

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 retreats from move to cut banks' advance-deposit ratio (ADR)

- The central bank has backtracked from its previous decision of slashing the banks' advance-deposit ratio (ADR) in order to help them invest more for achieving expected economic growth by the end of this fiscal year (FY), 2019-20. Under the revised decision, the ADR remains unchanged at 85% for all the conventional banks and at 90% for the Shariah-based Islamic banks, according to a notification, issued by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) on Tuesday. As a result, more than 40 scheduled banks, out of 58, will be able to invest substantially in different sectors, including the share market, as they (banks) have already brought down their ADR to 83.50% in line with the BB's previous instruction. The central bank earlier re-fixed the ADR at 83.50% and 89% for the conventional banks and the Islamic banks respectively. These rates were scheduled to come into effect from September 30.

- Bankers also welcomed the BB's latest decision, saying it will help them increase credit growth, particularly to the private sector, in the near future. The managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Dhaka Bank Limited said that interest rates on deposit may fall in the coming months, mainly due to the unchanged ADR limit.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-retreats-from-move-to-cut-banks-adr-1568743536>
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2019/09/17/bb-raises-adr-by-1-1-5-to-boost-investment>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-relieved-loan-deposit-ratio-stay-unchanged-1801576>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/84856/bangladesh-bank-raises-banks-adr>

China won't bankroll new projects for now

- China has turned down a proposal to fund the Barishal-Patuakhali-Kuakata four-lane project on the grounds that it will no more consider any new venture under the government-to-government cooperation. It has also requested Bangladesh to concentrate more on the timely execution of existing 27 projects for which it pledged more than USD 25 billion. China will take a long time to evaluate and implement the listed projects involving large amounts, said a letter sent to the external relations division of finance ministry recently.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/china-wont-bankroll-new-projects-for-now-1568742557>

Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) okays BDT 2.25 billion gridline project

- The ECNEC approved installation of a high-voltage power transmission line project at a cost of BDT 2.25 billion in a bid to import power from Jharkhand in India. Presided over by the Prime Minister, the ECNEC meeting on Tuesday endorsed the project along with seven others at a combine cost of BDT 89.68 billion. The ECNEC meeting also approved a BDT 23.88-billion cost project, under which 100-bed full-fledged cancer centers will be set up in every government medical college hospital in the divisional cities.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ecnec-okays-BDT-225b-gridline-project-1568743051>
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/government-affairs/2019/09/17/ecnec-clears-project-of-100-bed-cancer-centre-in-each-division>

Saudi assures Bangladesh oil supply not to face disruption despite drone attacks

- Crude oil supply to Bangladesh from Saudi Arabia will not be affected despite a disruption in oil production in the kingdom following drone attacks on an oilfield and a processing facility, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation officials said. BPC officials on Tuesday said that they had already had communications with Saudi Aramco, the country's state-owned oil company, and the company confirmed the BPC about supplying the allocated crude oil scheduled for September. There are no scheduled shipments of the product in next two month, they said.

- They said that some 100,000 tonnes of Arab crude oil are scheduled to be loaded for shipment on September 27. According to the BPC, Bangladesh imports around 700,000 tonnes or half of the total demand (1.2-1.3 million tonnes) for crude oil from Aramco. The remaining crude oil is imported from the United Arab Emirates' Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). Hopefully, there will be no supply shortage for Bangladesh as we imports only 7 per cent to 8 per cent of the country's total demand for both crude and refined petroleum products from Saudi Arabia, BPC chairman said.

- Bangladesh's current annual demand for petroleum products including diesel, octane, furnace oil and aviation fuel is 5.8 million tonnes. Bangladesh imports a large volume of refined petroleum oils from different countries under government-to-government agreements while the remaining volume is procured through tender. The BPC would go for alternative sources if normalcy in production and supply facility in Saudi Arabia does not return, he said. Saudi

authorities said that it might take months for the situation becoming normal.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/84857/saudi-assures-bangladesh-oil-supply-not-to-face-disruption-despite-drone-attacks>

Merger between BSRML and BSRM Steel Mills in the offing

• Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills Ltd (BSRML) is set to merge with BSRM Steel Mills Ltd under the provision of section 228 and 229 of the Companies Act 1994. The merger and acquisition is subject to the consent of shareholders and approval from the High Court division of Supreme Court, said an official disclosure on Tuesday. Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills (a listed entity) is currently holding around 44.97% stake in the (non-listed) BSRM Steel Mills Ltd. The board has decided to acquire 100% stake of BSRM Steel Mills by Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills paving the way for merger of BSRM Steel Mills with Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills by issuing shares against rest of the stakes (around 55.03%) of BSRM Steel Mills after completion of all legal and regulatory formalities.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/merger-between-bsrml-and-bsrm-steel-mills-in-the-offing-1568737527>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$59.03	-0.31	-0.52%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$64.49	-0.06	-0.09%
Gold Spot*	\$1,503.07	+1.69	+0.11%
DSEX	4,928.98	-30.75	-0.62%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	27,110.80	+33.98	+0.13%
FTSE 100	7,320.40	-1.01	-0.01%
Nikkei 225	21,980.56	-20.76	-0.09%
BSE SENSEX	36,639.10	+158.01	+0.43%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.55*
 GBP 1 = BDT 105.57*
 EUR 1 = BDT 93.56*
 INR 1 = BDT 1.18*

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

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