

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.

Macro:**Banks' remittance service rules relaxed**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday relaxed existing rules applicable on banks' remittance services in an attempt to increase the inflow of foreign currency and curtail volatility centring the foreign exchange market. From now, banks do not need to seek the central bank's approval for inking agreements with foreign exchange houses to mobilise remittance from abroad, according to a central bank notice. However, once the agreements are signed, the lenders will have to provide information in detail regarding the arrangements to the BB.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-remittance-service-rules-relaxed-3092326>

Forex pressure may ease by Dec

- The record fuel price hike last week has thrown a spanner in the works to the finance division's projection of bringing the twin problems of inflation and delicate foreign currency reserves under control by December. As things stand, foreign currency reserves might shore up by the end of the year thanks to inflows from multilateral lenders and the steps taken by the government to curb imports, finance ministry officials told The Daily Star on the condition of anonymity.
- But the fuel price hike would be escalating inflation, which in July stood well above the budgetary target of 5.6 % for the fiscal year. "When the fuel price increases, the prices of goods increase, affecting the poor. Naturally, inflation also increases," said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal to a group of journalists yesterday at his office.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-pressure-may-ease-dec-3092076>

Dhaka WASA wants to increase the price of water by 25%

- Dhaka WASA Board has decided to increase the price of water by 5% at the residential and commercial level. This decision will be effective from September 1. But the management authority of Dhaka WASA is not satisfied with this decision of the board. They want to increase the price of water by 25% for residential and 19% for commercial connections. For this, the management authority of WASA has sent a proposal to the local government department.

<https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/1qvz3gx6hr>

Forex volatility persists despite Bangladesh Bank's intervention

- Volatility continued to prevail in the country's foreign exchange market, with the price of every dollar hitting a record BDT 119 in the open market yesterday from BDT 115 on Monday. Meanwhile, pressure on importers over clearing bills slightly eased amid worries among bankers following the Bangladesh Bank's action against treasury chiefs of six private banks. The BB also injected a fresh USD114 Mn into banks helping the market to reduce the pressure.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-volatility-persists-despite-bb-intervention-3092341>

Inflation to shoot up with oil price hike: Finance minister

- A week after Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal had said inflation would cool down in the next two months, he reversed yesterday to say inflation would rise. His earlier projection was based on one month's figure that showed inflation had slightly fallen to 7.48%. But on Wednesday the finance minister had to make a new projection after a record hike in fuel price that has affected prices across the board.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/inflation-shoot-oil-price-hike-finance-minister-474762>

▪ **Rice, onion prices spike as Hili land port sees reduced import**

▪ A limited amount of rice is being imported through Hili land port of Dinajpur due to the dollar price hike and rice price increase by Indian traders. Due to this, the price of rice in Hili increased by BDT5-7 per kg within a week. On the other hand, despite the increase in import volume, the price of onion in the wholesale market at Hili land port in Dinajpur has increased by BDT3 per kg under the pretext of rising dollar price.

▪ Most of the rice shops in Hili were seen to have sufficient stock of rice but the price remains high. Miniket rice which was sold at BDT55-56 per kg has now increased to BDT62-64, Attash rice which was BDT50-52 has now increased to BDT56-57 and Swarna rice was sold at BDT47-48 instead of BDT45 Tuesday (9 August).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rice-onion-prices-spike-hili-land-port-sees-reduced-import-474318>

Banks can give up to BDT50 Mn term loan from CMSME refinance scheme

▪ Small entrepreneurs will enjoy the loan facility to the tune of up to BDT30 Mn in the manufacturing sector. Banks can now give medium enterprises up to BDT50 Mn and BDT20 Mn term loans in manufacturing and services sectors respectively from a BDT25 Bn refinance scheme set up by the central bank.

▪ Apart from this, cottage and micro-entrepreneurs will avail of a maximum loan of BDT1 Mn in the service sector. At the same time, small entrepreneurs will enjoy the loan facility to the tune of up to BDT3 Mn in the manufacturing sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-can-give-tk5cr-term-loan-cmsme-refinance-scheme-474994>

Stocks:

GSP Finance's profit up slightly

▪ GSP Finance Company (Bangladesh) Limited's profit improved slightly in the financial year that ended on December 31. The non-bank financial institution reported consolidated earnings per share of BDT 1.44 in 2021-22, up 2. % from BDT 1.40 a year ago.

▪ The board of directors recommended a 2.50 % cash and a 7.50 % stock dividend for the year, said the NBF in a post on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/gsp-finances-profit-slightly-3092251>

NCC Bank to issue BDT 5,000 Mn bond

▪ NCC Bank Limited's board has approved a decision to issue a BDT 5,000 Mn non-convertible subordinated bond. The move is aimed at having capital support under Tier 2 of Basel III, said the private commercial bank in a post on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/ncc-bank-issue-tk-500cr-bond-3092276>

Fareast Islami Life to sell assets to pay insurance claims

▪ Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd – once a top premium earner among the country's life insurers – is going to sell three pieces of land to pay claims by policyholders, which have been due for several years. The properties are valued at BDT 1,230 Mn, according to a stock exchange filing by the company.

▪ The auditor unveiled a huge financial crime by Fareast Islami Life which involved embezzling of BDT 21,000 Mn in

the last ten years by some of its previous directors and collaborating officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/fareast-islami-life-sell-assets-pay-insurance-claims-475014>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 91.83	USD 16.62	22.10%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 97.33	USD 19.55	25.13%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,787.04	(USD 42.16)	-2.30%
DSEX	6,180.90	-575.76	-8.52%
S&P 500	4,210.24	-555.94	-11.66%
FTSE 100	7,507.11	122.57	1.66%
BSE SENSEX	58,817.29	563.47	0.97%
KSE-100	42,494.85	-2,101.22	-4.71%
CSEALL	8,706.17	-3,519.84	-28.79%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 94.74 BDT

1 GBP = 115.55 BDT

1 Euro = 97.47 BDT

1 INR = 1.19 BDT

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