

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.

Important News Snippets

Banks can give up to 70.0% loan for laptop, mobile purchase

- Under consumer loans category, banks will be able to provide a maximum of 70.0% loans to customers for the purchase of digital devices, including laptops, mobiles, computers, and tabs. In this case, consumers have to provide the remaining 30.0% capital.
- According to the central bank circular, banks will be able to disburse a loan-margin ratio of 70 to 30 instead of the existing 30 to 70 in the case of distribution of consumer loans for digital device purchases. This instruction will take effect immediately and will remain in force until further instructions.
- According to the circular sent to the managing directors and chief executives of all scheduled banks, the use of digital devices among teachers and students in almost all educational institutions has increased due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-can-give-70-loan-laptop-mobile-purchase-273919>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/interview/news/more-credit-hand-buy-digital-devices-2128716>
<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-can-give-70-loan-laptop-mobile-purchase-273919>

Some fast-track projects to undergo strong monitoring

- The ongoing eight 'fast-track' mega projects are coming under intense supervision as a few of those have suffered major implementation delays. The implementation monitoring and evaluation division (IMED) under planning ministry will extend its on-field monitoring from now on.
- Currently, the USD 2.5 billion Padma bridge, Russia-backed USD 14.1 billion Rooppur nuclear power plant, Japan-aided USD 4.5 billion Matarbari coal-fired power plant and USD 2.7 billion Uttara-Motijheel metro-rail projects have got the implementation momentum.
- However, the Asian Development Bank-supported USD 2.3 billion Dohazari-Cox's Bazar-Ramu-Gundhum rail line, China-supported USD 4.4 billion Padma bridge rail link and the multi-donor-funded Payra deep-sea port projects still have some problems in execution. The India-Bangladesh joint-venture Rampal 2X660-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant is also struggling for execution delays for long years.
- A senior IMED official told the FE that they were preparing for traveling to project sites for monitoring work seriously with many already missing the deadline. For example, he said, Rampal project was undertaken in 2009, Padma Bridge in 2009, MRT Line-06 in 2012 and Padma rail in 2016, but those are still uncompleted. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved the Padma rail link project in May 2016 at BDT 349.9 billion which was later revised at BDT 392.5 billion in 2018.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/some-fast-track-projects-to-undergo-strong-monitoring-1626112023>

BDT 400.0 billion stimulus enters second phase

- Implementation process of the second phase of the stimulus package worth BDT 400 billion for large industries and service sector business entities has started with the inclusion of foreign-owned companies operating in Bangladesh. The second phase of the financial package has started after 98.0% implementation of the first phase of the package as on June 30, according to the central bank officials.
- The borrowers, who availed assistance from the first phase of the package, would not be eligible for the second phase in line with the Bangladesh Bank's (BB) policy. As per the BB's policy, the package will be continued for three years from April 14, 2020, while a borrower will be entitled to enjoy interest subsidy at 4.5% for maximum one year. The borrowers will pay interest rate at 4.5% out of the 9.0% under the package, while the remaining 4.5% will be paid by the government as interest subsidy to the banks concerned.
- The central bank already enhanced the size of the stimulus package for large industries and service sector firms to make the low-cost funds available for the factories located in the economic zones. The amount of the package was increased by BDT 70.0 billion to BDT 400.0 billion as part of the BB's effort to facilitate both local and foreign industries in the industrial zones.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/BDT -400b-stimulus-enters-2nd-phase-1626112081>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/all-foreign-firms-jvs-eligible-stimulus-bb-2128671>

530 industrial units may face unrest

- At least 530 manufacturing units, including textile mills and readymade garment (RMG) factories, across the country have the risks of facing labour unrest over payment of wages and festival allowance ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. The labour ministry sits today (Tuesday) with the members of the tripartite consultative committee (TCC) on the RMG sector to discuss issues including current labour situation, payment of monthly wages and Eid bonus. The TCC has included representatives from factory owners and workers, law enforcement agencies and other related ministries and agencies.
- Of the total, some 276 factories are the members of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), according to IP (Industrial Police). Some 63 are registered with Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and 33 are affiliated with Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA). Nineteen factories under Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) and the rest 139 non-RMG factories listed with the IP might also face unrest over non-payment of wages and other allowances, according to the IP data.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/530-industrial-units-may-face-unrest-1626112344>

Emerald Oil to start commercial operation from September 1

- Emerald Oil Industries, an edible oil producer, has decided to go into full-fledged commercial production from September 1 of this year under the newly formed board. The company's input capacity of 330 MT rice bran per day, and daily output capacity of 48 MT rice bran oil and 282 MT DORB (de-oil rice brand), the company said in a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Monday.
- In early March this year, the stock market regulator dissolved the board of Emerald Oil and formed a new one in a bid to improve its performance. The BSEC last year decided to bring about the change if any company remained in losses for at least two years, or if company sponsors fail to hold at least 30% of shares jointly.
- The company produces the Spondon edible oil by processing rice bran collected from auto rice mills. Its paid-up capital is BDT 597.14 million, and authorized capital is BDT 1.0 billion while total number of securities is 59.7 million. Sponsors own a 38.3% stake in Emerald Oil, while institutional investors hold 12.4% and the general public 49.3% as of May 31, 2021, the DSE data shows.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/emerald-oil-to-start-commercial-operation-from-september-1-1626107212>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/emerald-oil-resume-production-counting-exports-japan-273955>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 74.27	USD 25.75	53.07%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.32	USD 23.52	45.41%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,809.35	(USD 85.75)	-4.52%
DSEX	6,208.39	806.32	14.93%
S&P 500	4,384.63	628.56	16.73%
FTSE 100	7,125.42	664.90	10.29%
BSE SENSEX	52,372.69	4,621.36	9.68%
KSE-100	47,447.08	3,691.70	8.44%
CSEALL	7,866.47	1,092.25	16.12%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.73*
 GBP 1 = BDT 117.69*
 EUR 1 = BDT 100.55*
 INR 1 = BDT 1.14*

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

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