

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.

NSC sales drop by 50.29pc in 9 months

- The net sales of national savings certificates dropped by 50.29% year-on-year during 9MFY22 as the government has tightened the NSC sale rules to contain people's buying spree of the savings instruments. Net sales of NSCs dropped to BDT 165.0 Bn in 9MFY22 against BDT 332.0 Bn in 9MFY21. For FY22, the government's budgetary target was to borrow BDT 320.0 Bn through NSCs.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/170250/nsc-sales-drop-by-5029pc-in-9-months>

Corporates hesitant to confide docs to CAs

- Corporate taxpayers appear hesitant about providing necessary financial documents to the chartered accountants for verification, slowing tax-return submission and causing evasion by many. All of the financial statements have to be verified through Document Verification System (DVS) from this year and no corporate tax returns would be accepted sans such crosscheck, meant for preventing miscalculations.
- Time for submission of corporate tax return expired on January 15, 2022 for the current tax year, however, many of them obtained time extension until May 15. A senior tax official said the revenue board was actively considering extension of the time for corporate tax return until June 30 in view of the transition into automated system.
- Official sources say the government may revise the corporate tax rate downward in the upcoming budget, to be placed on June 09, to encourage them to submit tax returns showing actual income. The NBR received some 30,000 corporate tax returns in FY21 against 167,000 Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)- holding companies.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/corporates-hesitant-to-confide-docs-to-cas-1652291833>

Directors not allowed to be same bank's employee: BB

- Bangladesh Bank on Wednesday barred any bank director having at least one year or above of directorship from becoming its contractual or regular employee. If any director of any bank was appointed as its contractual or regular employee, the individual will have to vacate his or her position by July 31, 2022. It has been a common phenomenon in the banks as many individuals were working in different banks as contractual and regular employees after being in the respective bank's board, bankers said.
- Besides, the central bank also barred any member of any bank's executive committee, audit committee and risk management committee, comprising of its chairman or members of board or directors, from working as chairman or director or members of the bank's any other subsidiary company or any company or foundation-formed and operated with its finance.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/170251/directors-not-allowed-to-be-same-banks-employee-bb>

Bangladesh Bank issues clarification on operating foreign currency accounts

- Bangladesh Bank, in a clarification, said that non-resident Bangladeshis can open foreign currency accounts (FCA) in any scheduled banks in the country and any amount of money can be deposited with those accounts without permission from the central bank.
- If the expatriates bring any amount of cash, dollars or other foreign currencies during arrival, they can deposit it with their bank accounts and exchange it for local currency. The expatriates can deposit USD 10,000 to their accounts

without declaring it to the customs authorities.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bangladesh-bank-issues-clarification-on-operating-foreign-currency-accounts-1652277563>

Bangladesh improves its performance over cigarette taxation policy

- Bangladesh has improved its performance over cigarette taxation policy, as its score slightly rose to 2.63 from 2.38 in 2018, according to a global tobacco tax index. The country scored 2.63 out of a scale of 5 in 2021 in the Cigarette Tax Scorecard.
- Dr. Nigar Nargis, a member of the Tobacconomics team, told that when it comes to cigarette tax structure, Bangladesh should introduce uniform specific excise taxes instead of multi-tiered ad valorem taxes and annually adjust tax rates with inflation and economic growth. At the same time, taxes on cigarettes should be increased considerably, she said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bangladesh-improves-its-performance-over-cigarette-taxation-policy-1652283360>

Govt to open up submarine cable business to private firms

- Private companies in Bangladesh are set to get licenses to establish, maintain and operate submarine cables, in a shift that will break the state monopoly and pave the way for a smooth supply of bandwidth amid a surge in internet use.
- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has floated a tender to grant licenses. Six companies including Summit Communications, Fiber@Home, and Mango Teleservices applied for the license as of May 10, the deadline for the submission of the application.
- The licensee will have to establish its submarine cable systems and offer services within two years from the date of securing the approval. The license will cost companies BDT 100 Mn, and the annual license fee will be BDT 30 Mn. The government will decide how many licenses will be issued, according to a BTRC guideline.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/govt-open-submarine-cable-business-private-firms-3021906>

BSEC roadshow opens in Qatar on May 18 to attract FDI

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority are going to organise a roadshow in Qatar from May 18 to May 19 to attract more foreign direct investments. Talking to the BSS, BSEC Chairman said that the BSEC had already organised several roadshows in the UK, the USA and Switzerland to attract foreign investment in the capital market as well as to brand Bangladesh.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/170248/bsec-roadshow-opens-in-qatar-on-may-18-to-attract-fdi>

Domino's Pizza: Indian master franchisee buys unit of Bangladesh

- Jubilant FoodWorks, the master franchisee of Domino's Pizza in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, has fully acquired Jubilant Golden Harvest Ltd (JGHL), the franchisee of Domino's Pizza in Bangladesh. Domino's Pizza entered Bangladesh via a joint venture between India's Jubilant FoodWorks and Bangladesh's Golden Harvest QSR Limited, a part of Golden Harvest Group.
- Jubilant FoodWorks has completed the acquisition of the rest 49% stake held by Golden Harvest on Tuesday at an aggregate amount of BDT 389.0 Mn. One share of JGHL being held by a nominee of the company in order to comply with local law requirements in Bangladesh).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/dominos-pizza-indian-master-franchisee-buys-unit-bangladesh-3021851>

Runner Auto sued over alleged VAT dodging

- VAT intelligence of the National Board of Revenue has filed a case against Runner Automobiles Limited over alleged evasion of value-added tax of BDT 208.6 Mn in five years between July 2016 and June 2021. The company's sales were worth BDT 18.3 Bn in the five years, but it showed BDT 17.6 Bn in sales in monthly returns. The principal amount is BDT 155.9 Mn while the rest BDT 52.6 Mn as interest.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/170238/runner-auto-sued-over-alleged-vat-dodging>

Aman Feed signs deal with Star Feed Mills

- Aman Feed has decided to make an agreement with Star Feed Mills for all works related to feed production. Under the agreement all works related to feed production including supply of raw materials will be done by Aman Feed. Additional 6,000 tonnes finished broiler & layer feed per month will be produced with effect from Thursday for the period of consecutive twelve months, said the filing.
- After execution of the agreement the maximum sale volume may increase up to 72,000 tonnes and sales amount also will be increased to approximately BDT 3.45 Bn during the agreement period, it said. The company expects its profit will increase by BDT 100 Mn (approximately) in 12 months.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/aman-feed-signs-deal-with-star-feed-mills-1652290512>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 104.89	USD 29.68	39.46%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 106.80	USD 29.02	37.31%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,857.04	USD 27.84	1.52%
DSEX	6,591.99	-164.67	-2.44%
S&P 500	3,935.18	-831.00	-17.44%
FTSE 100	7,347.66	-36.88	-0.50%
BSE SENSEX	54,088.39	-4,165.43	-7.15%
KSE-100	42,863.15	-1,732.92	-3.89%
CSEALL	7,516.63	-4,709.38	-38.52%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 86.69 BDT****1 GBP = 106.13 BDT****1 Euro = 91.22 BDT****1 INR = 1.12 BDT**

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