

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:**RMG exports to US up by 2.95% this July-August compared to last year: EPB report**

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the United States (US) went up 2.95% in July-August of the current fiscal year compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year, according to statistics released by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). During the period, the RMG exports to the US increased from USD 1.42 Bn to USD 1.46 Bn, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association Director Mohiuddin Rubel said citing the EPB data.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-exports-us-295-july-august-compared-last-year-epb-report-699698>

Bangladesh to become 3rd largest global market after UK, Germany: PM Hasina

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited investors from the Commonwealth countries to come to Bangladesh in a bigger way. "Geographically, Bangladesh is at the centre of a market of 3 Bn people. We have 170 Mn people of our own. By 2030, the affluent population of Bangladesh will stand at 35 Mn. So, Bangladesh will become the third largest market globally, after Germany and the United Kingdom," she said while addressing the two-day "Commonwealth Trade and Investment Forum Bangladesh 2023", reports UNB.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-become-3rd-largest-global-market-after-uk-and-germany-pm-hasina-tells>

Chinese companies launch 'localisation' drive to boost employment

- Chinese companies in Bangladesh have taken an initiative to boost employment for local people in a massive scale, concerned officials said. Disclosing the decision Mr. Ke Changliang, the President of the CEAB told this correspondent that Chinese firms here unveiled a robust 'localisation strategy' in a bid to tap into global expertise. According to CEAB officials, leaders of Chinese business community and Bangladesh-China Alumni also urged overseas Bangladeshi students to return home and contribute to their homeland's development.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/chinese-companies-launch-localisation-drive-to-boost-employment>

Bangladesh Bank relaxes rules for EFPF loan payment

- The Bangladesh Bank on Wednesday (13 September) relaxed the settlement rules of funds businessmen have taken from the Export Facilitation Pre-finance Fund (EFPF). The central bank has relaxed this rule after businessmen argued for a partial payment opportunity to reduce the interest expense of the fund. From now on, EFPF will be able to pay part or all the money before the expiry of the term if the bank wants.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-bank-relaxes-rules-efpf-loan-payment-700062=>

Govt to import 0.3 Mn tonnes of wheat from Russia

- The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) in a meeting on Wednesday approved 14 proposals including one to import 0.3 Mn tonnes of wheat from Russia. As per the approval, the Food Ministry will import the wheat from the Russian Federation at a cost of BDT 10.329 Bn through the G2G method. Each kg of wheat will cost BDT 33.43.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-import-3-lakh-tonnes-wheat-russia-699938>

Bangladesh's average import tariffs higher than in most countries

- Bangladesh's average nominal tariffs are higher than in low-income, middle-income and high-income countries, as well as most of its comparators, said an economist yesterday. Such a high tariff on imported items raises relative profitability for domestic market-oriented industries compared to exports, discourages production for overseas markets, and acts as a major barrier to export diversification, said Zaidi Sattar, chairman of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI).
- The nominal tariff is 27.6% in Bangladesh. It is 22.4% in Sri Lanka, 18.1% in India, 9.7% in Thailand, 9.6% in Vietnam, 5.6% in Malaysia, and 8% in Indonesia.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladeshs-average-import-tariffs-higher-most-countries-3418386>

TCB starts selling four essentials at subsidised rate

- The state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) yesterday began selling four essential commodities at a rate lower than the market prices. Under the initiative, 10 Mn family cardholders will get rice, edible oil, lentil and sugar for the month of September, the TCB stated in a press release. The government has taken the initiative to provide these subsidies from taxpayers' money in order to cushion the impact of soaring food and non-food prices on poor and low-income families.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tcb-starts-selling-four-essentials-subsidised-rate-3418281>

Bangladesh apparel faces USD 27 Bn export hit from extreme weather by 2030: Study

- Bangladesh's apparel industry may face a USD 26.78 Bn export hit from extreme heat and flooding by 2030 as workers struggle under high temperatures and factories close, according to research by Schroders and Cornell University released on Wednesday.
- The study titled "Higher Ground: How Fashion Supply Chains are Being Impacted by Extreme Heat and Flooding" forecasts that under a climate-adaptive scenario, if the apparel industry moves quickly to reduce heat stress for workers, the country's apparel export earnings could reach USD 122.01 Bn by 2030 and USD 1,038.22 Bn by 2050.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-apparel-faces-27b-export-hit-extreme-weather-2030-study-700178>

Dollar 'vanishes' even from kerb market

- Obtaining cash dollars through banks and authorised money exchangers has become increasingly difficult leaving. In recent days, the kerb market for currencies has witnessed an extraordinary surge with the US dollar rate soaring to a painful BDT 120 in trading.
- Consequently, the pressure has shifted to the card market, as evidenced by the escalating number of transactions, increasing transaction values, and a surge in the issuance of new cards over the past 12 months, as per data from the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dollar-vanishes-even-kerb-market-700174>

MFS transaction decreased by BDT 340 Bn in July: BB

- Transaction through mobile financial service (MFS) has decreased by around BDT 340 Bn. The latest statistics on the MFS by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) said BDT 983.07 Bn were transacted in July this year in mobile banking services like bkash, rocket, nagad—an amount which was BDT 338.68 Bn less than the previous month of June.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/mfs-transaction-decreased-tk34000-crore-july-bb-700050>

Consumers protest cancellation of 3-day internet packages

- Bangladesh Mobile Consumers Association yesterday demanded the reinstatement of short-term and low-cost internet packages mostly used by low-income and marginal consumers. This comes as the BTRC recently issued a directive, slated to take effect on October 15, discontinuing internet data packages with a tenure of three and 15 days. The move has been met with opposition from both consumers and experts, who believe that it restricts consumer choices and imposes higher costs on grassroots, low-income, and young users.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/consumers-protest-cancellation-3-day-internet-packages-3418271>

A sudden surge in orders to test RMG, textile sectors' capacity

- Bangladesh might be the second-largest apparel supplier in the world, but its current installed capacity will not be adequate to meet demand if orders surge significantly as buyers shift away from countries such as China and Vietnam. Bangladesh's share in the global readymade garment trade more than tripled in the past 17 years: in 2005, the country's share was 2.5% but it rocketed to 7.9% last year.
- And local suppliers say Bangladesh's share would grow in the coming years, a prospect that might bode well for the country's largest foreign exchange earning sector but it could also bring about one of the stiffest challenges for the sector as well.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/sudden-surge-orders-test-rmg-textile-sectors-capacity-3418311>

Stocks:**ALARABANK | AIBL pens deal with Bangladesh Bank**

- Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd (AIBL) yesterday signed a participating financial institution (PFI) agreement with Bangladesh Bank to avail pre-financing under a project styled 'Program to Support Safety Retrofits and Environmental Upgrades in the Bangladeshi RMG sector Project (SREUP)'.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/aibl-pens-deal-bangladesh-bank-3418121>

PROGRESLIF | BSEC to appoint auditor to look into Progressive Life Insurance 'anomalies'

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) will appoint an independent auditor to find out whether there are anomalies in Progressive Life Insurance. To this end, the commission issued a tender notice on 10 September for the selection of auditors.
- The securities regulator said the auditor would conduct a special audit on the financial statements of the company for the last ten years and submit the report within three months from the date of signing the contract, as mentioned in the notice.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-appoint-auditor-look-progressive-life-insurance-anomalies-700086>

RINGSHINE | Ring Shine raises red flag on stake acquisition by Wise Star and five other cos

- The board of directors of Ring Shine Textiles Ltd has expressed concerns about the credibility of the six companies that are set to collectively take over 38% stake in the textile firm. According to BSEC officials and Ring Shine sources, Wise Star will hold only 2% shares. The remaining 36% will be held by the other five companies. This August, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) conditionally allowed Wise Star Textile Mills Ltd and five Singapore-based companies to buy Ring Shine's shares, including those held by the sponsor-directors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ring-shine-raises-red-flag-stake-acquisition-wise-star-and-five-other-cos-700138>

EXCHANGE | BB-BSEC discord clouds NBFI governance

- Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) have remained comparatively less regulated owing to a major gap between the Bangladesh Bank and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on some provisions relating to corporate governance, according to analysts.
- "There are some basic regulatory differences between the BB and the BSEC," said Mizanur Rahman, a commissioner of the BSEC. When the central bank sees any difference in the provisions of laws, it orders NBFIs not to comply with BSEC's rules, he said, citing the Corporate Governance Code 2018.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-bsec-discord-clouds-nbfi-governance-3418296>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 88.86	USD 13.65	18.15%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 92.23	USD 14.45	18.58%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,909.84	USD 135.69	7.65%
DSEX	6,304.88	97.88	1.58%
S&P 500	4,467.44	627.94	16.35%
FTSE 100	7,525.99	74.25	1.00%
BSE SENSEX	67,466.99	6,626.25	10.89%
KSE-100	45,595.41	5,174.96	12.80%
CSEALL	11,360.83	2,858.34	33.62%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.73 BDT****1 GBP = 137.06 BDT****1 Euro = 117.82 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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