

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.

'Unlimited' monthly package has daily data usage limit; 'without expiry' valid for 1 year

- Telecom operators yesterday rolled out a much-hyped "unlimited" and "without expiry" internet data packs, which apparently will come to little benefit to users. This is because the "unlimited" monthly data package actually has a daily data usage limit while the data "without expiry" in reality means it has a validity of one year.
- For instance, the data of the "without expiry" package will not be usable after one year of purchase. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) said the validity of data was kept one year due to technical reasons. In this category, GP offered two packages. One is of 15GB internet data at a whopping BDT 1,099 and the other of 5GB at BDT 449. Robi offered 10GB at BDT 319, Banglalink 5GB at BDT 306 and Teletalk 26GB at BDT 309 and 6GB at BDT 127.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/unlimited-data-packages-launched-3014881>

AC top-selling home appliance this Eid

- Air conditioner is the top-selling home appliance in Bangladesh this Eid-ul-Fitr as consumers look to beat rising temperatures. April, May and June are the peak season for the outlets retailing ACs as the temperature rises from March. About 90% of the ACs are sold during the quarter.
- Sales have increased by 15-20% so far in 2022, compared to the same period in 2019. Retailers say the sales of ACs will reach 0.5-0.6 million units in 2022 and the market size will expand to BDT 40 billion.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ac-top-selling-home-appliance-eid-3014891>

Nagad's single-day transaction reaches record BDT 9.53 billion

- The daily financial transactions of the postal department's mobile financial service Nagad is poised to cross BDT 10 billion as a record amount of BDT 9.53 billion transactions were made on Thursday. Nagad has averaged BDT 7 billion in daily transactions so far, but the volume of transactions continues to grow throughout this festive month centring the Holy Eid ul Fitr.
- Experts believe that obtaining close to BDT 10 billion in a single day is a significant step toward developing a cashless society in Bangladesh and it is the innovations that helped Nagad to reach near BDT 10 billion in a single day since its inception

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nagads-single-day-transaction-reaches-record-BDT953cr-411770>

Annual external debt servicing to hit USD 2.5b in 4 years

- Bangladesh is poised to spend more than USD 2 billion on servicing its foreign debt from the next fiscal year, with grace periods of many such loans ending in the current fiscal year. The repayment burden will get heavier when foreign-funded megaprojects, such as Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and Padma Bridge Rail Link, see the start of principal payments alongside interests within the next four years.
- Moreover, interest payments of new loan deals will increase the loan payback load. Bangladesh will have to deal with maximum pressure in FY27, FY28 and FY29 as its debt repayments will reach at least USD 2.5 billion during the three fiscal years. Such an upward trend will continue till FY33, according to a report by the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/annual-external-debt-servicing-hit-25b-4-years-411422>

Beximco Pharma profit drops 27% in March quarter

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd reported a 27% year-on-year drop in its net profit to BDT 1.06 billion in the third quarter of the ongoing fiscal year because it earned no income from vaccine distribution. But its revenue increased by 22% to BDT 8.95 billion in the January-March quarter.
- In the first nine months of fiscal 2021-22, Beximco Pharma's total revenue rose by 19% to BDT 25.92 billion and profit increased 14% to BDT 4.2 billion compared to the same period of the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/beximco-pharma-profit-drops-27-march-quarter-411366>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 104.69	USD 29.48	39.20%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 109.34	USD 31.56	40.58%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,896.93	USD 67.73	3.70%
DSEX	6,655.67	-100.99	-1.49%
S&P 500	4,131.93	-634.25	-13.31%
FTSE 100	4,131.93	-3,252.61	-44.05%
BSE SENSEX	57,060.87	-1,192.95	-2.05%
KSE-100	45,249.41	653.34	1.47%
CSEALL	45,249.41	33,023.40	270.11%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 86.56 BDT****1 GBP = 108.85 BDT****1 Euro = 91.27 BDT****1 INR = 1.12 BDT**

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