

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.

Tax holiday to boost local manufacturing of automobiles

- The 20-year tax-exemption support announced in the proposed budget will definitely take Bangladesh's growing automobile industry to an impressive stage and promote local manufacturing, according to industry insiders. Credible data is hard to come by but the sector players assume that annual automobile and three-wheeler sales reach no less than BDT 400.00 billion and are growing at 10 to 12% on average. Manufacturers are set to get a tax holiday for 10 years if 30% of the components used are locally sourced and another 10 years if it is 40%.
- The sector is now import dependent as no manufacturing plant has come about since the country gained independence some 50 years back. This means the country has been spending millions of dollars to import vehicles every year. This long term policy support will encourage investors and help develop the industry, which exemplifies the government's farsightedness, said the chairman of Runner Group.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tax-holiday-boost-local-manufacturing-automobiles-2106901>

Export policy support extended till Dec

- The policy support for foreign exchange transactions in the export sector will continue till December, says the Bangladesh Bank. The facilities, introduced last year as part of measures to recover the economy from Covid-19 blows, were supposed to end on 30 June. The facilities include additional time to bring in export earnings and borrow from the Export Development Fund (EDF). Exporters believe extending the facilities will ease foreign trade. They hope to overcome their problems in business by December.
- Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association Senior Vice-President said that exporters would have been under tremendous pressure if the facilities were not increased in light of the present reality. He added that the move would allow exporters to do business with ease. As part of the policy support, exporters have 210 days from the date of shipment to bring in export earnings instead of 120 days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/trade/export-policy-support-extended-till-dec-257266>

LankaBangla raises USD 15 million from BlueOrchard Microfinance Fund

- LankaBangla Finance Limited, one of the leading NBFIs in Bangladesh, has received a loan of USD15 million from BlueOrchard Microfinance Fund managed by a Switzerland-based impact fund manager BlueOrchard Finance Limited. This is the second cross-border debt transaction for LankaBangla after it received its maiden foreign funding in 2019 from Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), said a statement.
- BlueOrchard seeks to contribute to economic, environmental, and social development and to improve access to financial services to those at the bottom of the pyramid as well as small and medium enterprises, mainly in emerging markets. For BlueOrchard, this is their first entry in the Bangladesh market and LankaBangla is the first Bangladeshi recipient institution of their financing. The loan proceeds will be utilized to cater to the financing needs of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and green and sustainable projects as LankaBangla will focus on assisting SMEs to recover from the effects of pandemic. It would be a great help for them to expand their businesses and create new jobs economic development takes place post pandemic.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/lankabangla-raises-15m-from-blueorchard-microfinance-fund-1623086943>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lankabangla-gets-15m-foreign-loan-2106877>

Amalgamation between Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling, BSRM Steel Mills approved

- The stock market regulator approved the amalgamation of Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills Ltd (listed) and BSRM Steel Mills Ltd (non-listed) on Monday. After the amalgamation, paid-up capital of Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills would be soared to BDT 2.98 billion, from existing 2.36 billion, the BSEC said in a press release. As per the amalgamation, the Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills will issue 62.51 million shares against 394.44 million to the BSRM Steel Mills shareholders with a face value of each share at BDT 10. The BSEC approved the amalgamation ratio of 1: 0.288 following the order of the High Court, the BSEC said.
- Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills is currently holding 44.97% stake of the BSRM Steel Mills Ltd. At Monday's meeting, the stock market regulator also decided to void ICB and ICB Capital Management from the trusteeship of two open-ended mutual funds named ICB AMCL Unit Fund and Bangladesh Fund respectively.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/amalgamation-between-bangladesh-steel-re-rolling-bsrm-steel-mills-approved-1623086849>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsrm-steel-mills-merges-bsrm-2106865>

City Bank re-elects chair, vice chair

• The Board of Directors of City Bank elected its Director Aziz Al Kaiser as the Chairman and Hossain Khaled as the Vice Chairman of the bank on Monday, said a statement. Aziz Al Kaiser is a sponsor director of City Bank. He became the bank's Chairman in 2007 for the first time and then again in 2018 for second time. As chairman, he led the bank's transformation from a traditional institution to a technology and growth driven one. Hossain Khaled is also a sponsor director of City Bank. He is a versatile new-age businessperson. He obtained his BBA in Accounting from the University of Toledo, Ohio, and MBA from International Banking from A&M University (TAMU), Texas, USA.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/city-bank-re-elects-chair-vice-chair-1623087001>
<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/aziz-al-kaiser-hossain-khaled-re-elected-city-banks-chairman-vice-chairman-257233>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$68.69	\$20.17	41.57%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$70.94	\$19.14	36.95%
Gold Spot*	\$1,898.66	\$3.56	0.19%
DSEX	5,975.89	573.82	10.62%
S&P 500	4,226.52	470.45	12.53%
FTSE 100	7,077.22	616.70	9.55%
BSE SENSEX	52,328.51	4,577.18	9.59%
KSE-100	48,302.66	4,547.28	10.39%
CSEALL	7,591.90	817.68	12.07%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.71*
GBP 1 = BDT 120.07*
EUR 1 = BDT 103.24*
INR 1 = BDT 1.16*

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

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