

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 Bank sells USD 45.0 million to banks to steady forex market

- The central bank of Bangladesh again lent its foreign exchange support last week through selling US dollars to banks aiming to keep the market stable. The Bangladesh Bank (BB) sold USD 45 million to different commercial banks in the week to meet the growing demand for the greenback in the foreign exchange (forex) market. Earlier on September 27 last, a total of USD 30.0 million was sold to banks, particularly public ones, on the same grounds.
- During the last week the exchange rate of the local currency depreciated by five paishas against the US dollar in the inter-bank foreign exchange market, mainly due to the higher demand for the US currency. On the other hand, at the customer level the exchange rate of Bangladesh Taka (BDT) depreciated by 10 paishas against the US currency last week as the pressure built because of import settlement obligations.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-sells-45m-to-banks-to-steady-forex-market-1538935129>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-steps-dollar-sales-1644106>

Finance Minister sees capital market as a tool to boost investment

- Finance Minister on Sunday expressed the hope that the country's capital market would flourish in near future based on the foundation built over the last 25 years. The capital market can play an important role to meet the investment needs of the public and private sectors and turn the country into a developed nation by 2041, Finance Minister said. Thanks to the reforms taken in the last eight years, the capital market is now more efficient and ready to march ahead, he said.
- According to the finance minister, the country is lagging behind the neighboring countries in the investment indicator. India's investment-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio was 30% in 1930s whereas Bangladesh's investment-to-GDP ratio is still more or less 30%. The regulator is trying hard to protect investors' interest, said chairman of BSEC. Now institutional investors should be more active and play an important role, he added. He said institutional investors should determine an appropriate cut-off price. If they fail to do so the regulator will either discontinue or postpone the book building system or review it, he said.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/muhith-sees-capital-mkt-as-a-tool-to-boost-investment-1538934832>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/stockmarket-can-meet-financing-needs-1644109>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/52605/foundation-for-a-strong-capital-market-laid-muhith>

Internet consumption in Bangladesh rises by 63.0% in FY18

- Country's international bandwidth consumption increased 63.5% in the financial year 2017-2018 compared to that of the previous year amid soaring internet usage in day-to-day life.
- According to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission data, international internet bandwidth consumption increased 261 gigabits per second to 672 Gbps at the end of June this year from 411 Gbps a year ago. In June 2016, country's total international bandwidth consumption was 265 Gbps while it was 186 Gbps in December 2016 and only 8 Gbps in 2009.
- The number of internet users in the country increased to 87.8 million at the end of June 2018 while the figure was 73.3 million at the end of June 2017.
- According to a senior official of Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited, currently the BSCCL is supplying 60.0% of the country's total demand and I hope that the scenario would be more favorable for the state-owned entity in coming days.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/48657/internet-consumption-in-bangladesh-rises-by-63pc-in-fy18>

Canada keen to develop trade relations with Bangladesh

- Canada is very much keen to boost its bilateral trade relations with Bangladesh as it has expressed interest to have regular meetings and undertake mutual initiatives among the private sectors of both the countries. High commissioner of Canada said that they value Bangladesh as a significant trade partner. He also added that as the existing trade is not satisfactory, and much potential are untapped, Canada businessmen are coming to Bangladesh more than before to develop the bilateral trade.
- Mentioning about the role of private sector in the fast-growing development activities of the country, FBCCI president

said that FBCCI along with its member bodies are working with the government to ensure a conducive business environment in the country. Moreover, he mentioned that the Canadian investors can avail the opportunity of investing in the countrywide 100 Special Economic Zones.

- According to FBCCI, Bangladesh's export to Canada totaled USD 1118.7 million US in fiscal 2017-18 against the import of USD 498.2 million. The principal export products of Bangladesh to Canada are woven garments, knitwear, home textile and footwear etc. The import items from Canada are vegetable products, machinery and mechanical appliances, textiles and textile articles etc.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/52607/canada-keen-to-develop-trade-relations-with-bangladesh>

Bangladesh, Brazil agree to sign Free Trade Agreement

- Commerce minister said Bangladesh and Brazil have agreed to form a joint chamber of commerce and sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to boost bilateral trade and commerce. The businessmen of the two countries will be inspired in trade and communication among them will increase after formation of the Brazil-Bangladesh Chamber. Brazil is a potential market for Bangladesh's garments, but Bangladesh cannot export as per its expectation due to high tariff, the minister said, adding that the country would get trade facilities from Brazil after signing FTA. Brazil is keen to boost trade with Bangladesh, said Brazil Envoy, underscoring the need for forming a chamber and signing a FTA involving businessmen of the both countries to this end.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/52606/bangladesh-brazil-agree-to-sign-free-trade-agreement>

Ready Made Garment's woes: long work hours

- The garment sector's main challenge now is the long work hours that result from weak supply chain, poor infrastructure, insufficient utility services and high migration rates, a study finds. Workers have to work for 12 hours a day mainly because of poor supply chain and infrastructure, insufficient utility services and high rate of migration, it said. Moreover, shorter lead time in the age of fast fashion is also liable for the excessive working and holiday work, it revealed.

- On the other hand, the gazette for minimum wage structure cannot serve as a complete guideline to determine the wage administration in the garment sector. The gazette itself created confusions and accelerated deprivation as all focus of the gazette falls on the entry-level workers and their wages. There is no guideline on how to measure workers' competency for a particular grade and for how long a worker will be retained in the same grade.

- The study recommended forming a separate ministry for labor-intensive RMG sector for its sustainable development. It also suggested developing a delegated authority and management system as a large number of foreigners are working in RMG and its associated sectors. It recommended forming workers' participatory committees as best substitute for traditional trade unions and relocating factories to areas from where most of the workers are migrated.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/long-working-hours-a-major-challenge-in-rmg-sector-study-1538935278>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rmgs-woes-long-work-hours-1644115>

Companies want to reduce costs, improve business agility

- A number of local companies are gradually migrating to cloud after realising its potential benefits for a business. The adoption of cloud and SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) has been remarkable in Bangladesh. Big Bangladeshi brands including Dulal Brothers, Zaber & Zubayer, a subsidiary of Noman Group and one of the leading home textile and ready-made garments (RMG) manufacturers of Bangladesh and BRAC Bank Limited have selected Oracle to support their journey towards cloud.

- Oracle Cloud is helping their businesses to innovate processes, modernise talent acquisition, reduce IT costs and improve business agility and fuel growth. Bangladeshi companies progressing towards cloud transformation are backed by technology adaptation and Oracle has been a partner in their endeavours for the last 19 years, said the Head of Applications of Oracle Corporation - Bangladesh, Nepal & Bhutan. He added that, Oracle wants to bring innovation to the country. Innovation is a key aspect and will be crucial to succeed in the region. Oracle invests a huge sum of money on R&D and wants to bring new technologies to Bangladesh so that organizations can elevate their businesses and successfully compete in international markets. That is Oracle's vision for Bangladesh.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/cos-want-to-reduce-costs-improve-business-agility-1538930253>

Silva Pharma makes debut October 10

- Silva Pharmaceuticals will make its share trading debut on the stock exchanges on October 10 (Wednesday) under

"N" category. The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) trading code for the company is "SILVAPHL" and the company code is 18,493. Silva Pharma will be the 30th listed company under the 'pharmaceutical & chemicals' sector on the Dhaka bourse. The pharmaceuticals & chemicals sector accounted for 14.4% of the DSE's total market capitalisation. The Silva Pharma raised a capital worth BDT 300 million by offloading 30.0 million ordinary shares at an offer price of BDT 10.0 each under the fixed price method. The pharmaceutical company will purchase machinery, construct building, repay bank loans and bear the IPO expenses with the fund raised from the public.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/silva-pharma-makes-debut-oct-10-1538930187>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$73.76	-0.58	-0.78%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$83.27	-0.89	-1.06%
Gold Spot*	\$1,196.73	-6.90	-0.57%
DSEX	5410.81	-7.46	-0.14%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	26,447.05	-180.43	-0.68%
FTSE 100	7,318.54	-99.80	-1.35%
Nikkei 225	23,783.72	-191.90	-0.80%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 83.78*
GBP 1 = BDT 109.85*
EUR 1 = BDT 96.46*
INR 1 = BDT 1.13*

*Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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