

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.

Bangladesh garments get boost in Canada exposition

- Bangladesh readymade garment (RMG) industry has received huge response from international buyers in a mega exposition in Canada, reports BSS. A total of 17 RMG factories and exporters from Bangladesh participated in the three-day event titled 'Apparel Textile Sourcing Canada (ATSC)'. The fair was held at the International Centre in Toronto from August 20 to 22 under the guidance of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of Bangladesh.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-garments-get-boost-in-canada-exposition-1535213387>

Bangladesh, Nigeria want to boost business

- Bangladesh and Nigeria have showed their interest to work closely to strengthen bilateral relations especially in the fields of trade and commerce, reports BSS. During the meeting, held in a very cordial atmosphere, both the sides expressed their interest to strengthen and expand existing cordial bilateral relations in depth and dimensions.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bangladesh-nigeria-want-to-boost-business-1535213428>

China prints money for Bangladesh

- China has been printing bank notes for the governments of different countries as Beijing offers secured money printing facilities at low costs, reports South China Morning Post. According to the South China Morning Post, this year money printing plants in China are running in full swing to meet the high demands. China won the bids of NPR100, NPR1000 and NPR5 from Nepal, Liu wrote in an article published in China Finance. China also produced a total of 200 million in NPR1000 notes last year. Most of the orders come from the countries which signed for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project.

- So far China has won contracts for money production projects from countries from different parts of the world including Bangladesh, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, India, Brazil and Poland. China provides embedded thread, metallic ribbon and colour-shifting ink at a relatively low cost compared with their Western rivals. Currency paper varies also from country to another and each client has their own requirements. China also performs Intaglio, or "raised" printing simultaneously on both sides of a banknote.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/feature/2018/08/22/china-prints-money-for-bangladesh>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/2018/08/26/we-import-banknotes-from-china-then-why-not-other-things>

Operators say uniform rate beneficial in the long run

- Mobile phone operators have claimed that the minimum new call rate for mobile phones will stimulate competition in the market and in the long term reduce consumer cost 3% to 5%. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) implemented the new tariff rate from August 14, which ranges from BDT0.45 to BDT2 per minute, scrapping the previous on-net and off-net floor prices of BDT0.25 and BDT0.60 respectively.

- According to the Chief Corporate and Regulatory Affairs Officer, this will enable our customers to call 150 million mobile subscribers of Bangladesh at the same rate. The benefit will be better realized once MNP is introduced in the market. BTRC said that the country has 150.9 million active mobile phone connections as of June 2018, of which Grameenphone has 69.2 million, Robi 44.7 million, Banglalink 33.3 million and Teletalk 3.7 million.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2018/08/20/operators-say-uniform-rate-beneficial-in-the-long-run>

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) approves 013 prefix for GP, 014 for BL

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission has approved two new number prefixes — 013 and 014 — respectively for mobile phone operators Grameenphone and Banglalink. The approval was given at a meeting held at the commission office in the capital on last Sunday following endorsement from prime minister's ICT affairs adviser.

- Under the BTRC approval, the operators have been allowed to give connections under new prefixes as well as the existing number prefixes. The operators, however, would start issuing connections under the prefixes after getting approval letters from the commission, said BTRC officials. The number series of the country's mobile phone operators starts with '01' prefix as per National Number Plan. Each number series allows an operator to sell 100 million connections with an 11-digit number. At present, customers of the leading mobile phone operator GP has been using

017, Banglalink customers 019 and Teletalk customers were using 015 as per approval from the telecom regulator.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/49066/btrc-approves-013-prefix-for-gp-014-for-bl>

Robi continues to make losses

- Robi posted a net loss of BDT 444.0 million in April-June, extending its losses for the seventh straight quarter, because of inconsistent subscriber base and revenue growth. The last time the second-largest operator had managed to make a profit was in the July-September quarter of 2016, just before its merger with Airtel.
- Since the merger in November 2016, Robi's revenue has grown but failed to secure a net profit, according to the financial statement of Axiata Group, the parent company of the operator. The statement was published yesterday. Before the merger, the company had been making profit regularly. It registered a profit of BDT 4.00 billion in 2015, BDT 4.40 billion in 2014 and BDT 3.65 billion in 2013. It incurred a loss of BDT 1.48 billion in the first half of 2018.
- Customer base of Robi narrowed by 2% to 447 million at the end of June compared to the first quarter. Average revenue per user (ARPU) also fell. The ARPU stood at BDT 117 at the end of the second quarter, from BDT 132 in the same period a year ago and BDT 135 in 2016. The operator attributed the loss, among other reasons, to the extensive investment it has made in expanding the network. Robi invested BDT 5.50 billion as capital expenditure in April-June.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/business/robi-continues-make-losses-1624648>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/49009/robi-incurs-BDT-444-crore-in-losses-in-april-june>

Fresh hike in gas tariff in September likely

- The country's energy regulator is set to announce a fresh hike in natural gas tariff in September to foot the import bills of 'expensive' LNG, said officials. The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) is now at the final stage of its scrutiny after holding public hearings over the tariff hike proposals of state-run gas transmission, marketing and distribution companies in June, a senior commission official said. Chattogram consumers have been getting re-gasified imported LNG (liquefied natural gas) since Saturday (August 18) after more than eight years of the move to import LNG by the government.
- Existing and new consumers of Chattogram are now receiving around 75-100 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of re-gasified LNG, a senior Petrobangla official said. The quantity of re-gasified LNG would gradually be increased to around 300 mmcf by late September with the increase of pressure in the pipeline network, he said. The supply of re-gasified LNG to consumers would increase to around 500 mmcf after the completion of an under-construction Anowara-Fouzdarhat pipeline.
- The government had initiated the move to import LNG in November 2010, when state-run Petrobangla floated a construction tender for a floating LNG terminal. The LNG import terminal project was brought to a fast-track route for the implementation on a priority basis, to ease the country's energy crisis and accelerate economic growth in January 2014. The BERC has planned to fix a new gas tariff considering blend of the imported LNG with locally produced gas, BERC officials said.
- Petrobangla has argued that the blended gas price will be BDT 9.69 per cubic metre (cubic metre) after importing around 500 mmcf of LNG at USD 8.5 per cubic metre from the international market. The blended gas price will be BDT 10.91 per cubic metre after importing around 500 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of LNG at USD 10.76 per cm from the international market.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fresh-hike-in-gas-tariff-in-sept-likely-1535215403>

Tanners stick to government-fixed rates

- Claiming that misleading information are being spread over the prices of sacrificial animal rawhide, tanners have said they will start rawhide purchase by next week at the rates fixed by the government, reports UNB. They also said the tannery owners will not take the responsibility, if seasonal traders do not purchase rawhides at the government -fixed rates. Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) Chairman said that the tanners will not take the responsibility for the seasonal rawhide traders who purchased those at higher prices.
- The BTA chairman, however, warned the seasonal traders saying that those who are not mixing salt with the rawhides properly will not get the proper prices. Noting that the leather industry is passing through a critical time, the BTA chairman that said many tanneries at Savar Tannery Estate are yet to go into full production after the relocation of their units from the capital's Hazaribagh area. Though 113 tanneries, out of 155, have gone into production, and only 40 tanneries have so far been able to go into full production.
- It's very difficult to ensure the fair prices of rawhides at the local level, as many seasonal traders are engaged

in the business and they are purchasing rawhides defying the fixed rates. The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and other law-enforcement agencies couldn't seize any rawhide during the last few years, which is an evidence that rawhide is not smuggled out of the country now. On August 9, the government fixed the prices of sacrificial animal rawhides, reducing those from the rates of the previous year. The government fixed raw cowhide prices at BDT 40-45 per square foot (sft) for the capital, while at BDT 35-40 for outside Dhaka during this Eid-ul-Azha, down from BDT 50-55 and BDT 40-45 respectively than last year's.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/tanners-stick-to-govt-fixed-rates-1535215808>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/49068/tanners-shrug-off-blame-for-low-rawhide-prices>
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2018/08/26/seasonal-rawhide-collectors-suffer-due-to-syndicated-trading>

Baraka Shikalbaha Power enters deal with Bangladesh Power Development (BPDB)

- The Baraka Shikalbaha Power Limited (BSPL) has signed a power purchase agreement with the state-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), according to a disclosure made by the Baraka Power Limited. The agreement will help implement the HFO (Heavy Fuel Oil)-fired independent power producer (IPP) plant. The agreement was signed on August 19 last. The company also signed an implementation agreement (IA) with the government of Bangladesh (GOB) represented by the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources.

- Baraka Shikalbaha Power Limited is a 51%-owned subsidiary of Baraka Patenga Power Limited formed to implement the 105MW power plant project at Shikalbaha in Chattogram. As per agreements, the IPP plant will be implemented on a Build, Own, Operate (BOO) basis and the term is 15 years from the Commercial Operation Date (COD). Apart from 51% shares in BSPL of Baraka Patenga Power Limited, Baraka Power Limited has a 20% stake in the BSPL.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/baraka-shikalbaha-power-enters-deal-with-bpdb-1535211663>

Kattali Textile IPO subscription opens on August 28

- The initial public offering (IPO) subscription period of Kattali Textile will start on August 28, according to DSE website. Applicants will be able to apply for the IPO subscription until September 13. The company will raise capital worth BDT 340 million (3400 million) by offloading 34 million shares at an offer price of BDT 10 each. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) approved the company's IPO proposal on June 26.

- The company will go public under the fixed price method. A market lot comprises 500 shares and an investor needs BDT 5,000 per lot to apply for the IPO. The required amount of foreign currency per lot for NRBs (non-resident Bangladeshis) and foreign applicants is USD 60.25 or GBP 46.08 or EUR 51.96, according to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

- The proceeds from the IPO subscriptions of Kattali Textile will be utilised to construct its factory building and employees' dormitory, purchase machinery for an extended unit, install electric transformers and generators, repay bank loans and bear IPO expenses. As per the financial statement for the year ended on June 30, 2017, the company's net asset value (NAV), without revaluation, is BDT 20.48 per share. The earning per share (EPS) is BDT 1.98. The NRB Equity Management is acting as the issue manager for the company's IPO.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/kattali-textile-ipo-subscription-opens-on-aug-28-1535211649>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$68.72	+0.89	+1.31%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$75.82	+1.09	+1.46%
Gold Spot*	\$1,205.36	+19.80	+1.67%
DSEX	5571.20	+32.69	+0.59%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,790.35	+133.37	+0.52%
FTSE 100	7,577.49	+14.27	+0.19%
Nikkei 225	22,601.77	+190.95	+0.85%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.19*

GBP 1 = BDT 108.15*

EUR 1 = BDT 97.84*

INR 1 = BDT 1.20*

**Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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