

*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:****WB to give USD 300 Mn for youth employment**

- Bangladesh and the World Bank yesterday signed a USD 300 Mn financing agreement to equip about 900,000 economically disengaged rural youths with skills and alternative education needed for employment and entrepreneurship.
- In Bangladesh, about 27% of youth that is about 12.6 Mn people are classified as NEET. Bangladesh currently has the largest ongoing IDA programme totaling USD 15.86 Bn. The World Bank was among the first development partners to support Bangladesh and has committed about USD 40 Bn in grants, interest-free and concessional credits to the country since its independence..

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/wb-give-300m-youth-employment-3404776>

**Another USD 1 Bn budget support expected this year**

- Bangladesh is expecting another USD 1 Bn in budget support towards the end of the year in a financing arrangement led by the Asian Development Bank. Of the USD 1 Bn, the Manila-based lender would be providing USD 400 Mn; Japan International Cooperation Agency, the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and other donors would be providing the rest.
- The funding is to support the country's efforts towards climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and low-carbon development, following in the leads of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which earlier provided USD 500 Mn and USD 1.4 Bn respectively. For Bangladesh, the USD 1 Bn would go some way towards propping up its strained dollar stockpile, which stood at USD 23.2 Bn as of August 23, according to data from the central bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/another-1b-budget-support-expected-year-3404616>

**Canada extends duty-free access for Bangladesh till 2034**

- Bangladesh will continue to enjoy duty-free access to Canada market till 2034 as per a bill passed in Canadian parliament in June. Welcoming the development, BGMEA President Faruque Hassan told The Business Standard that the Canadian parliament passed a finance bill on June 8, extending the GPT scheme until the end of 2034.
- According to the EPB (Export Promotion Bureau) data, Canada was the 11th largest exporting partner of Bangladesh with a USD 1.72 Bn export in FY23. Besides, the North American nation is one of the major markets for Bangladeshi apparel. Bangladesh's RMG export to Canada reached USD 1.55 Bn in FY23, which was USD 1.33 Bn the previous fiscal, showing 16.55% growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/canada-extends-duty-free-access-bangladesh-till-2034-689910>

**Bangladesh expects to be BRICS member in second phase**

- Bangladesh, which failed to become a member of the BRICS grouping in the just concluded Johannesburg summit, is expected to be included in the next phase. Mr Masud, foreign secretary, also noted that political and regional issues might be instrumental in the exclusion of Bangladesh. However, he observed that Bangladesh is getting the real benefit of the BRICS by becoming a member of the New Development Bank, sponsored by it.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bd-expects-to-be-brics-member-in-second-phase>

**Maersk wants to build a new terminal at Laldia of Ctg port**

- The government is positively considering the investment proposal of Danish shipping and logistic giant AP Moller Maersk to construct and operate a new container terminal at Chattogram port's Laldia. Global ports and terminal operator APM Terminals submitted a proposal to the shipping ministry in April this year for investing around USD 450 Mn to construct a new terminal at Laldia area of the port.
- Maersk Group CEO Robert Maersk Uggla and top-level Danish delegation are scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office Gono Bhaban tomorrow morning where Laldia and other port related investment proposals of Maersk Group would be discussed. CPA officials said the Maersk Group has proposed to construct a new terminal on a 46-acre area of Laldia and initially they proposed to invest USD 450 Mn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/maersk-wants-build-new-terminal-laldia-ctg-port-3404926>

**4th-highest on unfolding AIIB credit line**

- Bangladesh stands out as the fourth-biggest recipient of assistance from an unfolding Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) credit line with over USD 3.67 Bn received from the new bank's committed finance between 2016 and March 2023.
- This accounts for more than 8.41% of the total investment made so far by the up-and-coming development financier, according to available AIIB statistics. The AIIB says the investment is meant for developing "infrastructure for tomorrow". Its objective reads: "By investing in sustainable infrastructure, AIIB unlocks new capital, new technologies and new ways in which to address climate change and to connect Asia, and the world."

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/4th-highest-on-unfolding-aiib-credit-line>

**Rajshahi's mango goes to Russia for first time**

- A Rajshahi-based exporting organization has sent gourmati and katimon varieties of mangoes to Russian markets from Rajshahi for the first time. Confirming the matter Chief Executive Officer of MTB Agro and Garden Mahtab Ali said this is the first venture of exporting Rajshahi's mango to Russia.
- Shamsul Wadud, Additional Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension, said they are searching for new markets around the world. Exporting mangoes from Rajshahi is gradually increasing. Last year, 222 tonnes of mangoes were exported from Rajshahi, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj districts to different global markets. This year, the figure surpassed 380 tonnes, he added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rajshahis-mango-goes-russia-first-time-689538>

**BGMEA plans big to cut carbon emission**

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) targets reducing carbon emission by 30%, using sustainable raw materials in 50% of the cases and bringing down the use of groundwater by 50% within 2030.
- Under the sustainability vision, the BGMEA also has the target to reduce energy consumption by 30%, use of 20% renewable energy and reduce deforestation by 30% by the stipulated timeframe of 2030, BGMEA President Faruque Hassan said yesterday. The total number of LEED certified green garment factories in Bangladesh is now 200, of which 73 are platinum, the highest category.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bgmea-plans-big-cut-carbon-emission-3404751>

**Jashore Bscic rebounding from Covid-19 slowdown**

- The Bscic Industrial City in Jashore, which was hit hard by Covid-19 pandemic impacts, has shown signs of recovery in the fiscal year 2022-23. In FY23, goods worth BDT 6.56 Bn were manufactured, of which goods worth BDT 1.9 Bn were exported while the rest worth BDT 4.66 Bn were sold locally.
- Built-in 1962 over 50 acres near Jashore town, the industrial city currently houses 122 operational units that provide employment for 6,918 workers. Former Jashore Chamber of Commerce President Mizanur Rahman Khan highlighted the lack of government financial support hindering potential growth in Bscic.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/jashore-bscic-rebounding-covid-19-slowdown-689434>

**Mobile subscriber base gets another boost in July**

- The mobile subscriber base in Bangladesh continues to grow as network operators in the country acquired a total of about 1.4 Mn customers in July, registering the biggest monthly jump in over a year. The overall number of SIM subscribers reached 187.5 Mn in July, up from 186.1 Mn a month earlier, according to BTRC.
- The growth was shared by Grameenphone, Robi Axiata and Banglalink while state-run Teletalk ended up losing some customers. During the six-month ban, Grameenphone lost almost 5 Mn customers. Meanwhile, state-owned Teletalk lost about 20,000 customers in July, bringing its total down to 6.47 Mn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mobile-subscriber-base-gets-another-boost-july-3404606>

**Demand for CI sheet rising in Dhaka and other cities**

- The market for corrugated iron (CI) sheets is expanding in Bangladesh thanks to the availability of more durable and coloured versions of the product, according to industry insiders. As such, the country's annual demand for CI sheets now exceeds 1.2 Mn tonnes, creating a market worth around BDT 150 Bn.
- At present, PHP produces some 0.45 Mn tonnes of CI sheets each year, catering to about 45% of the total market. Imported CI sheets mainly come from Japan, Vietnam, Taiwan, China and South Korea but shipments are gradually reducing as local producers are developing their product basket with cheaper alternatives.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/demand-ci-sheet-rising-dhaka-and-other-cities-3404741>

**85% government Sukuks for Islamic lenders, insurers**

- Shariah-compliant banks, non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) and insurance companies would be entitled to buy 85% of the government Sukuks, the Bangladesh Bank said on Sunday. Previously, the allocation quota was raised to 80% from 70%.
- According to the central bank's circular, 10% of the government issued Islamic securities would be reserved for Islamic branches and windows of conventional banks. The remaining 5% units would be issued to other investors including individual investors, provident funds and deposit insurance, it added. The Bangladesh Bank raised BDT 130 Bn for two different projects in the recent years and has plans to continue as the burgeoning Islamic financial industry is in increasing need for the Shariah-compliant instruments.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/85-government-sukuks-islamic-lenders-insurers-689858>

**Make customs, bond services simpler: BGMEA**

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday called for making the customs, bond and VAT related services simpler and faster to remain competitive in the global apparel market. BGMEA President Faruque Hassan said the garment industry can save time and money, and become more efficient. He also laid emphasis on improving the understanding of customs and VAT regulations among garment industry professionals by providing training in this regard. The programme was organised by the BGAPMEA in association with the Bangladesh Tax Training Institute in Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/make-customs-bond-services-simpler-bgmea-3404586>

**BB instructs non-banks to reduce bad loans**

- Bangladesh Bank has instructed non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) to reduce the amount of non-performing loans (NPLs) they have to resolve the sector's image crisis. The country's 35 NBFIs had NPLs amounting to BDT 178.55 Bn at the end of March, which is 25% of the loans they had disbursed, as per the central bank's latest data.
- The instruction came at a meeting between the central bank and the Bangladesh Leasing and Finance Companies Association (BLFCA), a forum of chief executives of the NBFIs, at the BB headquarters yesterday. Presiding over the meeting, Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder specifically asked the NBFIs to regain customer confidence through improvements of their financial health. Bangladesh Bank's financial stability report-2022 said 14 NBFIs were in the red zone last year as per a stress test report.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-instructs-non-banks-reduce-bad-loans-3404766>

**Prevent sale of yarns, fabrics imported under false declaration: Textile mill owners**

- Textile mills owners have written to the Customs Bond Commissionerate seeking its support alleging that yarn, fabric and dress materials imported under false declaration are selling in local markets through bond abuse, plummeting the demand for local products. People related to the textile sector said that on an average, high-value yarns worth BDT 500 Mn from around 280 local mills each, totalling around BDT 14 Bn, are left unsold.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/prevent-sale-yarns-fabrics-imported-under-false-declaration-textile-mill-owners-689882>

**Opportunities to turn around should come before wholesale declaration of loan defaulters: FBCCI president**

- The new president of the country's apex trade body, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), has already written to Bangladesh Bank asking for opportunities for businesses struggling to pay instalments against loans to turn around their fortunes before declaring them as loan defaulters.
- Bangladesh is trying to curb inflation, but the global supply chain disruption creates crises on the supply side, which is the cause of the price hike in some cases, he pointed out. The FBCCI president said, the federation (FBCCI) has already written a letter to the Bangladesh Bank (BB) to not declare any company as defaulter without understanding the reality.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/opportunities-turn-around-should-come-wholesale-declaration-loan-defaulters-fbcci-president>

**Bangladesh Agricultural Investment Forum kicks off to boost agrifood transformation**

- Bangladesh Agricultural Investment Forum, initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture, commenced its journey on 27 August to accelerate agricultural development in the country. The forum, which could become an annual event, is the result of last year's FAO Investment Forum in Rome, Italy. Both forums are part of FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative. The initiative aims to catalyze agricultural transformation by fostering increased targeted investment and improved access to finance for food producers, investors, policymakers and agri-processing enterprises, according to a press release issued by FAO.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-agricultural-investment-forum-kicks-boost-agrifood-transformation-689614>

**Tax burden to add up, if return deadline missed**

- Taxes will be imposed on the entire income of a taxpayer without any exclusion, if the return is submitted after the Tax Day, the deadline for return filing. A provision in this connection has been incorporated in the new tax law and has been made effective from the current fiscal year for individual, non-resident and corporate taxpayers. "Tax will be imposed on entire income of a taxpayer along with a 4.0% monthly rate of interest for the taxpayers who would miss the deadline," said a senior tax official.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/tax-burden-to-add-up-if-return-deadline-missed>

**Cenbank flags banks' data anomalies**

- The Bangladesh Bank has voiced concerns over significant anomalies in banks ranging from disparities related to outstanding and overdue LC information in contrast to the central bank's dashboard to instances of deliberately undervalued invoicing for tax evasion.
- Also, the central bankers pointed out the delayed submission of export data and inaccurate foreign exchange data by authorised dealer banks. These observations were outlined in a document from the central bank, which was prepared following a meeting between the chief executive officers of banks and senior central bank officials on 16 August. Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder chaired the meeting. Bankers have also been warned for not following the single borrower exposure limit as issued by the central bank last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-flags-banks-data-anomalies-689906>

**Confidence crisis in financial sector deepens**

- Bangladesh's financial sector is struggling to win back people's trust mainly due to the deterioration of some key indicators amid a lack of good governance, irregularities and lighter punishment for wrongdoers, according to analysts.
- The financial sector has been in bad shape at a time when Bangladesh plans to become a developed nation by 2041. The banking sector is burdened with a higher NPL, which stood at BDT 1.32 Tn in March, up 16% from a year earlier, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed. A floor price has led to the creation of a barren equity market since there are fewer buyers. Both intermediaries and investors are worried about the direction of the market as economic uncertainty shows no sign of disappearing.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/confidence-crisis-financial-sector-deepens-3404786>

**SME Foundation in quandary with BDT 500 Mn FDRs in PK Haldar's scam-hit NBFI**

- The Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Foundation has found itself in deep water with around BDT 500 Mn investment in fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) made to the International Leasing and Financial Services (ILFS) Limited — a non-bank financial institution (NBFI) owned by Prashanta Kumar Halder — mired in loan scams and heavy liabilities.
- The foundation has been trying to get back the money — which it invested from its Endowment Fund made of the government's block allocation — from the NBFI for several years now. To withdraw the FDRs, it had sent repeated letters to the ILFS but got only false assurance in response. Moreover, BDT 894.9 Mn of the SME foundation's Reserve Fund and BDT 811 Mn of the General Fund are in different banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/sme-foundation-quandary-tk50cr-fdrs-pk-haldars-scam-hit-nbfi-689422>

**Stocks:****MJLBD | MJL Bangladesh to buy 50 bigha land at BDT 950 Mn**

- MJL Bangladesh PLC has announced that the company will buy an industrial plot at a cost of BDT 950 Mn in Narayanganj. In a disclosure at the Dhaka Stock Exchange on Sunday (27 August), the company said it has conditionally signed an MOU with the seller to purchase an industrial plot of land measuring 50 Bigha. The land is located at Shiddhirganj of Narayanganj, and the company is buying it for its future expansion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mjl-bangladesh-buy-50-bigha-land-tk95cr-689494>

**NCCBANK | NCC Bank inks deal with AamarPay**

- NCC Bank Ltd recently signed a corporate agreement with AamarPay, a sister concern of web outsourcing company Soft Tech Innovation Ltd. Under the deal, the bank's credit cardholders will get SmartPay EMI facility for up to 36 months at zero interest at AamarPay online shopping.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ncc-bank-inks-deal-aamarpay-3404611>

**MERCANBANK | Mercantile Bank takes PLC suffix**

- Mercantile Bank Ltd has changed its name to Mercantile Bank PLC (public limited company), the central bank said in a circular yesterday. The change of the private commercial bank came into effect yesterday, according to the circular. In Bangladesh, the companies are switching to the PLC suffix in order to comply with the amended Company Act 1994. The amendment was made in 2020.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mercantile-bank-takes-plc-suffix-3404601>

**FAMILYTEX | Familytex: A company meant to rip off retail investors**

- Among the listed companies of the textile sector on the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), one will come across Familytex (BD). Except for the company's name and some sporadic financial figures uploaded until 2020, no other information and corporate disclosure is available of the company.
- The 'Z' category company has not been in operation but it is hard to say for how many years. It also has no website. Currently, retail investors hold more than 77% of the total shares offloaded by the company for public trading. On the other hand, sponsor-directors have only 4% shares, reduced from 75% in 2013 immediately after the initial public offering. Familytex distributed only stock dividends since its listing to its shareholders. BSEC officials previously said the company's sponsors had sold shares without any corporate declaration in breach of the regulatory obligations.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/familytex-a-company-meant-to-rip-off-retail-investors>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 79.80	USD 4.59	6.10%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 84.41	USD 6.63	8.52%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,915.80	USD 141.65	7.98%
DSEX	6,298.23	91.23	1.47%
S&P 500	4,405.71	566.21	14.75%
FTSE 100	7,338.58	-113.16	-1.52%
BSE SENSEX	64,886.51	4,045.77	6.65%
KSE-100	47,683.04	7,262.59	17.97%
CSEALL	11,207.11	2,704.62	31.81%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.34 BDT****1 GBP = 137.74 BDT****1 Euro = 118.16 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**



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