

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.

Covid positivity rate drops below 5% after six months

- Covid-19 positivity rate came down below 5% in the country after more than six and a half months, indicating the country's improvement in handling the Covid-19 situation.
- The positivity rate stood at 4.69% as 1,562 more people tested positive in the last 24 hours till 8am on Tuesday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. Previously, the rate went below 5% on 8 March.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/coronavirus-chronicle/covid-19-bangladesh/covid-positivity-rate-drops-469-26-more-die-305536>

'Bangladesh to get 89 lakh Covid vaccine doses in last quarter of 2021'

- A total of 89 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine will be shipped to Bangladesh in the last three months of the year, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said in a Facebook post early on Wednesday. The vaccine will come from two sources -- from the US as donation and from the Covax facility.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/health/disease/coronavirus/fallouts-fightback/vaccine/news/bangladesh-get-89-lakh-covid-vaccine-doses-last-quarter-2021-2181451>

ADB: \$12b lending scheme under CPS for 5 years

- Asian Development Bank has launched a new country partnership strategy (CPS) for Bangladesh with a plan to accelerate lending in order to boost competitiveness, employment, green growth and social protection. The CPS, which will continue for five years until 2025, will help Bangladesh realise its aspiration of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2031 through increased public and private investments

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/adb-embarks-12b-lending-scheme-2181331>

Govt cuts interest rates on savings certificates

- The government on Tuesday reduced the interest rates on all types of savings certificates. Under the new rules, those who have invested more than Tk15 lakh in five-year savings certificates, will get a 10.30% profit at the end of the term. If the investment is more than Tk30 lakh, the profit rate will be 9.5%, said a notice from the Internal Resource Division of the Bangladesh Bank.
- The revised rate will be effective only for those who will buy new savings certificates from now on, the notice said. After the expiry of the previously bought savings certificate, the new rate will be effective if the same amount is reinvested. This new rate of interest will apply to both individuals and organisations.
- Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office, thinks cutting interest rates on savings certificates to reduce the government's burden is logical. Probably, the last time the interest rates on savings certificates were reduced was in 2015. Over the last few years, interest rates on all other instruments dropped at home and abroad and investment has been facilitated to a large extent, he said. The interest rate on savings certificates should be fixed in line with other investment structures at home and abroad, Zahid Hossain opined.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/govt-cuts-interest-rates-savings-certificates-305473>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-cuts-interest-rates-savings-tools-2181346>

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/govt-slashes-rates-on-savings-certificates-1632213418>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/savings-tools-interests-cut-divert-investment-industries-305758>

Bangladesh Taka falls against US dollar, commodities turn costlier

- Bangladesh Taka (BDT) has depreciated by 50 poisha against the US dollar during the past one month, making imports costlier and heating up the commodity market.
- Economists and businesses said depreciation of taka coupled with soaring prices of some essential commodities in the international market has hit the consumers hard. However, they say, exporters and remitters are gaining from the loss of value of the taka and the rise of the dollar. Higher demand for the greenback for settling the import- payment obligations and lower inflow of the greenback mainly made the forex-market a bit overheated.
- The US dollar was quoted at Tk 85.30 each on the inter-bank foreign-exchange market on Monday against Tk 84.80 on August 17. It was Tk 85.25 on Sunday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-taka-falls-against-us-dollar-commodities-turn-costlier-1632191071>

BGMEA seeks loans rescheduling for another year; Repayment time was scheduled to start this month

- Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has once again requested the Bangladesh Bank governor to reschedule their loans for another one year. In a letter on Tuesday, BGMEA President Faruque Hassan urged the central bank not to classify their bank loans as many of their members have been affected adversely by the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bgmea-seeks-loans-rescheduling-another-year-305773>

BGMEA requests home minister to end transport strike on urgent basis

- BGMEA leaders said retail sales are growing in the major RMG export markets as stores are opening following mass vaccination there, and Bangladesh is getting a lot of work orders as a result
- Apparel exporters have expressed anxiety over a three-day strike called by the Bangladesh Covered Van- Truck- Prime Mover Goods Transport Owners Association and Bangladesh Truck Drivers, Workers Federation.
- A delegation of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) led by its acting President SM Mannan (Kochi) met Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at his residence on Monday night and requested that steps be taken to resolve the problem, taking the interests of the industry into consideration.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bgmea-requests-home-minister-end-transport-strike-urgent-basis-305722>

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/apparel-exporters-express-anxiety-over-three-day-transport-strike-1632239543>

Price index crossing 7,000 mark not risky yet: BSEC chairman

- The stock market's current price index that crossed 7,000 points is not risky, rather there is more room for it to go up, given the price-to-earnings ratio, said Professor Shibli Rubayat-UI-Islam, chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).
- The commission is not concerned about the bank's overexposure to stocks as the market is not now driven by the banking sector, the BSEC chairman said, referring to the central bank's recent move on overplay of banks into stocks.

In an interview with The Business Standard on the sidelines of the roadshow in Zurich, Switzerland on 20 September, Prof Shibli Rubayat-UI-Islam, said, "The size of the market is now Tk5.77 lakh crore, while investments made by the

banking sector account for 7%-8%. So, there will be no effect on the market whatever happens in the banking sector." The BSEC chairman said bank investment in the stock market widened in 2010, which met with a market fall.

- The broad index DSEX of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) crossed the 7,000-mark on 5 September this year for the first time in its history, which was 43% higher than in the previous year at the same time. The daily average turnover of the DSE also crosses Tk2,000 crore this year, which was only Tk200 crore a year ago. At the end of the 21 September trading session, the DSEX stood at 7,258 points.
- The BSEC chairman said the broad index was at 6,000-7,000-mark in 2008-09, while the size of the economy was too small. "But the situation prevails no longer as the size of the economy has burgeoned. The size of the market has expanded too. So, now there is no concern over potential risks," he noted.
- "However, the buying or selling prices of shares totally depend on investors. We will only monitor the PE [price-to-earnings ratio] of the companies or shares. We will be concerned only when the ratio crosses the risky level. Since the overall PE ratio now hovers around 20, there is nothing to be concerned about," he added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/price-index-crossing-7000-mark-not-risky-yet-bsec-chairman-305770>

Stocks jump for cuts in bond, savings interest rates

- Shares on the Dhaka Stock Exchange rose for the second consecutive day yesterday thanks to the investors' sustained optimism and a cut in the interest rate on savings certificates and wage-earners development bonds.
- The DSEX, the benchmark index of the premier bourse in the country, advanced 52 points, or 0.73 per cent, to close the day at 7,258. The gain took the index to its highest level, first touched on September 9. Turnover rose 8.3 per cent to Tk 1,910 crore compared to Tk 1,762 crore a day earlier. On the DSE, 224 stocks rose, 117 declined, and 35 remained unchanged.
- If the rate of return on bank deposits, savings instruments and other investment tools is slashed, it bodes well for the stock market as investors rush to the equity market, said a top official of a merchant bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/stocks-jump-cuts-bond-savings-interest-rates-2181316>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stocks-rate-cuts-savings-certificates-305461>

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/beximco-tops-turnover-chart-in-a-volatile-market-1632196396>

Bourses to become main source of long-term financing: Land Minister

- Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury said that the capital market will soon emerge as the main source of long-term financing in Bangladesh.
- He came up with the remark on Monday while addressing as the chief guest of the first investment summit on capital markets in Bangladesh, a roadshow titled "The Rise of Bengal Tiger: Potentials of Trade and Investment in Bangladesh".
- The event was organised by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) at a hotel in Zurich, Switzerland to showcase investment opportunities in the capital market of Bangladesh to the expatriate Bangladeshi and foreign, especially Swiss investors in the development of the capital market of Bangladesh..

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bourses-become-main-source-long-term-financing-land-minister-305344>

RSRM set to resume production this month

- RSRM Director Marzanur Rahman declined to comment on the production resumption date, but did confirm that their plants in Chattogram have got the “electricity connection restored,” as the company regularised its Tk40 crore arrear bills paying Tk10 crore and the rest to be paid in instalments

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rsm-set-resume-production-month-305713>

Mostafa Metal subscription begins on Sept 26

- Subscription for shares of Mostafa Metal Industries will be started from September 26 through Qualified Investor Offer (QIO). The company’s subscription through electronic system of stock exchanges will continue till September 30,
- The qualified investors (QIs) are eligible only to take part in the QIO of Mostafa Metal Industries. According to DSE information, individual investors will also be considered as QI who maintained a minimum investment of Tk 10 million at market price (the closing price of both exchanges, whichever is higher) in matured listed securities as on September 16, 2021

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/mostafa-metal-subscription-begins-on-sept-26-1632196744>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 71.11	USD 22.59	46.56%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 74.90	USD 23.10	44.59%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,775.58	(USD 119.52)	-6.31%
DSEX	7,258.57	1,856.50	34.37%
S&P 500	4,354.18	598.11	15.92%
FTSE 100	6,980.98	520.46	8.06%
BSE SENSEX	59,005.27	11,253.94	23.57%
KSE-100	46,008.85	2,253.47	5.15%
CSEALL	8,770.39	1,996.17	29.47%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.23 BDT****1 GBP = 116.54 BDT****1 Euro = 99.57 BDT****1 INR = 1.16 BDT**

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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shaown, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Nazmus Saadat, CFA	Research Analyst	nazmus.saadat@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Anika Mafiz	Research Analyst	anika.mafiz@bracepl.com	01708 805 206
Fahim Hassan	Research Associate	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (880)-2-9852446-50

Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com