

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.

Investment-GDP ratio falls as pvt investors pause

- The economy expanded at a 6.94-% rate in the last FY2021, in the final reckonings, recovering from a massive fall to 3.45%, shattered due to the Covid-19 impact, in the previous FY2020. BBS's latest estimation showed that the investment-GDP ratio in the last FY2021 was 31.02%, 0.29 percentage points lower than the previous FY2020 and 1.19 percentage points down than in the FY2019.
- The investment-GDP ratio on government part for developing infrastructure and social services was 6.96% in FY2019 which rose to 7.29 in FY2020 and to 7.32 in FY2021. The private investment-GDP ratio was 25.25% in FY2019 which fell headlong to 02.24 in the following corona-troubled FY2020 and 23.70 in FY2021.
- Policy Research Institute (PRI) Executive Director Dr Ahsan H Mansur told the FE that incremental public investment had been failing to attract investment from both local and overseas sources. Former World Bank Lead Economist Dr Zahid Hussain finds lack of quality public investment behind failure to improve the investment climate in the country.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/investment-gdp-ratio-falls-as-pvt-investors-pause-1644601636>

Vessel, freight problems hit potato export

- After making all-time high export earnings from potato shipments in FY21, the traders concerned are now struggling to maintain the same growth in FY22 amid shortage of vessels as well as notable hike in freight charges. In FY20, a total of 44,940 tonnes of potato worth USD 23 million were exported.
- Despite stoppage of export to Bangladesh's previous major market Russia, the local companies fetched USD 50.6 million by shipping more than 64,773 tonnes of potato in FY21, thanks to finding new markets like Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/vessel-freight-problems-hit-potato-export-1644601892>

Remove bond inequality, non-RMG exporters make a point

- Entrepreneurs from different sectors with the bond licence facility urged the authorities to ensure equal benefits for them like the RMG sector. Many exporters without bond licenses need to pay 30%-40% duties on imported raw materials and accessories, but when it comes to getting refunds in the form of duty drawback facility, they have to go through a complex and lengthy process.
- According to a recent study by Business Initiative Leading Development, the International Finance Corporation in a report revealed that Bangladesh's exports would have risen to USD 8.4 billion had other sectors received the same bond licence facilities as the RMG sector.
- NBR chairman at a programme recently said that NBR is currently struggling to monitor the bond facility holders, which forces them to become cautious of giving the privilege to any new sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/remove-bond-inequality-non-rmg-exporters-make-point-369526>

Hope for startups to raise funds from public

- At present, a company needs to register profits in two consecutive years before it can raise funds from the SME board, according to the securities rules. Shaikh Shamsuddin Ahmed, a BSEC commissioner, told The Daily Star that

he believed the IT and e-commerce platforms needed the funds early and once their survival was ensured, they could go on to earn a lot. He added that these startups deserve a different way of valuation, rather than based on profit.

- Executives of different tech-based startups said it was the most opportune moment for the platforms to get the greenlight of the stock market regulator since people were more prone to purchase goods and services through digital means.
- In order to raise funds through the book building method, a company needs to show profits in the preceding two years. In the fixed price method, no loss-making company is allowed to raise funds. Startups should get the opportunity to raise funds despite incurring losses, he said, adding that their valuation should be calculated not based on earnings before tax, but on customer acquisition, future potential and intellectual property. Mature companies can be allowed into the main board and others in the SME board.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/hope-startups-raise-funds-public-2959446>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 93.10	USD 17.89	23.79%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 94.44	USD 16.66	21.42%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,858.76	USD 29.56	1.62%
DSEX	7,085.95	329.29	4.87%
S&P 500	4,418.64	-347.54	-7.29%
FTSE 100	7,661.02	276.48	3.74%
BSE SENSEX	58,152.92	-100.90	-0.17%
KSE-100	46,079.37	1,483.30	3.33%
CSEALL	12,459.80	233.79	1.91%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.97 BDT****1 GBP = 116.38 BDT****1 Euro = 97.60 BDT****1 INR = 1.14 BDT**

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