

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.

Export target set at USD 51 billion for FY'22

- The government has set the export earnings target at USD 51 billion for the current fiscal year of 2021-22 (FY 22), projecting a 12.37% growth year-on-year. Of the target, USD 43.50 billion will come from goods shipment and USD 7.5 billion from services. The country fetched a total of USD 45.39 billion from export earnings - goods and services - in the just concluded fiscal year.
- The commerce ministry has projected that the RMG sector will be able to earn USD 35.14 billion in FY 22 - the amount will be 11.72% higher than USD 31.45 billion earnings in FY21. Leather and leather goods export is projected to grow by 9.49% and earn USD 1.03 billion. About USD 1.43 billion export earnings target has been set for the country's jute and jute goods sector, with 23.12% growth. Agricultural products are set to grow by 7.38% to USD 1.10 billion in FY 22, compared to FY21. Frozen and live fish, home textile, and engineering products are expected to grow by 4.74%, 21.02% and 21.74% respectively, compared to their respective performance in FY 21.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/export-target-set-at-51b-for-fy-22-1625597262>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/news/export-target-51b-fiscal-year-2125469>

Import rebounds as economy strives for recovery

- Bangladesh's imports rose sharply in the first 11 months of last fiscal year as the economy enjoyed a turnaround for the time being following the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Between July and May last fiscal year, overall imports stood at USD 58.62 billion, up 17.31% from a year ago, showed Bangladesh Bank data.
- Analysts say that the country's domestic demand and exports started to rebound since the first quarter of last year, which subsequently continued until at least May. They feared that the pace of recovery of the economy might face a major disruption due to the recent wave of the pandemic. In addition, commodity prices have been rising in the global market fuelled by demand after the virus was somewhat contained by a majority of countries in North America and West Europe. A distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue said import had increased mainly riding on domestic demand and higher export orders by foreign buyers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/news/import-rebounds-economy-strives-recovery-2125485>

Pharma export thrives on Covid medicines

- Pharmaceutical shipments from Bangladesh grew 25% year-on-year to USD 169 million in the last fiscal thanks to the addition of anti-coronavirus drugs to the export basket, continuous improvement of quality and policy support. Bangladesh mainly exports medicine related to malaria, tuberculosis, cancer, leprosy, anti-hepatitis, penicillin, streptomycin, kidney dialysis, homoeopathic, biochemical, Ayurveda and hydrocele.
- Anti-coronavirus drugs were added to the basket in the last fiscal year, giving a leg up to shipments made by the industry. The shipment of anti-viral drugs Remdesivir and Favipiravir, which are used to treat coronavirus patients, drove the export growth in FY21. Around BDT 4 billion worth of anti-coronavirus drugs were exported in the last fiscal year, according to the director for global business at Beacon Pharmaceuticals.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/news/pharma-export-thrives-covid-medicines-2125477>

Money whitening hits record

- A total of 11,859 people whitened their black money worth BDT 206 billion under a blanket opportunity in the just concluded fiscal year (FY). It is the highest amount of undisclosed money legalised since the independence, officials said.
- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) received taxes worth BDT 20 billion as it collected a flat rate of 10% tax under the money whitening provision. The disclosed money was invested in terms of investment in share market, cash, bank deposits, debentures, flat, land or other areas, according to a provisional data of NBR.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/money-whitening-hits-record-1625597467>

Dawn Global launches ETF listed on NYSE

- Cubs is the first active thematic ETF dedicated to emerging and frontier growth markets, focused specifically on five

large, fast growing yet historically difficult to access markets spanning over 860m people - Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Vietnam. The Asian Growth Cubs ETF, covering the five countries, have a long-term historical growth track-record and strong IMF growth outlook, and have demographics characterised by a young, growing, digitally enabled population, the Founder & CIO of Dawn Global said.

- Bangladesh stock market can attract more foreign investment through easing concerns related to liquidity, potential regulatory involvement, enlistment of local companies, and providing more incentives, said the Founder & CIO of Dawn Global Management. Referring to the weaknesses of Bangladesh's stock market, he said, historically, potential concerns surrounding the Bangladeshi stock market have included 1) liquidity concerns, 2) potential regulatory involvement concerns, 3) lacking incentives and onerous requirements for new domestic companies to be listed and 4) pipeline of companies listing locally.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dawn-global-launches-etf-listed-on-nyse-1625594577>

New company registration surges despite pandemic

- Despite the lengthy coronavirus pandemic, 13,613 new companies were registered in Bangladesh in the just-included fiscal year, highlighting the confidence of businesses in the economy. This is the highest firm registration in a single year, according to data from the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC). Entrepreneurs are increasingly forming new businesses and making the investment as they hope that things will return to normalcy in the coming months, said the deputy registrar of the Chittagong Office.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/new-company-registration-surges-despite-pandemic-2125465>

Hiked tariff slims down growth of app-based call services

- Internet Protocol Telephony Service Providers (IPTSP) which are providing app-based services said local app users could make calls at zero cost if they were connected to the Internet, but without Internet, calls would cost BDT 0.30 per minute until April. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in May increased tariff, fixing the minimum price of off-Net calls via apps, such as Brilliant Connect and Alaap at BDT 0.40 per minute, narrowing the gap with the call rate of mobile operators – BDT 0.45 per minute. As a result, the factors – cheaper call rate and off-Net accessibility – which used to encourage people to use the platforms no longer seem significant. Neither the number of subscribers of such apps is growing, nor is the volume of calls.
- Since the beginning, mobile network operators have been opposing local OTT calls as they take away a slice of revenue earnings from them. The Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB), a platform of mobile operators, in a letter to the BTRC in 2019, said that because of OTT calls, market leader Grameenphone would lose BDT 16.93 billion per year while the government would lose BDT 5.76 billion in revenue. The AMTOB urged the regulatory commission not to allow more OTT operators and to set the same tariff for OTT calls as for mobile operators.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/telecom/hiked-tariff-slims-down-growth-app-based-call-services-270901>

Market Stabilization Fund: BSEC asks firms to transfer funds by July 30

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday asked all listed companies, brokerage houses and merchant banks to transfer amounts held against unclaimed, undistributed or unsettled dividends or non-refunded public subscription money in cash to the Capital Market Stabilization Fund within July 30.
- Earlier on January 14, the BSEC issued a directive saying that any amount of cash or stock dividend which has remained unpaid or unclaimed or unsettled, including accrued interest income thereon, within three years from the date of declaration or approval must be transferred to the Capital Market Stabilisation Fund of the BSEC. As per the data of the Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchanges, 335 listed companies have unclaimed cash dividends worth BDT 9.56 billion and unclaimed or unsettled stock dividends worth BDT 199.86 billion, BSEC officials said.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/143011/bsec-asks-firms-to-transfer-funds-by-july-30>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$73.57	\$25.05	51.63%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$74.71	\$22.91	44.23%
Gold Spot*	\$1,795.52	(\$99.58)	-5.25%
DSEX	6,196.57	794.50	14.71%
S&P 500	4,343.54	587.47	15.64%
FTSE 100	7,100.88	640.36	9.91%
BSE SENSEX	52,861.18	5,109.85	10.70%
KSE-100	47,346.16	3,590.78	8.21%
CSEALL	7,798.21	1,023.99	15.12%

Exchange Rates
USD 1 = BDT 84.74*
GBP 1 = BDT 116.93*
EUR 1 = BDT 100.17*
INR 1 = BDT 1.13*

**Currencies are taken from XE Currency Converter and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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