessmen to improve US-Bangladesh economic relations

- The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) has called upon the expatriate Bangladeshi businesspersons to come forward for the development of trade and economic relations between the United States and Bangladesh at the Annual Business Summit organized by the American Bangladeshi Business Alliance
- The FBCCI president expressed interest in launching a platform for meetings, seminars and trade fairs and business networking between the entrepreneurs of the two countries.
- The move will help increase remittances further which stood at USD 24.77 billion in the fiscal year 2020-21.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/fbcci-urges-expatriate-businessmen-improve-us-bangladesh-economic-relations-307492>

Saudi Arabia keen to invest in Bangladesh

- Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment affairs adviser to the prime minister has stated that The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is considering offering duty-free facilities for 137 Bangladeshi export goods.
- He also stated that the country is also keen to make huge investments in Bangladesh's infrastructure and communication system development.
- In a meeting with Saudi Commerce Minister Dr Majid Bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi, Salman proposed to expedite the implementation of various MoUs regarding the strengthening of bilateral trade between the two countries.
- Salman F Rahman has also proposed Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Al Falih, a specialized economic zone in Bangladesh for Saudi investors per the prime minister's commitment. The Investment Minister accepted an invitation to attend the International Investment Summit due to be held in Bangladesh from 28 to 29 November.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/saudi-arabia-keen-invest-bangladesh-salman-307465>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/2021/09/25/bangladesh-wants-137-products-duty-free-access-to-saudi-arabia>

<https://m.theindependentbd.com/post/268396>

Milk Vita looks for a shot in the arm from private firms

Milk Vita has decided to contract out the management and operation of some of its production units to private enterprises as officials state the company does not have the capacity and skill to operate all its factories. The contractors will be responsible for the management and running of its UHT milk, condensed milk, and bottled water businesses by reviving its idle factories.

- The contract period will be five years or negotiable and profit sharing will be determined considering various factors including production capacity, marketing arrangements, land rent, brand value etc.
- According to the expression of interests (Eoi) advertisement, selected entrepreneurs have to bear the operating costs required to start the factories. They also have to bear the costs of modernization of factories and necessary repairs. Milk Vita will have no financial involvement in these respects.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/milk-vita-looks-shot-arm-private-firms-307513>

BRICS bank membership to open new avenue of foreign financing

- Bangladesh has joined the New Development Bank (NDB), a multilateral development bank set up by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), as a member state. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has termed Bangladesh's membership in the New Development Bank as a time-befitting achievement that will open a new avenue of foreign financing.
- The move will aid in bringing in resources to achieve the developmental goals of Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/brics-bank-membership-open-new-avenue-foreign-financing-pm-2184351>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2021/09/25/bangladesh-joins-ndb-as-its-new-member>

Default Loan recovery plunges

- Default loans recovery in Bangladesh fell to at least a five-year low of BDT 6,922 crore in the last fiscal year as borrowers struggled to pay back amid the economic slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
- Bankers say the loan moratorium, introduced by the central bank in April last year to counter the impacts of the pandemic on the economy, allowed borrowers to defer payments of installments, hitting the recovery of the default loans.
- Defaulters paid back BDT 280 crore to six state-run commercial banks in the fourth quarter, up from BDT 167 crore in the third quarter. They had BDT 43,450 crore in bad loans at the end of the last fiscal year. 41 private commercial banks got back BDT 937 crore, versus BDT 642 crore in the third quarter, leaving them with BDT 45,010 crore in defaulted loans. Defaulters of nine foreign commercial banks repaid BDT 46 crore in the quarter. It was BDT 26 crore in the January-March period. Their collective bad loans stood at BDT 2,281 crore at the end of FY21.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/default-loan-recovery-plunges-2184346>

Trial 5G on Dec 12 or 16

- The government is planning to run a trial of 5G technology through Teletalk on December 12 or 16 this year, said Mustafa Jabbar, minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology.
- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has allocated 460 MHz for 5G. Apart from that for Teletalk, the remaining 400 MHz will be auctioned off by December 2022

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/ict/news/trial-5g-dec-12-or-16-jabbar-2184336>

Hilsa prices soar while export cheap

- Hilsa has become pricier since export of the national fish to India commenced last week. Sellers said the prices rose because of a drop in supply to the local market.
- Each kg of the fish is being sold to India at roughly BDT 854, which is a lot less than the price in the wholesale markets of Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/hilsa-prices-soar-while-export-cheap-2184201>

NRB Bank signed an agreement with BB for collecting treasury challan through ACS

- NRB Bank Ltd and Bangladesh Bank have signed an agreement to collect treasury challan through Automated Challan System (ACS) held at Bangladesh Bank Head office on September 23. Under the agreement, all the branches of NRB Bank will collect passport fees, value-added tax, corporate and personal income tax and other government fees.
- The system will be able to collect 196 types of revenues and fees, including VAT, land registration and car registration fees soon which is a progressive development for the revenue management of the government.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/09/25/nrb-bank-signed-an-agreement-with-bangladesh-bank-for-collecting-treasury-challan-through-acs>

Bangladesh signs agreement for third submarine cable connection

- The government has signed an agreement with the South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe-6 (SEA-ME-WE-6) consortium for the construction of a third submarine cable. Telecom Minister Mostafa Jabbar is hopeful that the cable will be operational by 2024.
- A similar agreement will be signed by the members of the consortium in Singapore by September 30.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/09/25/bangladesh-signs-agreement-for-third-submarine-cable-connection>

Praava Health receives donation from One Million Masks

- Praava Health has recently received a donation from One Million Masks, a charitable organization based in New York City in the United States.
- The donation is being made to offset the cost of sequencing Covid samples - a project that Praava is currently working with the research foundation Child Health Research Foundation (CHRF) to identify which variants are captured in the samples being processed at Praava Health.
- The amount of the donation is not being made public.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/09/25/praava-health-receives-donation-from-one-million-masks>

Evince Textiles seeks merge with Evitex Fashions

- Evince Textiles Ltd, a listed company in the capital market, wants to merge with its non-listed subsidiary Evitex Fashions Ltd, which exports readymade garments.
- Evitex Fashions was incorporated on 11 April 2004 as a private company with BDT 8.80 crore in paid-up capital. It started commercial operations in 2005 and its factory is located in Gazipur. At present, the Evince Textiles holds 95% shares of its subsidiary.
- According to officials, the merger will help reduce management cost and corporate tax, and easier accounting.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/evinced-textiles-seeks-merge-emitex-fashions-307495>

Dhaka-Ashulia elevated expressway to be opened in 2026

- Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has stated construction works of Dhaka-Ashulia elevated expressway will end by June, 2026.
- The elevated expressway which is being built at a cost of around BDT 17,000 crore will be the second of its kind in the capital.
- China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation is working on the project.
- According to Obaidul Quader's statement, the total cost of the project is BDT 16,901 crore of which Bangladesh government will provide Taka 5951 crore while Chinese government will finance Taka 10,949 on G2G basis.

<https://www.observerbd.com/news.php?id=332687>

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>

DSE-SME platform to be launched on September 30

- Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) is going to launch the newly introduced DSE-SME platform on September 30 with share trading of six companies.
- Among the six companies, two are newly listed firms that raised funds through qualified investor offer (QIO). They are Master Feed Agrotec and Oryza Agro Industries. The four other companies came from the recently abolished over-the-counter (OTC) market. These four companies are Bengal Biscuits, Apex Weaving and Finishing Mills, Wonderland Toys, and Himadri Ltd.
- Investors having a minimum of BDT 5.0 million of investment in the stock market are allowed to trade shares of companies on the SME platforms of the bourses.
- According to a statement by DSE, the inaugural ceremony of the DSE-SME platform will be held at the DSE Tower at Nikunja at 11:30 am.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/dse-sme-platform-to-be-launched-on-september-30-1632537547>

Insurers must take IDRA clearance for IPO

- Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has recently urged the stock market regulator not to approve any initial public offering (IPOs) for insurers without a no-objection certificate (NOC) from their primary regulator.
- The development came after the recent IPO approval to Sena Kalyan Insurance Company by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) without a NOC from IDRA. It is mandatory for insurers to take NOC from their first regulator regarding IPO applications.

- As per IDRA Act 2010, sponsors must hold 60% shares in their insurance companies while the rest of the amount will be collected from the general public through stock market listing within three years of their registrations. If insurers fail to collect the portion from the general public within the stipulated time, IDRA can charge a penalty from the companies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/insurers-must-take-idra-clearance-ipo-307498>

Broad indices up in a volatile week, blue-chips in red

- Broad indices at both DSE and CSE ended in green in the past week amid investors' caution, profit booking efforts and an increased volatility as demand for mid-cap manufacturing and services stocks increased. On the other hand, due to profit booking in selective large-cap scrips pushed the blue-chip indices slightly down at the end of the week.
- DSEX, the broad-based index at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), was up by 22 points or 0.31% to close at 7,251 on Thursday. DS30, the index of blue-chip companies, closed at 2,674 on Thursday, which was at 2,675 a week ago.
- CSCX, the broad-based index of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) closed at 12,687 points to gain 0.03% over a week. CSE30 closed 0.84% lower

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/broad-indices-volatile-week-blue-chips-red-307477>

Stocks trade mixed as investors turn cautious

- Stocks posted a moderate rise in the outgoing week, after a single-week break, with investors maintaining a cautious stance amid high volatility.
- The weekly turnover stood at BDT 97.09 billion on the prime bourse, down from BDT 111.22 billion in the week before. The daily average turnover clocked in at BDT 19.42 billion, 13% down from the previous week's average of BDT 22.24 billion.
- Market analysts observed that investors mostly took a cautious approach throughout the week, with the key index hovering around the highest level as many stock prices rose significantly in recent weeks.
- Major sectors showed mixed performances this week. The textiles sector generated the highest return of 4.20%, followed by general insurance (1.60%), pharmaceuticals (0.90%) and engineering (0.60%). Beximco continued to top the turnover chart with shares worth BDT 5.96 billion changing hands, followed by Beximco Pharma (BDT 3.15 billion), Orion Pharma (BDT 2.46 billion), LankaBangla Finance (BDT 2.31 billion) and LafargeHolcim (BDT 2.28 billion).
- Of the 378 scrips traded on the DSE in the past week, 162 advanced, 198 declined and 18 remained unchanged.
- The Shariah index DSES increased by 0.25%, or 3.95 points, over the past week to close at 1,581.05 points.
- The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also inched higher with the CSE All Share Price Index (CASPI) advancing 5.0 points to settle at 21,1146 and the Selective Categories Index (CSCX) gaining 0.50 points to close at 12,687.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/stocks-trade-mixed-as-investors-turn-cautious-1632537342>

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/150131/stocks-return-to-positive-zone>

Cos settle BDT 16,000cr unclaimed dividends in two months

- The listed companies have distributed around BDT 16,000 crore in unclaimed and unsettled cash and stock dividends to the claimants in the last couple of months. According to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), there was BDT 21,000 crore in unclaimed and unsettled cash and stock dividends before the settlement.
- According to BSEC, there are now unclaimed stock dividends worth around BDT 4,000 crore and cash dividends worth BDT 1,000 crore left to form the capital market stabilization fund (CMSF).

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/150129/cos-settle-tk-16000cr-unclaimed-dividends-in-two-months>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 73.98	USD 25.46	52.47%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 78.09	USD 26.29	50.75%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,750.42	(USD 144.68)	-7.63%
DSEX	7,250.60	1,848.53	34.22%
S&P 500	4,455.48	699.41	18.62%
FTSE 100	7,051.48	590.96	9.15%
BSE SENSEX	60,048.47	12,297.14	25.75%
KSE-100	45,073.52	1,318.14	3.01%
CSEALL	8,940.11	2,165.89	31.97%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 84.94 BDT****1 GBP = 116.14 BDT****1 Euro = 99.53 BDT****1 INR = 1.15 BDT**

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