

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:**ADB agog to arrange USD 3.5 Bn for project funding**

- A sum of USD 3.5 Bn is assured by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for bankrolling Dhaka metro's MRT-5 southern route for expansion of overhead transport facility aimed at easing city-traffic tailbacks. As hinted during a meeting between an ADB team and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) Thursday, officials said Friday, the Manila-based lender would provide USD 2.5 Bn worth of loan and mobilise another chunk of USD 1.0 Bn in credit from any foreign lenders as co-financers of the MRT-5 project.
- The offer comes apparently as a matter of solace at this hour of a prolonging crunch time as Bangladesh is in need of foreign investment to buttress the country's depleting foreign-exchange reserves and inexorable inflation that is pushing up prices for expensive imports. Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) will construct the MRT-5 (south) from Gabtoli to Dasherbandi via Kalyanpur-Russell Square-Rampura-Aftabnagar-Dasherbandi at a proposed cost of BDT 530 Bn, equivalent to USD 5.0 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/adb-agog-to-arrange-35b-for-project-funding>

US firms want to invest more in agri, services sectors

- Businesses of the US want to invest more in agriculture and service sectors in Bangladesh as the country is expected to be the 9th largest consumer market globally by 2030, stated a visiting American business delegation yesterday. Urging the government to offer tax holiday facilities in the two sectors, the delegation wanted to know about the prevailing facilities for investment in Bangladesh.
- The query was made at a meeting between the delegation, led by Steven Kobos, president and chief executive officer of Excelerate Energy, and Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal at the secretariat office in Dhaka. The delegation included Atul Keshap, president of the US-Bangladesh Business Council, and Kevin Roepke, head of South Asia of the US Soybean Export Council.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/us-firms-want-invest-more-agri-services-sectors-3408241>

Market diversification can raise RMG export

- Bangladesh can increase garment exports to USD 100 Bn by 2030 and account for 12% of the global trade through market diversification, innovation and technological and skills development, said Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association. "We have proven our capability globally becoming the second largest apparel manufacturer with an about 8% market share and retaining our position since 2010," he said.
- He made this comment at a seminar titled "Supply Chain Reconfiguration and Structured Trade Finance for the apparel industry" organised by HSBC Bank Bangladesh at The Westin Dhaka last Tuesday. HSBC can play a pivotal role to introduce innovative solutions and create awareness among Bangladeshi apparel exporters in view of changing market dynamics, Hassan added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/market-diversification-can-raise-rmg-export-3408231>

A Boon to Business and Economy

- A massive transformation is set to occur in the transportation of goods and passengers with the opening of the country's first elevated expressway in Dhaka. Economists and businesses have said that this mega-infrastructure project will significantly reduce both the time and cost of doing business. According to a study by the Accident Research Institute of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 2018, Bangladesh loses BDT 370 Bn and five million working hours annually due to heavy traffic congestion in Dhaka. The operations of the expressway are expected to address these losses to a great extent, businesses have stated.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/supplements/dhaka-elevated-expressway-0/news/boon-business-and-economy-3408976>

World Bank gives USD 200 Mn for healthcare services, dengue prevention in Bangladesh

- The World Bank has approved a USD 200 Mn loan to help improve primary healthcare services and prevent mosquito-borne diseases like dengue in Bangladesh. The loan, which was approved yesterday, will help improve primary healthcare services for treatment, prevention and referral for common illnesses, and medical waste management in Dhaka North and South City corporations, Chattogram City Corporation, and Savar and Tarabo municipalities, according to a WB press release.
- Under the funding, a project titled "Urban Health, Nutrition and Population Project" will establish a network of primary health centres offering a broad range of health, nutrition, and population services along with a direct referral system with secondary and tertiary-level facilities. About 2.5 Mn children under five in these urban areas will receive services, the global lender said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/world-bank-gives-200m-healthcare-services-dengue-prevention-bangladesh-3407671>

Bangladesh, US discuss trade, investment, tech transfers

- Bangladesh Foreign Minister and a Business delegation from the USA discussed the possibility of trade, investment, and technology transfers in the next two years from now building on a stronger sub-regional growth trajectory and leveraging the Bay of Bengal frontiers. Minister AK Abdul Momen hosted the US-Bangladesh Business Council, headed by Chairman Kobos and Ambassador Atul Keshap, at the State Guest House Padma on Wednesday, according to a press release.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-us-discuss-bilateral-business-opportunities-692882>

Sri Lanka repays USD 100 Mn of loan from Bangladesh

- Sri Lanka has repaid another USD 100 Mn of the total USD 200 Mn loan it took from Bangladesh under a currency-swap mechanism two years ago to combat an acute economic crisis. The second instalment of the loan came just a couple of weeks after the first repayment of USD 50 Mn.
- With this latest payment, the island nation has now cleared 75% of the total it borrowed from Bangladesh in 2021. Confirming the deposit of the second loan instalment by Sri Lankan authorities, Bangladesh Bank (BB) Spokesperson Md Mezbaul Haque said that it was received on August 31.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/sri-lanka-repays-100m-loan-to-bangladesh-in-second-instalment>

Bangladesh, Hong Kong sign avoidance of double taxation agreement

- Bangladesh and Hong Kong signed a comprehensive avoidance of double taxation agreement (CDTA) on Wednesday. The agreement aims to eliminate double taxation with respect to taxes on income and prevent tax evasion and avoidance. National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem signed the agreement on behalf of Bangladesh while Christopher Hui, secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, represented Hong Kong.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-hong-kong-sign-avoidance-double-taxation-agreement-692274>

Dollar rates for export proceeds raised by BDT 1, remittance by BDT 0.50

- The Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (Bafeda) and the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB) have adjusted the exchange rate of the US dollar at BDT 109.50 for both the export proceeds and remittances. As a result, remittances and export proceeds will be bought at the same price after almost a year.
- In a meeting of the two organisations yesterday, the dollar rate for remittance was raised by BDT 0.50 and export proceeds by BDT 1, Md Afzal Karim, chairman of Bafeda and managing director and CEO of Sonali Bank, told The Business Standard. Earlier, on 31 July this year the dollar rates for export proceeds and remittance were set at BDT 108.50 and BDT 109, respectively.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dollar-rate-export-proceeds-remittances-now-tk10950-692490>

Maersk gets initial nod to install container terminal in Ctg port

- The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has said they gave their initial approval to Copenhagen-based port and cargo operator Maersk Group to set up a new container terminal near the country's main seaport, officials said. "We (CPA) reviewed the Maersk proposal and gave our initial approval after the Shipping Ministry sought our opinion . . . we now await the shipping ministry decision," CPA chairman Rear Admiral Mohammad Sohail told BSS.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/maersk-gets-initial-nod-install-container-terminal-ctg-port-692330>

Technology, ethics to help ensure sustainable development

- Analysts and economists yesterday recommended ensuring environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG), technological advancement and ethics in every stage of development activities to attain its sustainability. Their comments came at a two-day Bangladesh Strategy Summit 2023 organised by Valor of Bangladesh at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden with the theme of "Advancing Economic Sustainability".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/technology-ethics-help-ensure-sustainable-development-3409486>

IT exports fall for the first time in five years

- IT exports from Bangladesh have fallen for the first time in five years, which is an ominous sign for the government's export diversification efforts as the country is failing to produce big IT firms. According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), earnings of domestic IT firms declined by 7.42% compared to the previous year, reaching USD 548.10 Mn in fiscal 2022-23.
- This is also a big blow to the county's target of achieving USD 5 Bn in exports of IT and digital devices by 2025. "The government emphasised creating IT freelancers in recent years but there was no visible effort to upskill people for developing software and other sophisticated technology," said AKM Fahim Mashroor, former president of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/it-exports-fall-the-first-time-five-years-3408201>

Fuel price hike unlikely before polls despite IMF's Sep deadline

- The government has decided not to raise fuel oil prices this year even if prices continue to rise in the international markets. The decision, despite the commitment to implement an automated pricing formula as per the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) starting from September this year, has been taken with the impending general elections in mind, according to officials from the energy ministry.
- However, in the event that global market prices declined, the government has a plan to reduce the fuel prices. It would be good for consumers, particularly with the ongoing inflationary pressures, officials said. Though global oil prices reached a seven-month peak on Friday, the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) seems able to absorb it for now, relieving the government of any immediate pressure for price hike.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/fuel-price-hike-unlikely-polls-despite-imfs-sep-deadline-693574>

Construction materials industry thriving on mega projects

- The construction materials industry of Bangladesh has registered massive growth over the past decade as some mega projects are providing ample opportunity for capacity building and ensuring world-class products, according to industry insiders. Local companies need to ensure quality products as well as display sufficient production capacity and operational efficiency to participate with international firms in implementing mega projects, they said.
- At present, the government is implementing around a dozen mega projects using locally made construction materials instead of imported alternatives. For example, at least 10 local companies are contributing materials, such as cement, steel and paint, for constructing the country's first elevated expressway in Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/construction-materials-industry-thriving-mega-projects-3409641>

Packaging industry bears the brunt of slowdown in other sectors

- The growth of the country's packaging industry is in a slow lane due to the persisting economic uncertainty and the impacts of the price hike of the US dollar, gas and electricity, according to industry people. The packaging industry is a backward linkage sector and relies on sectors such as food-processing and readymade garments. As a result, the industry has been in trouble for the past 18 months owing to the slowdown that has hit the overall economy. The sector expanded at an annual pace of 10% to 12% from 2000 to 2010 while at around 20% in the decade before the coronavirus pandemic struck Bangladesh in keeping with steady economic growth.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/packaging-industry-bears-the-brunt-slowdown-other-sectors-3408251>

Sonali top among state banks

- For a third consecutive year Sonali Bank PLC has topped the chart among state-owned commercial banks under Financial Institutions Division in implementing its annual performance agreement (APA) in fiscal year 2022-23. Maksuma Akter Banu, joint secretary to Financial Institutions Division alongside the APA focal point, issued a signed memo in this regard, said a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/sonali-top-among-state-banks-3408126>

Banks move away from multiple exchange rates

- Banks in Bangladesh have decided to enforce a uniform exchange rate of the US dollar from next week with a view to moving away from multiple prices of the American greenback blamed for the ongoing foreign currency instability. The move is part of the central bank's effort to embrace a market-based exchange rate in line with the conditions attached to the International Monetary Fund's USD 4.5 Bn loan.
- Yesterday, banks decided to buy the US dollar at BDT 109.50 and sell them at BDT 110 from the first working day of next week. The Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers Association (BAFEDA) and the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB) fixed the single exchange rate during a virtual meeting, which was attended by the leaders of the two associations.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-move-away-multiple-exchange-rates-3408236>

Reserves to slip below USD 22 Bn after ACU payment next week

- The country's foreign exchange reserves are set to slip below USD 22 Bn after clearing the import bills of USD 1.2 Bn with the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) next week, according to Bangladesh Bank sources. The reserves stood at USD 23.06 Bn as of 30 August. As such, it will be slightly more than USD 21.86 Bn after the import bill payment.
- The ACU payment for the July-August period is expected to be USD 100 Mn higher than the previous two months and will be cleared on Monday, according to a senior official at the central bank. "Although the country's overall imports decreased during the period, the imports from Asian countries were on an upward trend," he added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/reserves-slip-below-22b-after-acu-payment-next-week-692774>

Revenue revamp bid expands tax-return scope

- All types of funds, including provident ones, will be required return submission with audited financial statements by November 30 on their incomes for the fiscal year 2022-23. The new Income Tax Act has made tax-return submission mandatory for private companies' employee funds, including recognized provident fund, approved gratuity fund and superannuation fund.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/revenue-revamp-bid-expands-tax-return-scope>

Govt bank borrowing goes ballooning

- Government bank borrowing this fiscal also goes ballooning as the amounts for the first two months doubled to BDT 750.24 Bn compared to the corresponding period in 2022-23, stoking inflation fears. The gross bank borrowings in the past two months, thus, marked a 99.4% rise from the gross figures of the July-August 2022 period, according to the central bank's treasury statistics. In the meantime, the government issued a debt calendar for borrowing from the banking system for this month (September 2023) worth BDT 320.5 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/govt-bank-borrowing-goes-ballooning>

Bangladesh can export USD 500 Mn flowers a year: minister

- Bangladesh can earn USD 500 Mn a year by exporting flowers thanks to its increasing demand both at home and abroad, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said. "Around USD 36 Bn worth of flowers are sold worldwide every year and Bangladesh has the potential to capture USD 500 Mn sales of the global flower market."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-can-export-500-million-flowers-year-minister-3409311>

FDI inflow on perilously prolonged fall

- Foreign direct investment in Bangladesh has been on a prolonged slowdown with worrisome macroeconomic implications notwithstanding consistent high economic growth in past decades, an economic study shows. The economic growth-FDI paradox is presented in a report on the study, titled 'Expanding private investment in Bangladesh in the context of LDC graduation', which has been submitted to finance ministry.
- A copy of the report on the study, conducted by an economic think-tank, is obtained by the FE, which points out that since 1972 and until 2005, net FDI flow into Bangladesh always remained less than 1.0% of gross domestic product (GDP). And between 2005 and 2015, there had been a gradual, but slight, rise in the net inflows with a peak at 1.74% in 2013.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/fdi-inflow-on-perilously-prolonged-fall>

'No more infrastructure on triple-cropping lands'

- The proposed Land Reform Bill 2022 will prohibit building of any infrastructure on triple-cropping lands, Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury said today. "The cabinet has already given go-ahead to the Land Reform Bill 2022 and the land ministry will now present the bill in the next parliamentary session in October."
- The proposed bill will also not allow anyone to have over 60 bighas of land under single ownership, he said. The minister made the comments today at a seminar on "Decentralisation of Dhaka and sustainable urbanisation in Bangladesh" organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) at its auditorium in the capital.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-more-infrastructure-triple-cropping-lands-3409341>

Most NBFIs struggling, but a few shining

- The non-bank financial institution (NBFI) sector in Bangladesh has been struggling with a huge amount of non-performing loans, a liquidity crisis, and an extreme squeeze in the NBFIs' net interest margin in recent quarters. A significant portion of the blame can be attributed to non-compliant firms that sunk due to non-compliance and embezzlement.
- However, some top-tier firms having better corporate governance, winning strategies, and the financial strengths to weather tough times, clearly stood apart from their mediocre competitors and also to show a contrasting picture of the devastated NBFIs that were struggling to pay back depositors. For instance, at the end of the challenging year 2022, publicly traded NBFIs' average non-performing loans (NPLs) ratio skyrocketed to nearly 24% due to some extreme figures such as 89% bad loans of scam-hit International Leasing.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/most-nbfis-struggling-few-shining-693562>

Major currencies getting stronger against taka

- Almost all major foreign currencies like the European Union's euro, British pound sterling, Chinese renminbi, Japanese yen and Indian rupee are following in the footsteps of the US dollar in becoming stronger against the local currency. The inter-bank selling rate for each US dollar stood at BDT 109.50 last Thursday, up from BDT 95 exactly a year back. For each euro, it was BDT 119.66, up from BDT 95.15 in the previous year.
- Till July of this year, the Swiss franc made the highest appreciation of 28.25% year-on-year against the taka. It was followed by the euro (25.54%), pound sterling (24.4%), Saudi riyal (15.96%), US dollar (15.83%), Australian dollar (13.82%), Indian rupee (11.86%), yen (11.59%) and renminbi (8.89%).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/major-currencies-getting-stronger-against-taka-3409621>

Zaved Akhtar, new chairman of Unilever Bangladesh

- Zaved Akhtar has been unanimously elected as the chairman of the board of directors of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, the country's leading fast moving consumer goods company, with effect from August 28 this year. The decision came from the company's 194th board meeting held on August 27.
- The current CEO and managing director of the company, Akhtar will succeed Kedar Lele, who has served UBL as chairman since 2020. Akhtar will continue to lead the Bangladesh business as managing director while assuming his new role as chairman of the six-decade-old company, Unilever said in a statement today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/zaved-akhtar-new-chairman-unilever-bangladesh-3407766>

Stocks:**BERGERPBL | Berger now eyes fresh shares for public shareholders**

- Berger Paints Bangladesh now considers issuing fresh shares to increase public shareholding by 5% to maintain regulatory requirements of a minimum of 10%. In a letter to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) earlier this month, the company requested a regulatory exemption to issue right shares among public shareholders, excluding sponsor-directors.
- The letter, which was seen by The Business Standard, also sought approval from the market regulator to allocate 15% of the intended new shares for its employees. The paint maker had previously tried to comply with the 2021 regulatory order by selling 5% of its current shares held by its sponsor-directors through block transactions on the Dhaka and Chattogram stock exchanges.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/berger-now-eyes-fresh-shares-public-shareholders-693542>

BRACBANK | Brac Bank gets award as a top sustainable bank

- Brac Bank has been awarded as one of the top sustainable banks in the country by the Bangladesh Bank in its "Sustainability Rating of 2022". The bank achieved this recognition for the third consecutive year, said a press release. Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, deputy managing director and head of corporate banking at the bank, received the award from Abdur Rouf Talukder, governor of the central bank, at the latter's headquarters in Motijheel, Dhaka on Tuesday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/brac-bank-gets-award-top-sustainable-bank-3408171>

BANKASIA | Bank Asia launches service for low value cross-border payment

- Bank Asia Limited has launched a "Swift Go" service through JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA to facilitate low value (up to USD10,000) cross-border payments for small and medium enterprises. The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) has introduced this service for easy as well as direct transfer of payment within four hours (maximum) of the same day with detailed tracking of receipt and payment by the beneficiary and payee.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bank-asia-launches-service-low-value-cross-border-payment-3409546>

TRUSTBANK | Trust Bank top lender in BB sustainability rating

- Trust Bank has been recognised as one of the top seven banks in the "Sustainability Rating 2022" by the Bangladesh Bank. Humaira Azam, managing director and CEO of the bank, received an award from Abdur Rouf Talukder, governor of the central bank, at the latter's headquarters in Motijheel, Dhaka on Tuesday, said a press release. Among others, Nurun Nahar, deputy governor of the BB, Md Khurshid Alam, executive director, Chowdhury Liakat Ali, director of sustainable finance department, and Akhlasur Rahman Bhuiyan, deputy managing director and CRO of Trust Bank, were present.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/trust-bank-top-lender-bb-sustainability-rating-3408141>

WALTONHIL | Walton's sponsor director to offload 25,000 shares

- Walton Hi-Tech Industries Ltd's sponsor director SM Ashraful Alam has announced to sell 25,000 of the company's shares in the secondary market to increase free float shares as per the directives from the securities regulator. Free float, also known as public float, refers to the shares of a company that can be publicly traded without prior declaration.
- According to the company's disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website on Thursday, Alam will sell the shares at prevailing market price in the block market through DSE within 30 working days. Currently, Walton's free float shares at the DSE are 1% of its total shares. SM Ashraful Alam currently holds 65,881,643 shares of the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/waltons-sponsor-director-offload-25000-shares-692562>

HIMADRI, YUSUFLOUR | Himadri, Yousuf Flour beat most of expensive stocks on main board

- Two SME stocks --- Himadri and Yousuf Flour Mills -- have become second and third most expensive stocks on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) without any justified reasons. That means the money injected into the stocks would hardly have any scope of creating value for investors. Himadri, which operates six potato cold storages in the northern part of the country, reported a remarkable 68% year-on-year surge in profit to BDT 37.95 Mn for July-December 2022. It is yet to disclose financial figures for the January-June period of FY23.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/himadri-yousuf-flour-beat-most-of-expensive-stocks-on-main-board>

PREMIERLEA | Premier Leasing suffers loss of BDT 2.12 Bn in 2022

- Premier Leasing & Finance, a third-generation financial institution, suffered a loss of BDT 2.12 Bn in 2022, because of its adjustment of provision shortfall since 2015. The non-bank financial institution is suffering losses for the past three years since 2020 and cumulative losses piling up to BDT 4.93 Bn, as per the data available on the Dhaka Stock Exchange. The company reported a loss of BDT 15.97 per share in 2022 as against loss of BDT 18.18 in 2021, according to a stock exchange filing on Thursday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/premier-leasing-suffers-loss-of-tk-212b-in-2022>

KEYACOSMET | Keya Cosmetics seeks High Court nod to hold pending AGMs

- Keya Cosmetics Limited has requested permission from the High Court to convene its annual general meetings (AGMs) for fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22. When a company fails to hold an AGM within the stipulated time, capital market rules will necessitate High Court approval to proceed with the pending meeting at a later date.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/keya-cosmetics-seeks-high-court-nod-hold-pending-agms-693538>

EXCHANGE | DSE asked to explain non-payment of claims from Investor Protection Fund

- The securities regulator has sought explanations from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) about why the bourse has still not paid the claims of the defrauded investors from the DSE Investor Protection Fund. On 28 August, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) asked the Dhaka bourse to submit detailed documents about the protection fund within ten working days.
- Earlier, four brokerage firms — Tamha Securities, Crest Securities, Banco Securities, and Shah Mohammad Sagir & Company — embezzled investors' money from their beneficiary owner (BO) accounts. Therefore, the BSEC decided to settle the claims of the defrauded customers of these brokerage houses with the money available in the protection fund.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-asked-explain-non-payment-claims-investor-protection-fund-692566>

EXCHANGE | Cenbank excludes bonds, debentures, Islamic securities from banks' capital market exposure

- From now on, banks' investments in bonds, debentures, and Shariah-based securities will not be counted as parts of their capital market exposure, according to a circular issued by the Bangladesh Bank yesterday. The recent measure will increase the banks' capacity to invest in the capital market within the exposure limit, said market insiders who have been demanding such a facility for a long time.
- The central bank issued the circular in this regard after the amended Bank Companies Act excluded bonds, debentures, and Shariah-based investment instruments from the capital market exposure limit this year. Sayadur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association, said, "A bank's investment in non-listed instruments was not counted as part of its capital market exposure. Only investments in listed instruments were within this exposure limit."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/cenbank-excludes-bonds-debentures-islamic-securities-banks-capital-market-exposure>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 85.55	USD 10.34	13.75%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 88.55	USD 10.77	13.85%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,940.06	USD 165.91	9.35%
DSEX	6,299.50	92.50	1.49%
S&P 500	4,515.77	676.27	17.61%
FTSE 100	7,464.54	12.80	0.17%
BSE SENSEX	65,387.16	4,546.42	7.47%
KSE-100	45,324.50	4,904.05	12.13%
CSEALL	11,156.42	2,653.93	31.21%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.10 BDT****1 GBP = 137.37 BDT****1 Euro = 117.61 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

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