

*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.*

### **Japan lends USD 2.67b**

- Japan confirmed USD 2.665 billion (JPY 292.279 billion) loan for developing the Matarbari power plant and the MRT line-6 as well as for facilitating recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic shocks. The Japanese development partner JICA will provide the loan under its 42nd Official Development Assistance (ODA) package.
- For the two development projects under the 42nd ODA package (1st batch), the JICA will charge interest at a rate of 0.60% for construction-related financing, 0.01% for consultancy service, and 0.2% as the front-end fee (at a time). The loan maturity period will be 30 years with a grace period of 10 years. On the other hand, the agency will charge 0.55% interest and 0.2% front-end fee (at a time) for the USD 365 million budgetary support. The maturity is 30 years with a grace period of 10 years.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/japan-lends-267b-1637605675>

### **ROK approves USD 100m loan**

- South Korea has approved the provision of USD 100 million from Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) to Bangladesh to help the recovery of Bangladesh's economy hit by the coronavirus pandemic. EDCF is a development financing programme of the Republic of Korea (ROK) for assisting the socio-economic development of developing countries.
- This will also be the first EDCF loan to be implemented under the new EDCF Framework Agreement for the years 2021 through 2025 which was signed between the two governments on October 24, 2021. According to the agreement, the South Korean government will provide up to USD 700 million concessional loans to the Government of Bangladesh for the five year period. The new concessional loan of USD 100 million will be used to implement several projects aimed at advancing public finance management system and improving small and medium-sized businesses struggling from the repercussion of the pandemic.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/rok-approves-100m-loan-1637606026>

### **Eyeing USD 1bn investment, Japanese economic zone revs up for 2022 opening**

- The Japanese Economic Zone in Arahazar upazila of Narayanganj will go into production in late 2022, with the potential of a USD 1 billion Japanese investment and creation of one lakh jobs, the authorities have said. Japanese factories in the economic zone, which is now being built under a government-to-government (G2G) basis, will be manufacturing cars, motorcycles, mobile phones, electronic equipment and motor parts, according to the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza).
- The BDT 2,582-crore economic zone sprawls on 1,000 acres of land. Beza Executive Chairman Yusuf Harun stated that the government has already provided the authority with 620 acres of land as the remaining 380 acres are under acquisition process. He also said Bangladesh has a 30% share while Japan holds the remaining 70% share of the economic zone.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/eyeing-1bn-investment-japanese-industrial-zone-revs-2022-opening-332827>

### **Difference over inclusion of apparel delays signing**

- The signing of a preferential trade agreement (PTA) between Bangladesh and Indonesia is facing delays due to a difference over inclusion of Dhaka's apparel on the tariff concession list and also for the pandemic-related complexities, officials said.
- The bilateral trade negotiation committee met last time in October last year and the talks have almost remained stalled since then. At that meeting, Indonesia had submitted a list of 309 products where it wanted to grant tariff waiver to Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh's top export item, the apparel, was not included on the list. Indonesia at the meeting agreed to submit a revised list of products by including some of the Bangladesh made apparel items. However, the new list of products is yet to reach Dhaka.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/difference-over-inclusion-of-apparel-delays-signing-1637605823>

### **Resume dev activities at pre-Covid pace: PM**

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday directed the officials concerned to bring the development activities back to normalcy like in the situation before the Covid-19 pandemic. She issued the directive at the regular Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat.
- Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said the Prime Minister asked the officials concerned to expedite the development works to bring those back to the previous situation before the pandemic. He said that the premier also directed them (officials) to enhance their activities to reduce the backlogs if there is any. Noting that already around 90 million (9 crore) people have been vaccinated, Mr Anwarul Islam said that 20-25 million vaccines will be given every month by next February.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/resume-dev-activities-at-pre-covid-pace-pm-1637605636>

### **Customs set timeline for service delivery**

- The customs authority has set a timeline for service delivery to the exporters having bonded-warehouse licences in a bid to ease time and cost of doing business through speedy release of goods. The customs officials will have to provide 25 types of services within the maximum time limit, set in an order issued on November 17.
- From now on, the exporters will be able to get bond-related services within maximum 10 ten days as per the new order. In another order, the customs wing of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) also determined requirement of documents for the exporters enjoying 100% bonded-warehouse facility.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/customs-set-timeline-for-service-delivery-1637606388>

### **Finance ministry asks BB to make fresh rules**

- Government's finance authority asks the Bangladesh Bank to make fresh 'incentive-bonus rules' for state-owned banks (SoBs) as most of them reportedly handed out such perks sans making profit. The Bangladesh Bank received the instruction from the Financial Institutions Division (FID) for framing a set of new rules with updated information and submit it soon.
- The directive came Monday from a committee meeting at the FID which was formed to determine whether the officials

of the SoBs are entitled to get incentive bonuses when the banks are incurring losses every year. The meeting discussed that BB had prepared an 'incentive bonus rule' for the SoBs back in December 2014 which now needs to be updated before taking a decision to determine the number of incentive bonuses for SoB officials. The meeting also elicited information from the participants about the provisions and rules followed by the individual banks in providing such perks called incentive bonus.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/finance-ministry-asks-bb-to-make-fresh-rules-1637606282>

### **BB to auction treasury bonds worth BDT 15 billion**

- The Bangladesh Bank plans to sell two lots of treasury bonds worth BDT 15 billion in total in two separate auctions due to be held on Tuesday. 15-year term treasury bonds worth BDT 8 billion will be sold at one of the auction.
- The fixed interest rate for the bonds has been set at 5.65% per annum, maturing for redemption in July 2036. Apart from this, another 20-year term bond lot worth BDT 7 billion will be auctioned separately on the same day. The coupon rate has been set at 6.07% per annum, maturing in 2041.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bb-auction-treasury-bonds-worth-tk15-billion-333151>

### **Move on to raise edible oil prices yet again**

- Refiners have again proposed to raise the edible oil prices. They say the proposal has been moved taking into account the current upward price trends of edible oils on the international market. However, according to the global trade web portal Index Mundi, the prices of soyabean oil showed a gradual decline for the last few months.
- Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (BVORVMA) has proposed to the Commerce Ministry to take necessary steps in this regard. The group of millers has mentioned in the proposal that the new rates will be effective from December 03, 2021. The BVORVMA proposed to increase the maximum retail price (MRP) of per- litre bottled soyabean oil to BDT 172 from BDT 160, according to the proposal. The maximum retail price (MRP) of a five-litre soyabean-oil jar will then rise to BDT 820 from BDT 760.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/move-on-to-raise-edible-oil-prices-yet-again-1637606212>

### **Tax receipts fall Tk 8,753cr short of target in July-Oct**

- Revenue collection by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) fell short of target by BDT 8,753 crore during 4MFY22, according to NBR provisional data. The NBR managed to collect BDT 79,353 crore against the target set at BDT 88,106 crore, achieving 90.07% of its target. NBR collected BDT 21,085 crore in the month, with a shortfall of BDT 2,325 crore.
- However, the revenue collection in the period grew by 16.47% YoY, as customs duty, VAT and income tax collection grew by 21.31%, 14.26% and 14.12% respectively. VAT collection was BDT 29,279 crore, customs duty BDT 26,404 crore, and income tax collection was BDT 23,669 crore in the period.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/155441/tax-receipts-fall-tk-8753cr-short-of-target-in-july-oct>

**Year-on-year fuel import spending jump by 230%**

- The government spent 230% more, USD 359.93 million to be exact, in Oct'21 for fuel import compared to USD 108.97 million in the corresponding period last year, according to the latest Bangladesh Bank data. The government's expenditure last month in letter of credit (LC) settlement for fuel is also 87.43% higher compared to USD 192.03 million in Sep'21 this year, according to the central bank's LC opening and settlement data.
- Sources at BPC said during the Covid-19 outbreak last year, the consumption of different types of fuel was only 8,000 to 9,000 tonnes per day. Now, the daily consumption of fuel has reached around 17,000 tonnes..

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/year-year-fuel-import-spending-jump-230-333262>

**MFS cash-in reaches record Tk 19,777cr in Sept**

- As per the Bangladesh Bank's latest data, cash-in to MFS accounts increased to BDT 19,777.1 crore in Sep'21 from BDT 18,669.7 crore in Aug'21. September's cash-in was the highest after the cash-in of BDT 19,428.8 crore in May'21. In Sep'21, transactions through MFS reached BDT 65,141.4 crore from BDT 62,230.2 crore in Aug'21.
- In Sep'21, customers of MFS operators carried out BDT 19,794.4 crore in person-to-person payments, BDT 2,936.5 crore in merchant payments, BDT 2,458 crore salary disbursements, purchased talk times worth BDT 651.8 crore and paid bills worth BDT 1,331 crore.
- Apart from the payments and purchase, the floating amount in 10.65 crore MFS accounts stood at BDT 7,020.4 crore in September from BDT 5,624.6 crore a year ago.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/155440/mfs-cash-in-reaches-record-tk-19777cr-in-sept>

**Reserve heist takes BB back to manual foreign payment**

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has not been able to rebuild its compromised foreign transaction messaging network, otherwise known as SWIFT, even five years after it lost USD 81.0 million to cyber hacks, according to various documents and interviews available to The Business Standard. The central bank has been left with no option but to conduct foreign transactions manually as SWIFT has not yet sent its officials to assist in rebuilding its network.
- The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has now warned that it will cut off transactions with the Bangladesh Bank if the SWIFT network is not re-built by June next year. BB's transaction days are already curtailed. As a result, on several days a month, it has to conduct transactions with the help of a locally-based foreign bank paying a charge. If the Fed shuts the transactions, the Bangladesh Bank will have to make all foreign payments through a third party, which will hurt its reputation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/reserve-heist-takes-bb-back-manual-foreign-payment-333280>

**StanChart rolls out pre-shipment loans for garment makers**

- Standard Chartered has partnered with large global garment buyers and suppliers and disbursed US dollar-denominated pre-shipment loans under a new finance programme, which aims to support more than 20,000 apparel workers in Bangladesh.

- The bank's clients can avail one-year liquidity support for payment of wages, utilities and other operational expenses under the programme, with a moratorium period of three months.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/stanchart-rolls-out-pre-shipment-loans-garment-makers-2900511>

### **Bangladesh could capture \$1.2b of recycled textile industry**

- Bangladesh has the potential to produce USD 1.2 billion worth of recycled textile and garment items as the country has a big production base for cotton fibre clothing items, according to a recent study by the Global Fashion Agenda (GFA) and McKinsey & Company. The study - Circular Fashion Partnership (CFP) Scaling Circularity Report - was launched virtually on Monday.
- Based on reverse resources analysis, 35 per cent of the total amount of fibres wasted while making garment items is generated during production. The CFP's goal is to reduce dependency on virgin materials and increase the availability of recycled materials by establishing a long-term, scalable transition to a circular fashion system in garment manufacturing countries.
- The government plans to make use of the CFP project, but there will be a lot of challenges to implement such an initiative in the country, said the director general of the foreign ministry's wing for west Europe and the EU.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/news/bangladesh-could-capture-12b-recycled-textile-industry-2900571>

### **MoneyGram expands mobile wallet network in Asia through integration with bKash in Bangladesh**

- MoneyGram International, the global leader in the evolution of digital P2P payments, announced the expansion of its mobile wallet network through the integration with bKash. This is the latest integration as part of MoneyGram's ongoing partnership with Thunes, a B2B company that powers payments for the world's fastest-growing businesses
- With this launch, about 56 million bKash wallet users in Bangladesh will now be able to receive funds instantly from around the world via nine local bank accounts, retail partners, and other digital methods. This latest integration with bKash will increase access to direct remittance services and help accelerate financial inclusion in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/moneygram-expands-mobile-wallet-network-asia-through-integration-bkash-bangladesh>

### **Most banks see fall in share prices**

- Most of listed banks saw erosion in the prices of their stocks on Dhaka Stock Exchange on Monday as investors exerted selling pressure to book profits. On the day, 30 banks out of 32 lost prices and the market capitalisation of the sector declined 2.9%.
- The share price of 30 banks declined ranging between 1.23% and 7.86%. The DSE broad index DSEX lost 63.37 points on Monday mainly because of price correction witnessed by majority number of banks. The DSE featured a turnover of BDT 12.26 billion of which 43.80% came from transactions of the shares of banks.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/most-banks-see-fall-in-share-prices-1637604325>

### **BSEC asks for People's Leasing's business revival plan**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has asked the new board of directors of People's Leasing and Financial Services to submit its plan regarding the business revival of the scam-hit non-bank financial institution (NBFi). It happened in a meeting between the securities regulator and the board members of the listed NBFi on Monday.
- BSEC, as the protector of shareholders' rights, will also appoint a special auditor to learn the details of the past anomalies within the firm and what its current situation is. BSEC Commissioner Shaikh Shamsuddin Ahmed said the company would submit a report on how it is planning to resume its business to pay back the depositors and protect shareholders' interest.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bsec-asks-peoples-leasings-business-revival-plan-333253>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 76.80	USD 28.28	58.29%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 79.72	USD 27.92	53.90%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,805.93	(USD 89.17)	-4.71%
DSEX	7,022.29	1,620.22	29.99%
S&P 500	4,717.35	961.28	25.59%
FTSE 100	7,255.46	794.94	12.30%
BSE SENSEX	58,465.89	10,714.56	22.44%
KSE-100	45,745.00	1,989.62	4.55%
CSEALL	10,817.24	4,043.02	59.68%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 85.74 BDT****1 GBP = 114.84 BDT****1 Euro = 96.38 BDT****1 INR = 1.15 BDT**

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