

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-0.20%) lost -13.87 points and closed the week at 7,062.36 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-2.24%) lost -60.43 points and stood at 2,638.91 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-2.55%) lost -38.77 points and stood at 1,479.39 points. The large cap index CDSET (-1.85%) lost -26.66 points and closed at 1,414.75 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +30.73%, +34.37%, +19.10%, +25.98%, respectively.

Total Turnover During the Week (DSE): BDT 75.5 billion (USD 886 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 15.1 billion ($\Delta\%$ Week: -0.05%)

Market P/E: 18.4x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

Market Performed five sessions during this week. The market started negatively with -1.00% on Sunday and -1.72% on Monday. Then ended positive in the next 3 days. It ended with +1.75% on Tuesday, +0.09% on Wednesday, and +0.72% on Thursday.

Sectoral Performance

- All the financial sectors posted positive performance this week. General Insurance booked the highest gain of 5.55% followed by Bank (+3.38%), Life Insurance (+0.74%), Mutual Fund (+0.14%), and NBF1 (-0.10%).

- All the non-financial sectors registered negative performance this week. Food & Allied experienced the highest loss of 7.28% followed by Pharmaceutical (-3.54%), Fuel & Power (-3.47%), Engineering (-2.76%), and Telecommunication (-2.12%).

Macroeconomic arena

- FDI inflow in Bangladesh rises marginally. Korea to provide US\$700m to Bangladesh as soft loan and seeks new areas of tie. Germany to give 120m Euro for power distribution modernization project. Japan to provide USD 5m to promote primary education. UK ready to increase trade, investments in Bangladesh. Australia keen to assist Bangladesh with energy resources. CCCI President calls for increasing Canadian investment in Bangladesh.

- Tax revenue grows almost 17pc in first quarter and trebles over 3 years. Dollar keeps rallying despite Bangladesh Bank interventions and crosses BDT 90 in kerb market.

- Government moves to devise strategy for RMG and mulling establishing agri entrepreneurship cell. IT Export in expected to rise to 5 billion USD by 2025. Electronics, bike makers can now reinvest exempted tax money in 3 years. BGMEA seeks cash incentive on 20% value addition condition, local industry concerned over cotton shortage.

Stock Market arena

- DSE sees biggest fall in 7 months, but stocks bounce back strongly after two-day slump. IPO road show of Asiatic Laboratories and Islam Oxygen held. Islam Oxygen to raise BDT 930m. BSRM ups investment by 164% to meet growing demand. Two Square Group firms to invest Tk676cr to boost production capacity.

- DU partners AFC Agro to produce Covid vaccine. Prime Bank secures \$30m from UK dev lender. UK to help Beximco make international standard PPE. BSCCL to take submarine cable systems and services license

- City Bank earns post-tax profit of BDT 3.16b in Q3, Agro Biotech shares surge 9.88%, Runner, Saif PowerTec, Beximco and Square Pharma have experienced increases in their yearly earnings.

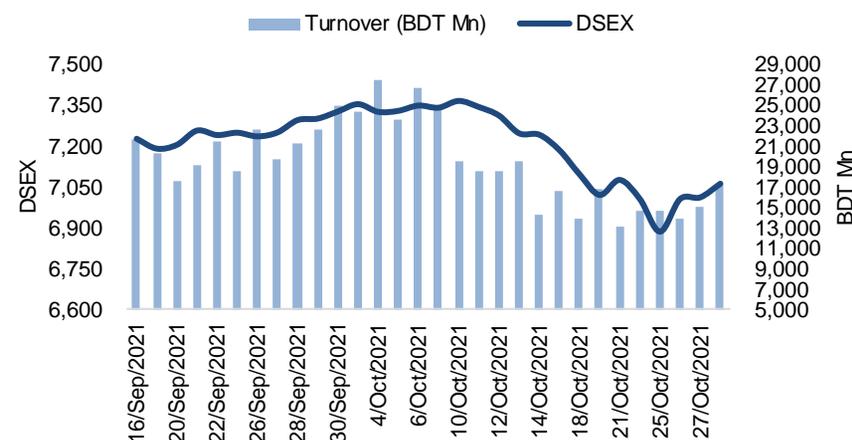
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ (Pts)	30-Dec-2020	$\Delta\%$ Week	$\Delta\%$ YTD
DSEX	7,062.36	7,076.23	-13.87	5,402.07	-0.20%	+30.73%
DS30	2,638.91	2,699.34	-60.43	1,963.96	-2.24%	+34.37%
DSES	1,479.39	1,518.16	-38.77	1,242.11	-2.55%	+19.10%
CDSET	1,414.75	1,441.41	-26.66	1,123.03	-1.85%	+25.98%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	5,634,986	5,698,512	-1.1%
	Mn USD	66,138	66,884	
Turnover	Mn BDT	75,501	60,430	+24.9%
	Mn USD	886	709	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	15,100	15,108	-0.05%
	Mn USD	177	177	
Volume	Mn Shares	1,732	1,330	+30.2%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in last four weeks



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Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
HFL	30.6	18.4	+66.3%	2,786	378.9	NM	0.8x
ASIAINS	103.4	78.5	+31.7%	4,867	341.4	36.9x	4.1x
PAPERPROC	168.7	134.8	+25.1%	629	53.5	NM	6.1x
MALEKSPIN	36.5	29.5	+23.7%	7,066	840.8	NM	0.8x
SONALIPAPR	679.4	550.6	+23.4%	12,435	1,145.2	88.9x	2.3x
MONOSPOOL	177.1	148.9	+18.9%	583	19.3	NM	4.3x
FAREASTFIN	7.2	6.1	+18.0%	1,181	6.5	NM	6.3x
BAYLEASING	32.7	28.1	+16.4%	4,607	165.3	17.8x	1.6x
MFML	27.9	24.0	+16.3%	2,579	161.0	21.6x	2.2x
NITHUNKNIT	16.5	14.2	+16.2%	536	6.8	NM	0.9x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
HEIDELBCEM	273.9	319.6	-14.3%	15,476	38.9	26.8x	3.6x
KPPL	11.4	13.3	-14.3%	833	48.0	NM	9.3x
SONARGAON	18.4	21.3	-13.6%	487	18.0	NM	0.8x
MEGHNAPET	20.2	23.2	-12.9%	242	4.7	NM	NM
OIMEX	20.0	22.8	-12.3%	1,342	30.8	NM	1.5x
ARAMIT	337.4	383.9	-12.1%	2,024	38.2	NM	2.3x
MIRAKHTER	73.9	83.3	-11.3%	8,925	133.2	19.8x	1.4x
STYLECRAFT	130.4	146.6	-11.1%	1,811	45.8	NM	5.9x
SUMITPOWER	41.2	46.2	-10.8%	43,997	336.9	7.8x	1.2x
SALVOCHER	45.6	51.1	-10.8%	2,965	69.0	NM	3.6x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
BEXIMCO	164.1	156.0	+5.2%	143,804	8,399.3	21.8x	2.1x
DELTA LIFE	220.5	213.1	+3.5%	27,287	4,308.9	NM	NM
ORIONPHARM	107.4	105.9	+1.4%	25,132	3,606.4	35.0x	1.4x
IFIC	19.4	17.6	+10.2%	32,997	3,294.8	18.0x	1.1x
NRBCBANK	36.5	34.6	+5.5%	26,924	2,831.2	14.2x	2.3x
BATBC	654.8	717.3	-8.7%	353,592	2,512.7	26.2x	9.5x
FORTUNE	117.6	105.0	+12.0%	18,204	2,411.9	48.1x	7.6x
GENEXIL	143.8	140.9	+2.1%	14,844	2,226.0	47.2x	7.7x
LHBL	82.8	88.2	-6.1%	96,162	1,727.7	24.4x	5.0x
SQURPHARMA	217.7	233.8	-6.9%	192,980	1,515.9	12.1x	2.1x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
EGEN	58.0	+480.0%	4,350	44.7x	2.3x
GPHISPAT	67.4	+120.3%	26,765	24.9x	3.6x
BSRMLTD	111.7	+85.5%	26,369	5.9x	0.9x
HEIDELBCEM	273.9	+83.1%	15,476	26.8x	3.6x
PIONEERINS	123.9	+81.0%	9,538	16.2x	2.3x
ENVOYTEX	44.0	+78.9%	7,380	NM	1.2x
LHBL	82.8	+73.2%	96,162	24.4x	5.0x
SQUARETEXT	50.2	+68.5%	9,902	14.7x	1.3x
BATBC	654.8	+66.4%	353,592	26.2x	9.5x
MICEMENT	76.6	+65.1%	11,375	13.2x	1.5x

*BDT
**BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,693.8	1,638.5	1,372.63	+3.38%	+23.40%
NBFI	2,479.1	2,481.7	2,033.53	-0.10%	+21.91%
Mutual Fund	967.4	966.0	959.61	+0.14%	+0.81%
General Insurance	5,514.1	5,224.2	4,103.56	+5.55%	+34.37%
Life Insurance	2,960.5	2,938.9	2,162.58	+0.74%	+36.90%
Telecommunication	6,090.9	6,223.1	5,463.26	-2.12%	+11.49%
Pharmaceutical	3,960.6	4,106.0	3,306.03	-3.54%	+19.80%
Fuel & Power	1,859.9	1,926.7	1,618.11	-3.47%	+14.94%
Cement	2,694.4	2,857.6	1,416.18	-5.71%	+90.26%
Services & Real Estate	1,432.3	1,367.3	1,083.79	+4.75%	+32.16%
Engineering	4,830.6	4,967.5	3,959.20	-2.76%	+22.01%
Food & Allied	25,446.7	27,445.3	14,705.76	-7.28%	+73.04%
IT	3,374.3	3,391.6	2,350.28	-0.51%	+43.57%
Textile	1,691.8	1,602.6	1,087.41	+5.57%	+55.58%
Paper & Printing	8,030.0	7,143.2	5,487.56	+12.41%	+46.33%
Tannery	3,362.8	3,169.6	1,771.77	+6.09%	+89.80%
Jute	8,469.5	8,411.1	12,154.61	+0.69%	-30.32%
Ceramics	715.3	695.0	472.38	+2.92%	+51.42%
Miscellaneous	5,124.9	4,998.7	2,539.70	+2.52%	+101.79%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily average this Week	Daily average last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	2,007.8	2,273.4	-11.68%	+13.81%	8.4x	0.9x
NBFI	754.5	663.7	+13.69%	+5.19%	22.1x	3.9x
Mutual Fund	133.2	129.7	+2.73%	+0.92%	NM	0.9x
General Insurance	746.2	421.0	+77.24%	+5.13%	22.5x	2.5x
Life Insurance	942.6	871.7	+8.13%	+6.48%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	189.2	183.8	+2.90%	+1.30%	18.0x	6.2x
Pharmaceutical	1,945.0	1,902.4	+2.24%	+13.38%	22.0x	2.8x
Fuel & Power	827.0	927.8	-10.86%	+5.69%	13.2x	1.5x
Cement	433.3	728.5	-40.52%	+2.98%	20.4x	3.0x
Services & Real Estate	388.3	272.6	+42.45%	+2.67%	NM	1.1x
Engineering	951.9	1,045.0	-8.91%	+6.55%	21.0x	2.3x
Food & Allied	645.4	705.6	-8.53%	+4.44%	33.6x	9.9x
IT	522.0	536.8	-2.76%	+3.59%	35.2x	2.8x
Textile	1,335.4	1,132.2	+17.95%	+9.18%	NM	1.2x
Paper & Printing	261.0	215.8	+20.96%	+1.80%	NM	1.7x
Tannery	494.1	740.8	-33.30%	+3.40%	NM	3.6x
Jute	4.4	5.2	-15.12%	+0.03%	NM	14.8x
Ceramics	142.3	168.6	-15.61%	+0.98%	38.9x	2.2x
Miscellaneous	1,817.2	1,368.8	+32.76%	+12.50%	24.3x	2.5x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
OLYMPIC	173.0	-9.5%	34,589	16.7x	3.9x
MIRAKHTER	73.9	-8.8%	8,925	19.8x	1.4x
ADNTEL	58.8	-8.6%	3,802	19.1x	2.3x
KPCL	41.9	-7.5%	16,652	12.3x	1.8x
MTB	20.4	-6.9%	16,575	26.9x	0.9x
DBH	78.5	-2.5%	13,915	12.9x	2.1x
SINGERBD	171.6	-2.3%	17,109	23.7x	4.9x
MPETROLEUM	196.2	-0.9%	21,232	7.5x	1.2x
SQURPHARMA	217.7	-0.8%	192,980	12.1x	2.1x
UNILEVERCL	2,802.7	-0.2%	33,763	77.5x	28.7x

Important News: Business & Economy

Government drafts guidelines on investing abroad

- The government has framed draft rules to allow local firms to set up subsidiaries or buy shares in companies in other countries with a view to facilitating investment abroad. As per the draft, exporters will be able to invest as much as 20% of their five-year average annual export receipts as equity to establish subsidiaries on foreign soil.
- In order to qualify, exporters will need to have an adequate balance in their Export Retention Quota (ERQ) accounts, where entrepreneurs keep a portion of their export proceeds in foreign currency. Alternatively, an exporting firm can invest 25% of its net asset based on its most recent financial statement, according to the draft rules on equity investment abroad framed by the Financial Institutions Division of the finance ministry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-drafts-guidelines-investing-abroad-2204776>

NBR sees 16.72% growth in Q1 '22

- The collection of tax revenue registered a 16.72% growth in the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year (FY) as compared to the same period last FY. Increased prices of imported commodities, particularly fuel oil and food items, in the global market have helped enhance the collection of duties and taxes by the customs wing.
- In the July-September quarter, the NBR collected BDT 583.51 billion in tax revenue against its target of BDT 646.95 billion. Of the total Q1 collections, customs revenue posted 21% growth, highest among the other wings, due to increase in global commodity prices. Import of revenue-generating products including higher prices of fuel oil and food contributed to the higher customs revenue growth in the first three months of the current FY.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-sees-1672pc-growth-in-q1-22-1635008878>

Forex reserves overstated by USD 7.2bn: IMF

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Bangladesh Bank has overstated its foreign exchange reserves by USD 7.2 billion through inclusion of non-reserve assets underestimating related risks. The foreign exchange reserve of USD 46 billion as reported at the end of June this year was overstated by 15%.

- In a draft report on safeguards assessment of the Bangladesh Bank for 2021, the IMF has identified the misclassification of foreign assets leading to an inflated foreign reserve held by the central bank. Originally, the forex reserve would be USD 39 billion, according to IMF calculation. Explaining this finding, the global lender has said a portion of the reserve has been used to finance, deposit with resident banks, invest in non-investment grade bonds and lend to Sri Lanka following the decisions of the central bank board and its investment committee.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/forex-reserves-overstated-72bn-imf-319909>

Small businesses struggle to repay stimulus loans

- Lenders are failing to implement the second phase of the stimulus package for the CMSME sector as clients struggle to repay the loans secured under the first round. The majority of clients in the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSME) sector have recently asked lenders to renew loans as their businesses are still struggling to recover and return to pre-pandemic levels
- As per rules, the funds, which are given in the form of working capital, have to be paid back within a year from the disbursement date. The tenure of the first round of the stimulus loans expired in June. The Bangladesh Bank has allocated another BDT 20,000 crore for the current fiscal year as the economy is yet to return to normalcy from the slowdown. The stimulus programme will continue for three years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/small-businesses-struggle-repay-stimulus-loans-2204806>

Bangladesh switches fast to digital financial transactions

- Bangladesh is switching over fast to digital financial transactions from conventional banking system. The transactions processed through Bangladesh Bank's large-value payments segment, known as Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), recorded a growth of 85% by the number of transaction in August over the same period a year before.
- Mobile Financial Service or MFS all transactions by volume also swelled over 50% to BDT 622.3 billion in August. Bankers say this growth was achieved on the back of coronavirus pandemic that forced the clients to stay home, and prompted quick digitization of economic activities, notably supply chains and financial devices as well medical services.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-switches-fast-to-digital-financial-transactions-1635008641>

'Electronics will overtake RMG sector'

- Private Industry and Investment Advisor to Prime Minister Salman Fazlur Rahman said that the government has created suitable atmosphere for private industry sector and Walton has fully utilised those opportunities. He made the remarks just after visiting Walton factory at Chandra in Gazipur on Saturday.
- He stated that the company has product diversity and they are manufacturing various products including all kinds of spare parts. He also further mentioned that the way Walton is marching forward, export earning electronics sector will overtake readymade garment sector.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/electronics-will-overtake-rmg-sector-1635005357>

Government moves to devise strategy for RMG

- The government has taken an initiative to devise strategies for the country's apparel sector so that it could face competition and expand its market in the post-LDC graduation era according to officials. They said the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of Bangladesh would soon launch a study to assess the needs of the sector and provide support accordingly.
- Alongside policies and incentives, the study would also aim to retain the duty-free market access and other trade facilities even after the country's graduation to developing country status according to EPB Vice Chairman and CEO A. H. M. Ahsan.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-moves-to-devise-strategy-for-rmg-1635009080>

Sugar to cost BDT 10 more following edible oil

- To keep up with price hikes in the global market, local sugar refiners have proposed raising the price of the commodity by BDT 10 per kg, imposing a maximum retail price (MRP) of BDT 85 per kg. Although the Commerce Ministry has yet to approve the price hike, sugar is already being sold at BDT 85 per kg in the market.
- Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said the price hike of commodities in the international market will naturally impact the local price, but the government has to keep tabs on the global market and identify periodical hikes and

prepare in advance to counter such hikes.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/10/23/sugar-to-cost-tk10-more-following-edible-oil>

Online tax return application 'digiTax' launched

- DigiTax, an online tax return preparation platform for taxpayers, was formally launched on Saturday through which the taxpayers can now fill up income tax returns as well as assess their assets online through automated method. Through using this, the taxpayers can submit their returns and thus pay taxes while staying at home alongside taking income tax-related various services.
- Desh Universal came up with this new web application called digiTax to simplify further the submission of income tax returns. Highlighting the main features of digiTax, its team member Syeda Nusrat Haider said that their system includes an automated calculating system as per the law through which they would be able to prepare their income tax returns. Besides, the users will be able to use this software also in Bangla.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/online-tax-return-application-digitax-launched-1634996067>

Bangladeshi IoT company secures USD 1 million investment

- Bondstein, a Bangladeshi IoT solution provider, has raised USD 1 million in investment to enhance innovation in IoT solutions and expand IoT manufacturing in Bangladesh. Runner Trading Limited, a subsidiary of Runner Group, has led the investment with the participation of other investors. This investment will boost Bondstein's aim to become a regional powerhouse of IoT solutions within the next 10 years.
- One of the core products of Bondstein is Vehicle Tracking System which includes services like remotely monitoring vehicles, shutting down engines remotely, vehicle location and engine analytics dashboard, etc. Bondstein is now targeting to focus more on R&D for new IoT solutions to enhance their technology. They are enhancing road safety measures as well by state of art driving behaviour monitoring features.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladeshi-iot-company-secures-usd-1-million-investment-1635009768>

Korea to provide US\$700m to Bangladesh as soft loan

- A "Framework Arrangement" was signed between the governments of Bangladesh and Korea on Sunday to provide a soft loan of US\$700.00 million for the period of 2021-2025, reports BSS. The amount will be used as project assistance for various development schemes in Bangladesh.
- At the end of FY 2020-21, the total commitment from the EDCF has been US\$1330.48 million. This is the second largest amount committed by the Korean government for its development partners. Under this Framework Arrangement, the Korean government will provide financial assistance to implement several projects in the next five years. The loan agreements to be signed under this Framework Arrangement will bear an interest rate of 0.01 % to 0.05 % with 40 years' repayment period and 15 years' grace period.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/korea-to-provide-us700m-to-bangladesh-as-soft-loan-1635094361>

CCCI President calls for increasing Canadian investment in Bangladesh

- Mahbulul Alam made the call during a meeting with Angela Dark, Counselor (Commercial Affairs) of the Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh on Sunday afternoon at the chamber's office at World Trade Centre in Chattogram. Stating Canada as one of the top trading partners of Bangladesh, President of Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Mahbulul Alam called for increasing Canadian investment. Mahbulul Alam further said that Bangladesh will attract about 15 billion US dollars in foreign investment through the Mirsarai Economic Zone.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/trade/ccci-president-calls-increasing-canadian-investment-bangladesh-320344>

FDI inflow rises marginally

- Foreign direct investment to Bangladesh rose 6 % year-on-year to \$2.51 billion in the last fiscal year, continuing the recent trends whereas peer countries secured a higher level of investment from external investors. The FDI flow has been far lower than expected because of strict regulations and bureaucratic complexities, according to analysts.
- Fresh investment, or equity capital, did not arrive as expected in 2020-21. Foreign companies operating in Bangladesh largely reinvested their earnings in the year, helping the country

keep its FDI trend stable. FDI in the field of equity capital rose 12.08 % to \$816 million, disappointing analysts as it remains less than \$1 billion.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fdi-inflow-rises-marginally-2205596>

Tax revenue grows almost 17pc in first quarter

- The collection of tax revenue registered a 16.72 % growth in the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year (FY) as compared to the same period last FY, thanks to economic reopening after the Covid-induced lockdown. Increased prices of imported commodities, particularly fuel oil and food items, in the global market have helped enhance the collection of duties and taxes by the customs wing, suggested an analysis of import data.
- The average tax revenue collection growth was 11.36 % during the last five years. However, the overall collection fell by Tk 63.43 billion short of the period's target, according to provisional data of the National Board of Revenue (NBR). In the July-September quarter, the NBR collected Tk 583.51 billion in tax revenue against its target of Tk 646.95 billion.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/tax-revenue-grows-almost-17pc-in-first-quarter-1635044480>

Government mulling establishing agri entrepreneurship cell

- The government is considering setting up a dedicated agriculture entrepreneurship cell for the betterment of the country's agriculture sector, said Agriculture Minister Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzaque on Saturday. This cell will help create new agriculture entrepreneurs, the minister observed.
- He said the cell will provide information to the farmers about what crops they should cultivate considering places and seasons, the process of agriculture crops and give them other necessary supports. The minister said the officials at the grassroots level have been asked to monitor strictly whether the deserving farmers were getting agriculture loans properly or facing any problem in getting the same.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/government-mulling-establishing-agri-entrepreneurship-cell-1635046015>

Electronics will overtake RMG sector

- Private Industry and Investment Advisor to Prime Minister Salman Fazlur Rahman has said that the government has created a suitable atmosphere for the private industry sector and Walton fully utilised those opportunities, according to a press release. He said, "The company has product diversity. They are manufacturing various products including all kinds of spare parts. The way Walton is marching forward, I firmly believe that in export earnings the electronics sector will overtake readymade garment sector." The Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser made the remarks just after visiting a Walton factory at Chandra in Gazipur on Saturday.
- Walton manufactures every spare parts. R&D is most vital for achieving the target of becoming a developed country within 2041 and Walton is doing excellent work in this sector. Walton products are being exported to more than 40 countries around the world. Walton holds 75 percent of country's refrigerator market while 50 percent of AC and 40 percent of TV market. This means consumers have confidence and trust on Walton products.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/electronics-will-overtake-rmg-sector-1635094331>

Germany to give 120m Euro for power distribution modernization project

- Germany will provide 120 million Euro in loan to assist Bangladesh in modernizing the distribution grid infrastructure to contribute to a safer and stable electricity supply in the country, in continuation of development cooperation between the two countries. A loan agreement on the "Modernisation of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I" was signed between the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh, and KfW Development Bank, as a representative of the German Development Cooperation.
- The Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board and the West Zone Power Distribution Co Ltd will implement the project. The project is likely to increase energy efficiency and reduce losses to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-signs-120-million-euro-loan-agreement-kfw-development-bank-320692>

Japan to provide USD 5m to promote primary education

- Bangladesh and Japan yesterday signed an exchange of notes and grant agreement on the "Japanese Grant Aid for the Fourth Primary Education Development Programme". Japan will

provide USD 5 million as a grant to implement the project.

- Under the Fourth Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-4), the grant will be utilised for curriculum revision and textbook development, teacher education and continuous professional development and fiduciary system and budget.
- Japan is the single-largest bilateral development partner providing financial support for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. Till June 2021, the support has reached USD 16.16 billion in Official Development Assistance disbursements.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/japan-provide-5m-promote-primary-education-2206556>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-signs-120-million-euro-loan-agreement-kfw-development-bank-320692>

Australia keen to assist Bangladesh with energy resources

- Australia released the first "Low Emissions Technology Statement" under the technology investment roadmap and they are keen to cooperate with Bangladesh. Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Jeremy Bruer said that his country will drive a clean-energy supply-chain initiative for the Indo-Pacific region and can assist countries like Bangladesh with energy resources, including renewable, to help fuel Bangladesh's growth.
- High Commissioner Bruer said Australia has the potential to be a major supplier of LNG (liquefied natural gas) to Bangladesh. According to him, the long-term emissions reduction strategy is backed by Australian government investment of USD 20 billion in low emissions technologies in the decade to 2030.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/10/25/australia-keen-to-assist-bangladesh-with-energy-resources>

Dollar keeps rallying despite Bangladesh Bank interventions

- Dollar rally continues in the face of repeated interventions by the Bangladesh Bank to keep foreign currency market stable with its latest sales of USD 740 million to banks just in 19 days of this month – more than double the amount it injected into the market in August.

- Taka has lost its value by BDT 0.85 per dollar between July and October, which crossed BDT 90 for the first time ever in the kerb market on Monday. According to Bangladesh Bank, the interbank dollar exchange rate on Monday was BDT 85.65. On the other hand, different money exchange houses traded the greenback at BDT 89.9-90.1 in the open market, according to local exchange houses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dollar-price-kerb-market-crosses-tk90-320713>

Contracted foreign suppliers slash LNG sale to Bangladesh

- Contracted foreign suppliers slash liquefied natural gas (LNG) sale to Bangladesh as spot-market prices are overshooting contract rates, it is alleged, amid a sort of gambling with energy on the global market to cash in on post-corona business rebound.
- Qatar's Qatargas and Oman's Oman Trading International (OTI) are the long-term suppliers of LNG to Bangladesh. The long-term LNG suppliers are providing a minimum quantity of the gas to state-run Petrobangla as the contract price of the fuel is cheaper than spot-market rates.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/contracted-foreign-suppliers-slash-lng-sale-to-bangladesh-1635187283>

IFC in to help build digital banking, financial inclusion

- The International Finance Corporation is in for creating a secure digital banking structure and accelerating financial inclusion of all segments of Bangladesh's population under a deal signed with Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) for implementing and scaling up electronic Know Your Customer (eKYC) project. The eKYC is a foundational regulatory arrangement for conducting customer due diligence during new client on boarding process for collecting and verifying customer data electronically.
- Under the existing KYC protocol for opening new accounts, customers need to present their national identity (NID) cards in person and financial institutions (FI) must authenticate and keep a record manually photocopying and printing the NID. Once in place, the eKYC infrastructure will not only cut time and cost of client on boarding but also help reach more customers digitally, thus, reducing the number of unbanked people, particularly the underserved such as small business owners and women entrepreneurs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ifc-in-to-help-build-digital-banking-financial-inclusion-1635186342>

a2i, UNCDF, MSC launch FinLab BD for sustainable pro-poor growth

- Access to Information (a2i) Programme, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and MicroSave Consulting (MSC) have launched the Financial Innovation Lab Bangladesh (FinLab BD) to serve the low and moderate-income populations of Bangladesh by advancing sustainable pro-poor growth.
- State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak inaugurated the FinLab BD at a programme on Sunday. He stated that FinLab Bangladesh will enhance financial inclusion of low and moderate-income people through technology and a digital-first approach.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/a2i-uncdf-msc-launch-finlab-bd-for-sustainable-pro-poor-growth-1635166765>

New private ICD gets NBR approval

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) approved a new private inland container depot (ICD) in a bid to enhance container-handling capacity in the Chattogram Port. The ICD would be set up at an estimated cost of BDT 3.0 billion. It is 41 km away from the zero point of the port.
- The NBR's Customs Wing approved Baylink Containers Limited's bid on Sunday to establish the off-doc. The new off-doc would help to enhance capacity of container handling in the port and ease congestion. Currently, there are some 19 ICDs in the Chattogram Port, handling all export goods and 38 import goods.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-private-icd-gets-nbr-approval-1635187016>

Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit begins on Tuesday

- Weeklong 'Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit-2021' will begin on Tuesday. Policymakers, business leaders and investors from across the world will join the virtual event. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the summit virtually as the chief guest from Ganabhaban in Dhaka. Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman join the inaugural ceremony as special guests.

- DCCI President Rizwan Rahman said that 552 companies from 38 countries will participate in 450 business to business (B2B) match-making sessions, which will help to explore new business opportunities and attract FDI in Bangladesh. Moreover, he informed that six webinars are scheduled to be held on different trade and investment-related issues in participation with the representatives from the business community, experts from local and international and policymakers will participate to share their insights on these issues.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-trade-and-investment-summit-begins-on-tuesday-1635176881>

Local industry concerned over cotton shortage

- At a press conference held by Bangladesh Cotton Association (BCA), leaders of the country's cotton traders expressed concern over the uncertainty of availability of cotton and its rising high price fueled by the gap between supply and demand. They called on readymade garment exporters to be cautious about the rising price of the industrial raw material and to negotiate accordingly in time of receiving their work orders.
- They also requested the government to take necessary measures, including setting up of foreign missions in the cotton producing countries especially some of the West African countries and encouraging both foreign and local investment in garment production based on manmade fibre.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/local-industry-concerned-over-cotton-shortage-1635186150>

BGMEA seeks cash incentive on 20% value addition condition

- Apparel exporters have now demanded that the government relax the condition of at least 30% value addition for woven items to stay eligible for a 4% cash incentive as well as all subsidies. In a letter to Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi this month, Faruque Hasan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), proposed cutting the value addition rate to 20%.
- The BGMEA has also requested the commerce ministry not to cancel the back-to-back LC facility for non-bond exporters. The unavailability of such a benefit will lead to closures of 387 factories and subsequent job losses for 2.58 lakh workers. The association also demanded that the commerce minister take necessary steps to duty-free imports of all types of fibres by local spinning mills subject to certification through the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bgmea-seeks-cash-incentive-20-value-addition-condition-320821>

BB sets deadline to apply for refinancing tourism sector's stimulus loans

- Scheduled banks in the country will be able to apply for refinancing loans they have disbursed under the Covid-19 stimulus package, announced to pay salaries and allowances to employees of hotels, motels and theme parks in the tourism sector, from 1 November this year to 31 October next year.
- The central bank announced an incentive package of BDT 1,000 crore to pay salaries and allowances to employees of hotels, motels, theme parks in the tourism sector until 15 July this year. Entrepreneurs in the tourism sector will be able to avail loans under this package for a period of one year at 4% interest.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-sets-deadline-apply-refinancing-tourism-sectors-stimulus-loans-320737>

E-com clients may get back BDT 2.14b

- The government is going to take steps to pay back BDT 2.14 billion stuck at different payment gateways by e-commerce customers within the next three months. Government agencies are working to pay back the money that was paid in advance by customers from July 01 until October 14 as per commerce minister Tipu Munshi.
- The commerce minister further stated that a process is underway to develop automation software by the ICT division to pay back the money to the affected consumers. However, no decision was taken regarding the settlement of the money that was due before July.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/e-com-clients-may-get-back-tk-214b-1635186599>

Economy has started a turnaround

- After achieving above 7.0% growth since FY 2015-16 to three consecutive years, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Bangladesh has reached 8.15% in FY 2018-19. This feat of achieving continued growth in Bangladesh's GDP has been praised worldwide.
- However, the coronavirus pandemic that poses a major risk to the global economy has also had negative effects on the Bangladesh economy. According to the estimates of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), GDP growth has been decelerated to 3.51% in FY20, which has been estimated to 5.47% in FY21. During FY 21, the country's per capita national income stood at USD 2,227, from USD 2,024 in the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-signs-120-million-euro-loan-agreement-kfw-development-bank-320692>

Bangladesh to be bridge between east, west for business, PM tells investment summit

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today (Tuesday) said the businessmen who come to invest here would get the opportunity to avail the market of South and Southeast Asia as Bangladesh will make a bridge between east and west for expanding business.
- "In future, Bangladesh will be developed as a communication bridge between East and West," she said while inaugurating the weeklong "Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit-2021" at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in the capital.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bangladesh-to-be-bridge-between-east-west-for-business-pm-tells-investment-summit-1635232873>

New investment strategy suiting Bangladesh's business bounce back on anvil

- A new investment strategy suiting business bounce back is in the making for Bangladesh for netting capital now afloat in post-Covid 'new normal'. This was disclosed Monday at a meet in Dhaka under a move assisted by Japanese cooperation agency JICA. Bangladesh Investment Development Authority executive chairman Md. Sirazul Islam told the function that BIDA needs to make new post-Covid investment strategy to grab more investment opportunities that are set to come in new-normal business climate.

- The chief of the country's state-run investment-promotion agency said the pandemic badly affected the global investment scenario but things started changing in line with the improvement in the coronavirus situation across the globe.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/new-investment-strategy-suiting-bangladeshs-business-bounceback-on-anvil-1635216448>

Tapping blue economy potential

- Going by the Third UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS III, Bangladesh can exercise territorial control over 12 NM (nautical miles) of the sea. Also, it has the sovereign right to explore, exploit and manage natural resources within 200 NM. So far, the efforts have been limited to exploring gas and oil from a few, though not very rewarding, offshore blocs or catching fish from territorial waters close to the coastline.
- At this point, it would be worthwhile to note that 80% of global trade is carried by sea. And to run seaborne trade, some 150,000 ships are engaged in transporting cargoes worth USD 9.0 billion globally. Talking of Asia's share, it claims 74% of this oceanic trade. Bangladesh, too, should be able to claim its share of the Asian seaborne trade.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/editorial/tapping-blue-economy-potential-1635253552>

AIIB to fully align with Paris agreement goals by mid-2023

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) announced on Tuesday that it would align its operations with the goals of the Paris Agreement by July 1, 2023, reports BSS. The Bank currently estimates its cumulative climate finance approvals to be USD 50 billion by 2030, it said in a statement.
- This amount would represent a fourfold increase in annual climate finance commitments since AIIB started publicly reporting the number in 2019. Earlier this year, AIIB announced it would target at least a 50% share of climate finance in actual financing approvals by 2025. Today's announcement marks an important step towards achieving this goal. "We are at a defining moment in history-one which calls for bold, fast and wide-ranging collective action if we are to limit global warming and protect our fragile planet," said Jin Liqun, President and Chair of the Board of Directors at AIIB.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/aiib-to-fully-align-with-paris-agreement-goals-by-mid-2023-1635268065>

RMG industry leaders focus on govt's apt policy aid

- Leaders of the country's textile and clothing industry on Tuesday emphasized timely policy supports from the government to encourage local and foreign investment in backward-linkage industry, especially in diversified and man-made fibre-based garment production. They also called on exporters for better negotiations with global buyers to get fair prices of locally-made garments, saying plenty of work orders are coming to Bangladesh.
- The reopening of economies of the European countries and the USA, buyers' China-plus strategy, and recent electricity crisis and Covid situation in Vietnam have created new opportunity for Bangladesh for recovering from the severe fallouts of the Covid-19 pandemic, they added.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/rmg-industry-leaders-focus-on-govts-apt-policy-aid-1635268114>

A much-required boost for dairy industry

- Dairy, no doubt, has continued to remain one of the most flourishing industries over the past decades. With technology providing the support in a commendable way, dairy comprising the most-consumed products like yogurt, cheese, butter, and pasteurized and powdered milk offers the most beneficial consumer products for people of all age groups.
- The FE report came up at some length on the country's dairy situation. The country spent USD 365 million for milk-powder import in 2020, up from USD 250 million in 2015, the report said. Many companies in the processing industry, like sweetmeat and ice-cream producers, use imported bulk milk powder for its low cost. Quoting a survey, the report mentioned that the size of Bangladesh's milk market is USD 2.47 billion which is expected to grow over 5.0% annually in the coming years.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/editorial/a-much-required-boost-for-dairy-industry-1635253723>

Controlling prices of essentials

- Prices of food show no sign of coming down to the reach of middle- and low-income people any time soon. Almost all kinds of kitchen items' prices have risen around 10 to 70% over the past couple of weeks, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB). As a result, the queues of the low-income people before the TCB selling points have been getting much longer, where they can buy these essentials at subsidized prices.

- Edible oil, rice, onion, and sugar prices have also been rising for a long time. Eggs, broiler chicken, and lentils, the cheapest source of protein for the common people, are becoming dearer day by day. It seems that the government has no control in the retail kitchen market. We urge the authorities concerned to pay attention to the market in order to arrest the price hike.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/editorial/controlling-prices-of-essentials-1635254065>

Dollar price crosses BDT 90 in kerb market

- Post-lockdown foreign travel pushes up fluctuating dollar rate in kerb market, impact to increase imported goods price. The exchange rate for the US dollar in the open or kerb market has crossed BDT 90 for the first time ever, worrying Bangladeshis looking to travel abroad and pushing up the prices of some imported goods.
- The businesses expressed concern as the dollar price is fluctuating and it also influences the jump in the US dollar price in the banking channel also. According to Bangladesh Bank (BB), the interbank dollar exchange rate on Sunday was BDT 85.70, whereas it was BDT 85.60 on Thursday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/dollar-price-crosses-tk-90-in-kerb-market-1635225380>

FDI declines slightly in H1

- The net inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bangladesh declined modestly in the first half (H1) of the current calendar year. The latest statistics, released by Bangladesh Bank, showed that the net inflow of FDI stood at USD 1.13 billion in the January-June period of the current year which was USD 1.18 billion in the same period of 2020.
- Thus FDI declined by around 4.74% in the first half of 2021. The gross inflow of the FDI also declined by 1.94% during the period under review. Central bank statistics showed that amount of gross inflow of the FDI came down to USD 1.51 billion in the first half of the current year from USD 1.55 billion in the same period of 2020. The decline is against the global trend of rising FDI in the first half of the current year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/fdi-declines-slightly-in-h1-1635242665>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fdi-drops-56m-first-half-2021-321346>

Roadmap to USD 5 billion IT exports by 2025

- The government is making a roadmap to facilitate the production of digital devices in the country to boost export earnings in the information and technology sector from the current USD 1 billion to USD 5 billion by 2025.
- The government believes products such as mobile devices, computers, and laptops will play a major role in tapping in the prospective USD 10 billion IT market at home and abroad within next four years, which is why the new roadmap is aimed at capacity building of the local digital device manufacturing industry as well as promoting and branding domestically manufactured products in international markets, according to the ICT Division.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/tech/roadmap-5-billion-it-exports-2025-321373>

Korea seeks new areas of ties

- After its successful development collaboration in decades, South Korea now looks for areas of new investment and cooperation in Bangladesh to take the bilateral ties to a new height. Korean ambassador Lee Jang-Keun has said many Korean big companies are eager to explore and expand partnership with Bangladesh to make the latter's dream towards a developed nation by 2041.
- Bangladesh is the second-largest recipient of Korean ECDF (economic development cooperation fund) loan under which 24 projects worth \$1.2 billion are implemented. A framework agreement under Korean Exim Bank's ECDF loan was signed amounting to \$700 million to invest in infrastructure projects here until 2025. The amount may increase after Bangladesh's graduation from its least-developed country status.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/korea-seeks-new-areas-of-ties-1635355649>

UK ready to increase trade, investments in Bangladesh: Envoy

- British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson on Wednesday said that the UK would work with new and existing investors to ensure they could add benefit to, and benefit from, the success of Bangladesh's economy.
- Referring to the first bilateral UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue last February, he said the UK hoped the market could be opened up more than in the past, to high-value services, including in finance, education and health services.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/uk-ready-increase-trade-investments-bangladesh-envoy-321880>

Signing fresh preferential trade agreement with EU stressed

- Bangladesh's success stories with multinational businesses can help attract more foreign investment, especially from European countries, experts say while suggesting signing fresh preferential trading pact with the EU. Besides, they feel, both Bangladesh and EU countries can benefit by investing in the country as favourable investment climate and technology transfer are mutually rewarding.
- DCCI President Rizwan Rahman in his brief presentation said Bangladesh is one of the main trading partners of Europe, accounting for around 35 % of Bangladesh's total trade as of 2020. He said Bangladesh should sign FTAs/PTAs with the European Union (EU) and its decoupled-member UK, which will guarantee preferential market access for exports to the European market. The business leader invited European investors to invest in pharmaceuticals and API sector as well as in the high-tech parks and SEZs in Bangladesh.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/signing-fresh-preferential-trade-agreement-with-eu-stressed-1635361201>

Tax receipts treble in 3yrs

- The surge in sales of state-backed savings instruments has become a major source of income for the revenue collector in recent years as it charges up to 10 % tax on the profits made mainly by pensioners and middle-class families. The Department of National Savings (DNS) said it deducted Tk 2,907 crore as the source tax on interest income of investors of pensioner savings certificates, family savings certificates and Bangladesh savings certificates. The source tax deducted in the last fiscal year was 49 % higher from Tk 1,946 crore from the previous year. It was Tk 638 crore in the fiscal year 2016-17.
- Currently, a 5 % tax is payable on the interest earnings for accumulated investments of up to Tk 5 lakh in savings certificates. No tax is payable for the same amount of investment in pensioners savings certificate, according to tax officials. Investors of all types of savings certificates see a 10 % tax from their interest incomes.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/tax-customes/news/tax-receipts-treble-3yrs-2208261>

New income tax law in the offing

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Wednesday unveiled a draft of new income tax law - 2022 with updated provisions for global business practices. The draft has proposed a changed structure of the existing Income Tax Ordinance -1984 to make the law simple and flexible. Domestic transfer pricing, amortisation of pre-commencement expenditures of a business, Earning Stripping Rules (ESR) provision with de-minimis threshold are the new provisions of the draft law to increase tax potentiality.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/new-income-tax-law-in-the-offing-1635361494>

BB intensifies intervention as dollar hits new high

- The central bank has intensified its efforts to keep the exchange rate of the local currency stable in the face of rising demand for US dollars. Bangladesh Bank has sold about \$1.38 billion worth of US dollars so far this fiscal year to protect the taka from any volatility and meet the demand of the economy. The sales were nil during the same period a year ago. Rather, the BB bought the American greenback last fiscal year.
- The US dollar is increasingly becoming dearer in Bangladesh because of a confluence of factors such as a surge in imports, a pickup in international travels, moderate exports and falling remittance, which may create inflationary pressure. The average interbank exchange rate was Tk 85.65 per USD on October 19, up from Tk 84.80 a year ago, BB data showed. Four private commercial banks were selling USD at Tk 88 to Tk 89 yesterday, according to their website. A money exchange operator said he sold USD at Tk 90.30 yesterday. "The price has gone past Tk 90 in the last three days."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bb-intensifies-intervention-dollar-hits-new-high-2208271>

RMG orders pour in as Western economies reopen

- The reopening of economies in the EU and US has created new opportunities for Bangladesh to recover from the severe fallout of Covid-19, according to apparel exporters. "This is because garment exporters have been receiving a lot of work orders from international clothing retailers and brands ever since Western economies reopened," said Faruque Hassan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).
- The demand for garment items made of artificial fibres has increased worldwide and so, local apparel makers could use this chance to grab a bigger share of the market. As such, the BGMEA is preparing a recovery roadmap for domestic suppliers in this regard, he added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rmg-orders-pour-western-economies-reopen-2207381>

Electronics, bike makers can now reinvest exempted tax money in 3 years

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has relaxed conditions for the manufacturers of refrigerator, air conditioner, compressor and motorcycle to qualify for the reduced tax benefit. The revenue board has extended the obligatory tenure for these entrepreneurs to reinvest 10% of the reduced tariff from one year to three years and lifted the obligation to invest in the stock market, according to a statutory regulatory order (SRO) issued by the NBR on 21 October this year.
- The government has already reduced the corporate tax rate on the income of the electronics and motorcycle industries to 10%. At present, the tax rate for non-listed companies is 30% while that for listed ones is 22.5%. However, in order to obtain this benefit, the companies had to invest 10% of the exempted tax within one year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/nbr/electronics-bike-makers-can-now-reinvest-exempted-tax-money-3-years-321874>

Important News: Capital Market

BRAC EPL to use OMS platform

- A tri-party agreement involving BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Ltd, Magnus Corporation Ltd and DirectFN has been signed for the order management system (OMS) recently. The 'Order Management System (OMS) Platform' will provide investors a robust and modern trading platform and enable them to execute trades more efficiently.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/brac-epl-to-use-oms-platform-1635004852>

BSCCL to take submarine cable systems and services license

- Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL), a core submarine cable internet bandwidth provider in the country, has got approval from its board of directors to apply for a submarine cable systems and services license. To obtain the license, the BSCCL needs to deposit BDT 11.50 crore in license acquisition fee to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). The company also needs to pay BDT 3 crore in advance as annual license fee. After getting the license, the BSCCL will have to pay 3% of its total gross revenue to the BTRC.

- The BSCCL operates two submarine cable landing stations with the capacity of 1,900 gigabits per second. The company is set to build the third submarine cable at a cost of BDT 692 crore. The completion of the project is expected to increase bandwidth by an additional six terabits per second, increasing the scope for earning foreign currency. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bsccl-take-submarine-cable-systems-and-services-licence-319900>

Paramount Textile to invest BDT 35cr for capacity expansion

- Paramount Textile has announced an investment of around BDT 35 crore to increase its weaving capacity along with other auxiliary capacities. The company will import some capital machinery for the planned expansion and the fund will be arranged through foreign loans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/paramount-textile-invest-tk35cr-capacity-expansion-319879>

8 companies declare dividends for 2021

- Eight listed companies have declared dividends for their shareholders for the year ended on 30 June 2021. The companies are Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Beximco limited, Square Pharmaceuticals, Squire Textile, National Polymer, Shinepukur Ceramics Ltd, Bangladesh Building Systems, and BBS Cables Ltd.
- Beximco Pharmaceuticals and Beximco Limited both have recommended a 35% cash dividend. Shinepukur Ceramics has recommended a 2.5% cash dividend. Square Pharmaceuticals and Square Textiles recommended a 60% and 20% cash dividend respectively. National Polymer suggested 10% cash dividend. BBS Cables Ltd has affirmed a 10% cash and a 5% stock dividend for its shareholders. Lastly, Bangladesh Building Systems Ltd has recommended a 2% cash dividend.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/8-companies-declare-dividends-2021-319171>

Beximco Pharma posts 47% growth, Square 14% in net profit

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals has registered a 47% growth in net profit while Square Pharmaceuticals posted a 14% growth. For fiscal year (FY) 2020-21, Beximco Pharmaceuticals reported a net profit of over BDT 4.94 billion, up from BDT 3.36 billion in the previous FY. The company's EPS (earnings per share) stood at BDT 11.08 for FY 2020-21 as against BDT 7.54 in FY 2019-20. On the other hand, the net profit of Square

Pharmaceuticals stood at above BDT 14.74 billion for the year ended on June 30, 2021, registering a from the previous fiscal year's net profit of over BDT 12.96 billion. The company reported its EPS of BDT 16.63 for the year ended on June 30, 2021 as against BDT 14.62 for the same period of the previous fiscal year.

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals' board of directors has recommended a 35% cash dividend for the year ended while Square Pharmaceuticals' board of directors recommended a 60% cash dividend. The board of directors of Square Pharmaceuticals has also approved BDT 3.0 billion for BMRE, capital machinery and land for future expansion.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/beximco-pharma-posts-47pc-growth-square-14pc-in-net-profit-1635004667>

Renata profit touches BDT 500cr-mark

- In FY21, Renata Limited's profit touched the BDT 500 crore mark for the first time since its inception. In this fiscal year, its consolidated net profit reached BDT 506.2 crore, a 26% increase compared to the previous year, and its earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 51.67. The company has recommended 145% cash and 10% stock dividend for its shareholders.
- The company said it will hold its annual general meeting through a digital platform on 18 December. The record date of the company has been fixed for 15 November 2021. Renata has stated that bonus shares have been recommended to utilise the retained amount as capital for expanding its manufacturing facility.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/renata-profit-touches-tk500cr-mark-319891>

Islami Bank profit goes up on high capital market return

- The year-on-year consolidated profit of the Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited has spiralled by 65.49% in the third quarter this year thanks to higher capital market returns. In Q3, Islami Bank posted its consolidated profit of BDT 94.96 crore, which was BDT 57.38 crore in the same period of 2020.
- During the July to September period, the bank raked in BDT 102.94 crore, which is around 265% higher than the corresponding period of the previous year, in return from the investment in shares and securities. During the period, the bank's core business income reduced by 10% to BDT 567 crore.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/islami-bank-profit-goes-high-capital-market-return-319873>

NAV of CAPM BDBL MF 01

- The total NAV of CAPM BDBL Mutual Fund 01 stood at BDT 546,573,328.99 on the basis of cost price and BDT 619,277,323.41 on the basis of market price at the close of the operations on October 21. The NAV per unit at cost price and market price of the fund are BDT 10.90 and BDT 12.35 respectively against the face value BDT 10 per unit.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/nav-of-capm-bdbl-mf-01-1635004775>

DSE key index hits two-month low

- Stocks plummeted on Sunday with the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSEX) dipping nearly two months low as cautious investors were on a selling binge. At the end of the session, DSEX plunged 70.52 points or 0.99 % to settle at nearly two months lowest at 7,005, after gaining more than 55 points in the previous day. Turnover stood at Tk 14.71 billion on the country's premier bourse, which was 12 % higher than the previous day's tally of Tk 13.10 billion.
- Market analysts said the market fell further amid remarkable profit booking sell-offs on major sector stocks by the risk-averse investors. The year-end dividend and quarter-end earnings declarations may have failed to meet the investors' expectations which prompted them for selling shares, said a stockbroker. Some investors purchased shares of Beximco, United Power, BSRM and Orion Pharma following their higher profit growth, but failed to offset the losses, he said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/dse-key-index-hits-two-month-low-1635070723>

Asiatic Laboratories launches IPO

- Asiatic Laboratories Limited started its journey to initial public offering (IPO) under book building method as per Bangladesh Public Issue Rules-2015. The company arranged a road show program at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in the capital on Sunday, said a press release.

- To gain market share and to become a reputed pharmaceutical company in Bangladesh Asiatic Laboratories Limited is participating in the IPO for Tk95 crore subject to the approval of BSEC through the book building method. After spending on the IPO, the company will use the rest of the money to build new factory buildings, capital machineries and partially repayment of its loans.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/2021/10/25/asiatic-laboratories-launches-ipo>

Capital Alliance enters Bangladesh merchant banking

- Capital Alliance (CAL), Sri Lanka's leader in capital markets services entered into an investment and partnership agreement with Bangladesh's BetaOne Investments Limited. With the formalization of this agreement and its entry to Bangladesh, CAL continues its ambitious journey to realize its vision to be 'The No.1 Investment Bank in Frontier Markets', according to a press release.
- Established in 2011, BetaOne Investments Limited is a leading licensed merchant bank in Bangladesh offering a wide range of financial solutions for both individual and institutional investors. Under the agreement, CAL will own a significant equity interest in BetaOne Investments Limited and will partner with the current group of shareholders which includes a handful of highly reputed family businesses and professionals in Bangladesh.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/10/24/capital-alliance-enters-bangladesh-merchant-banking>

BSRM ups investment by 164% to meet growing demand

- The steel market leader, BSRM Steels Ltd, has revised up its investment plan for capacity expansion amid a boost in demand for its products. A year ago, the listed company had announced a Tk700 crore investment plan to increase its annual production capacity of construction rod and some other products by five lakh tonnes, taking the total capacity to over 21 lakh tonnes per year. But amid soaring demand, it has now planned to increase rod re-rolling capacity by six lakh tonnes, for which it will also increase its billet making capacity by 2.5 lakh tonnes.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bsrm-ups-investment-264-meet-growing-demand-320359>

Two Square Group firms to invest Tk676cr to boost production capacity

- To meet the growing demand and increase their market stakes, two listed companies of Square Group will invest Tk676 crore for enhancing their production capacity. Square Textiles will invest Tk376 crore and Square Pharmaceuticals Tk300 crore. Square Pharma said in its financial report that the board of the company approved the investment plan to buy new capital machinery and land for expansion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/two-square-group-firms-invest-tk676cr-boost-production-capacity-320338>

UK to help Beximco make international standard PPE

- British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson has assured of extending cooperation to Beximco so that the firm can achieve and uphold international standards in personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturing. "At this time of the pandemic, the demand for and crisis on PPE availability is growing worldwide," he said, adding that Beximco's PPE production venture is a positive move.
- The Beximco PPE team demonstrated production facilities and cutting-edge technologies to produce hospital-grade gowns, coveralls, surgical masks, respirators and non-woven fabrics for local and international markets. The British team highly appreciated the state-of-the-art facilities for production and testing of high-quality PPE in Beximco PPE park.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/10/24/uk-to-help-beximco-make-international-standard-ppe>

DU partners AFC Agro to produce Covid vaccine

- Dhaka University (DU) and AFC Agro Biotech Ltd have agreed to jointly work for innovation of various vaccines, including development and production of Covid-19 vaccine (DUBD-vac). As per the agreement, both the institutions will jointly conduct advanced level research on biological sciences including genetic engineering and biotechnology as well as producing various medicines. JND biotech and Emergent biotech, two biotech companies in the US, will provide support and cooperation in this regard.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/du-partners-afc-agro-to-produce-covid-vaccine-1635186650>

KDS Accessories revenue rose 15%

- KDS Accessories Limited, a concern of Chattogram based KDS Group, reported a 15% growth in revenue to BDT 221.79 crore in the fiscal year 2020-21 as the country's overall export increased. In the last fiscal year, about USD 38.75 billion were earned from exports, recording a 15% growth, compared to USD 33.67 billion in FY2019-20.
- It also declared a dividend at 15% cash to the shareholders for the last fiscal and posted 8% growth in net profit to BDT 15.69 crore. Its earnings per share stood at BDT 2.20. The company is scheduled to hold its annual general meeting on 9 December 2021.
- The company also announced that its new business expansion project has been completed and commercial production has started on 24 October this year. The new project will contribute to an added production of 30 lakh pieces of carton box and the revenue is expected to increase by BDT 25 crore.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/kds-accessories-revenue-rose-15-320779>

IPO road show of Asiatic Laboratories held

- Asiatic Laboratories Limited started its journey to Initial Public Offering (IPO) under book building method. The company arranged a road show programme on Sunday in the capital. Representatives of Issue Manager and Registrar of Issue, Underwriters, Merchant Banks, Fund Manager, Bond Manager, Insurance Company, DSE-CSE Trec Holders, Mutual Funds, NBFIs and other representatives were also present on the occasion.
- To gain market share and to become a reputed pharmaceutical company in Bangladesh Asiatic Laboratories Limited is participating in the IPO for BDT 950 million subject to the approval of BSEC through Book Building Method. After spending on the IPO, the company will use the rest of the money to build new factory buildings, capital machinery and partially repayment of loans.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ipo-road-show-of-asiatic-laboratories-held-1635182561>

DSE sees biggest fall in 7 months

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Monday saw the biggest single-day fall in share prices in almost seven months as nervous investors continued on a selloff fearing further correction of recent bubbles. Stocks registered the sharp fall although the securities regulator came forward last week with a set of measures, including reinvestment of the market stabilization funds, to salvage the market from the ongoing freefall.
- The market opened sharply lower, and the DSEX - the DSE core index - plunged 120.41 points or 1.71% to settle at 6,885.29. It was the biggest single-day slide in around seven months - since April 4 this year, when the DSEX lost 181.54 points as investors dumped holdings amid growing tensions over impact of the virus-induced lockdown across the country.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dse-sees-biggest-fall-in-7-months-1635187085>

GP pens deal with D24 Logistics

- Grameenphone (GP) has signed an agreement with D24 Logistics Ltd, a startup of former GP employees, to manage its inventory, delivery, archival, and disposal management facilities. A signing ceremony in this regard was held at GP House on 26 October while Jens Becker, Chief Financial Officer, Syed Tanvir Husain, Chief Human Resources Officer of Grameenphone, and Md Ziaul Karim, Managing Director of D24 Logistics on behalf of their respective organisations were present.
- Yeasir Mahmood Khan, director of Business Partner & Circle HR; KM Sabbir Ahmed, Head of Industrial Relations; and Khairul Basher, Head of Communication of Grameenphone were also present. According to the press release, D24 Logistics will be responsible for certain inventory and delivery management and archiving and disposal management for GP.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/10/26/gp-pens-deal-with-d24-logistics>

Stocks bounce back strongly after two-day slump

- Stocks rebounded strongly Tuesday, snapping the two days' big fall, as institutional investors came up with buying lucrative shares. Following the previous day's steep fall, the Dhaka Stock Exchange opened on an optimistic note and ended sharply higher despite some volatility in the early trading.

- At the end of the session, DSEX, the benchmark index of the DSE, recovered from the previous day's big losses as the index soared 120.48 points or 1.75% to settle at 7,005. Earlier in the first two days of the week, DSEX eroded more than 191 points. The two other indices also ended higher. The DS30 index, comprising blue chips, rose 17.10 points to finish at 2,661 and the DSES (Shariah) index advanced 16.86 points to close at 1,482.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/stocks-bounce-back-strongly-after-two-day-slump-1635240343>

Shepherd Industries completes installation of machinery

- Shepherd Industries has completed installation of machinery for new product line Knit Fabrics. As part of the ongoing expansion and product diversification, the company has initiated successful trial production of its new product line, a disclosure said. "Total cost of machinery for establishment of the Knit Fabrics Unit is approximately above USD 1,141, 931," the disclosure said. The commercial production of the Knit Fabrics unit began on Tuesday.
- The company has also informed that Knit Fabrics has a huge demand and the new product line will contribute an additional BDT 1.20 billion (approx.) to the revenue of the company and the net profit will increase by BDT 100 million after tax (approx.). Shepherd Industries, presently an 'A' category company, was listed on stock exchanges in 2017.
- The company's sponsor-directors hold 51.48% shares, institutes 13.88%, foreigners 18.22% and general shareholders 16.42% as on September 30, 2021. The company's share price closed at BDT 31.50 each on Tuesday with a rise of 2.94% or BDT 0.9.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/du-partners-afc-agro-to-produce-covid-vaccine-1635186650>

Islam Oxygen to raise BDT 930m

- Islam Oxygen, an oxygen manufacturer and supplier, held its IPO road show for eligible investors as the company plans to go public using the book building method. The company wants to raise BDT 930 million from the capital market for its business expansion subject to approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).

- A road show is a requirement under the book building regulations before price discovery. The road show was held at Radisson Blu Water Garden in the capital on Monday evening, where eligible institutional investors got detailed information about various aspects of the company.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/islam-oxygen-to-raise-tk-930m-1635264113>

City Bank earns post-tax profit of BDT 3.16b in Q3

- City Bank held its earnings disclosure event over digital platform announcing its 3rd Quarter, 2021 financial results on Tuesday, said a statement. Existing & potential investors from across the globe, researchers, analysts and other individuals involved in capital market joined the event.
- Consolidated Earnings Per Share (EPS) of the bank was recorded at BDT 2.97 for the period from January to September 2021 against that of BDT 2.89 during the same period last year. The bank also reported BDT 3.16 billion Consolidated Profit After Tax (PAT) during the period January to September 2021, which was BDT 3.08 billion during the same period of last year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/city-bank-earns-post-tax-profit-of-tk-316b-in-q3-1635264171>

Agro Biotech shares surge 9.88%

- Share price of AFC Agro Biotech jumped 9.88% on Tuesday and the company was included in the chart of top ten gainers of the premier bourse. After witnessing price fall for previous 15 sessions, the company was one of top gainers on Tuesday riding of a disclosure regarding signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Covid-19 vaccine with two 'US biotech companies'.
- On the day, the company's share price closed at BDT 26.70 each with a rise of 9.88% or BDT 2.4 on Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). The officials of the AFC Agro Biotech could not be reached for detailed information on the MoU signed on Covid-19 vaccine.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/agro-biotech-shares-surge-988pc-1635264228>

Stocks rise slightly as recovery continues

- The domestic stock market yesterday continued its slow recovery as investors are cautiously waiting to see which way the prime index of the Dhaka bourse may move. The DSEX edged up by 6 points, or 0.08 % to 7,011 yesterday. Turnover at the DSE rose to Tk 1,497 crore yesterday, up from Tk 1,386 crore a day earlier. Of the stocks to witness trade at the country's premier bourse, 180 advanced, 166 declined and 29 remained unchanged.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/stocks-rise-slightly-recovery-continues-2208186>

Prime Bank secures \$30m from UK dev lender

- UK-based finance institution CDC Group has committed a \$30 million trade finance loan to Prime Bank Limited. The loan will enhance the ability of the Bangladeshi bank to meet the US dollar funding needs of local corporates, bolstering necessary import and export activities, the bank said in a statement yesterday.
- The loan facility will provide Prime Bank with a stable source of much-needed trade finance funding, according to the statement. The liquidity will also enable the bank to extend more foreign currency trade credit with longer tenures to local businesses, and the facility is expected to generate up to \$60 million of additional trade every year across key economic sectors such as manufacturing, readymade garments, food and agriculture, it said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/prime-bank-secures-30m-uk-dev-lender-2208236>

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