

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:**Govt to procure 90,000 tonne fertilizer**

- The government is set to procure 90,000 tonne fertilisers at a cost of BDT6.8313 Bn from Canada and Morocco. The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) on Wednesday approved two separate proposals of the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) under the agriculture ministry, reports the UNB.
- Of the bulk agro-inputs, some 50,000 tonnes of Muriate of Potash (MoP) fertiliser will be imported from Canadian Commercial Corporation at a cost of BDT3.8619 Bn with each metric tonne costing USD812.62 while previous price was USD914. Some 40,000 tonnes of Diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertiliser will be imported by BADC from OCP, SA of Morocco at a cost of BDT2.9693 Bn with each metric tonne costing USD781 against an earlier price of USD914.
- Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs at a meeting approved in principle two separate proposals on rice import. As per a proposal, the Directorate General of Food will import 400,000 tonnes of rice through direct purchase method (DMP) from rice exporting countries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-procure-90000-tonne-fertiliser-496450>

New challenges facing five-year plan

- Bangladesh will have to deal with the challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic, graduation from the list of the least-developed country and climate change, and the barriers standing in the way of Sustainable Development Goals during the Eighth Five-Year Plan period.
- "Besides, the Russia-Ukraine war, the rise in fuel prices, the disruption in the supply chain, and the currency depreciation are some other major challenges that the government will confront," said Shubhashish Bose, chief executive officer of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB).
- He made the remarks while giving a presentation at a roundtable on the Eighth Five-Year Plan at the ICAB in Dhaka. The plan, which will be implemented from 2021 to 2025, has targeted to attain an 8.51% economic growth and reduce the poverty rate to 15.6%, among major goals.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/new-challenges-facing-five-year-plan-3119756>

MFS transactions drop over 5%, but card use rises 2%

- Transactions through mobile financial services registered a fall of more than 5% or BDT51.24 Bn in July because economic activities went slow after Eid-Ul-Azha, one of the biggest festivals of the Muslims. Eid was celebrated on 10 July and Eid-centric activities took place mostly towards the later part of June.
- The amount of money transacted through MFS platforms dropped to BDT891.69 Bn in July from BDT942.93 Bn a month before, according to the latest Bangladesh Bank data. On the other hand, card transactions rose by 2% to BDT384.61 Bn in the same month, while foreign currency transactions stood at BDT4.42 Bn, with more people preferring credit cards in foreign travels amid a crisis of cash dollars. The number of card holders stood at 32.4 Mn as of July.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/mfs-transactions-drop-over-5-card-use-rises-2-496418>

BB sells USD ignoring market rates

- The Bangladesh Bank yesterday sold USD40 Mn to banks at BDT96 each, a rate that contradicts its own efforts aimed at embracing a floating exchange rate since it is far lower than the market rate. A senior BB official, on the condition of anonymity, argued that the central bank will need some time to follow the market-based rate while selling the greenback to banks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bb-sells-usd-ignoring-market-rates-3119781>

Traders now allowed to export from another country

- The Bangladesh Bank has announced a "Merchanting Trade" policy which will allow traders to buy goods and services from another country and export those to a third country in a bid to diversify exports.
- The Foreign Exchange Policy Department of Bangladesh Bank issued a circular in this regard on Wednesday, stating, "In accordance with the export policy in force, a trade for which goods or services procured from a country, are shipped or delivered directly to a third country is defined as 'merchanting trade'. To facilitate transactional services by ADs [authorised dealers] to their 'merchanting, trade' customers, it has been decided to formulate a set of operational guidelines."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/traders-now-allowed-export-another-country-496414>

FBCCI wants testing labs at ports to ease doing business

- Testing labs need to be set up at ports so that imported raw materials can be released swiftly and factory production continues up and running, said Md Jasim Uddin, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) on Wednesday.
- Now, goods imported mainly through the Chattogram port have to be sent to Dhaka for testing, which leads to a delay up to a month in releasing the goods, he noted at the second meeting of the FBCCI standing committee on port and shipping held at the FBCCI office.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fbcci-wants-testing-labs-ports-ease-doing-business-496258>

Stocks:**Scam-hit BIFC suffers losses for sixth straight year**

- Trouble-hit Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company Ltd (BIFC) suffered losses in 2020, extending its loss to the sixth year. The non-bank financial institution reported negative earnings per share of BDT 8.10 for the year that ended on December 31 of 2020 against BDT12.20 in the negative a year ago, according to a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.
- Net asset value per share widened to BDT 102.37 in the negative in 2020 from BDT 94.27 in the negative in 2019, while net operating cash flow per share was BDT 2.78 in the negative in 2020 compared to a negative BDT 4.26 in the previous year. The board of directors recommended no dividend for 2020.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/scam-hit-bifc-suffers-losses-sixth-straight-year-3119741>

Pubali Bank perpetual bond's half-yearly coupon rate declared as 9.58%

- Pubali Bank Limited has announced a coupon rate of 9.58% for its perpetual bond traded on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) since 23 March and ending on 22 September.
- The record date for the bond's coupon entitlement has been set as 20 September, according to the disclosure. This bond is an unsecured, contingent-convertible, fully paid-up, non-cumulative and Basel III compliant one that started trading at the stock exchanges on 24 March 2022.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/pubali-bank-perpetual-bonds-half-yearly-coupon-rate-declared-958-496334>

Pran-RFL enters mobile phone manufacturing

- The country's manufacturing and processing behemoth Pran-RFL Group has made a foray into mobile phone manufacturing to capture a slice of the rapidly expanding digital device market in Bangladesh.
- The group has already set up a 30,000-square feet manufacturing plant at Palash, Narsingdi. At its peak, it will produce 0.35 Mn feature phones and 0.10 Mn smartphones per month. Its first batch of phones could hit the market soon.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/pran-rfl-enters-mobile-phone-manufacturing-3119786>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 88.53	USD 13.32	17.71%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 93.98	USD 16.20	20.83%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,695.10	(USD 134.10)	-7.33%
DSEX	6,487.18	-269.48	-3.99%
S&P 500	3,946.01	-820.17	-17.21%
FTSE 100	7,277.30	-107.24	-1.45%
BSE SENSEX	60,346.97	2,093.15	3.59%
KSE-100	42,011.82	-2,584.25	-5.79%
CSEALL	9,914.12	-2,311.89	-18.91%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 104.09 BDT****1 GBP = 120.04 BDT****1 Euro = 103.84 BDT****1 INR = 1.31 BDT**

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