

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.

Korean Kido group to invest USD 31.17m in Adamjee EPZ

- South Korean company Kido Dhaka Limited will invest USD 31.17 million to establish a garment and manufacturing industry at Adamjee Export Processing Zone (EPZ). Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) and Kido Dhaka Co. Limited signed an agreement on Monday.
- Kido is a sportswear manufacturing industry of South Korea. They have also five plants in Vietnam, Myanmar, and Indonesia. The acting director of Kido Dhaka Limited Ahn Young Dae Joseph stated the company has a big investment plan in Bangladesh and primarily they will invest at Adamjee EPZ.
- The company, fully owned by the Korean Kido group, will produce 2 million pieces of jacket, motorcycle safety jacket, leather & fiber jacket, work jacket, sport jacket, fleece jacket, baby warmer, soft shell jacket, sweatshirt, vest, work-wear, coverall, hospital gown, protective cloths and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) annually.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/korean-kido-group-to-invest-3117m-in-adamjee-epz-1636372138>

Vietnam envoy for stronger trade ties with BD

- The newly appointed Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh, Pham Viet Chien, held a courtesy meeting with the leaders of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at its World Trade Centre (WTC) hall room on Sunday.
- Speaking at the meeting, the envoy mentioned the good and friendly relationship between Bangladesh and Vietnam and appreciated the 'great' role of the business community of Bangladesh in the development of the country. The envoy added that they have a goal to increase opportunities for more investment and trade between the two countries.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/vietnam-envoy-for-stronger-trade-ties-with-bd-1636397591>

Trade deficit widens over threefold

- Bangladesh's trade deficit widened over threefold in the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year for higher import-payment pressure. The country's trade imbalance with the rest of the world increased by USD 4.46 billion to USD 6.50 billion during the July-September period of the FY 2021-22, from USD 2.04 billion in the same period of previous fiscal.
- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) data show that import expenses jumped 47.59% while export earnings recorded an 11.57% growth in Q1 of FY '22. The overall import costs stood at USD 17.32 billion in the July-September period of FY '22 against USD 11.74 billion in the same period a year before.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/trade-deficit-widens-over-threefold-1636395805>

Panel formed to review commodity pricing formula

- The commerce ministry yesterday formed a six-member committee to review the existing formula, which the government has been following since 2011 to fix the prices of basic commodities. The committee will submit the review report on the formula in a month.
- AHM Shafiquzzaman, head of the panel and additional secretary to the commerce ministry, stated that the target is to reduce the prices of some basic commodities like edible oil and sugar by reviewing the formula. He further add that the current method considers 4.5% as the refining loss and this element has a room for reviewing as the technologies of refining improved a lot and the quantity of losses during the refining also lowered.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/panel-formed-review-commodity-pricing-formula-2225341>

Construction cost goes up 20%

- The construction cost in Bangladesh has gone up by 20% in the past year because of the surge in the price of raw materials, which could affect the implementation of development projects. Prices of steel, cement, bitumen and stone chips have surged in the last one year due to the rising demand for raw materials globally after economies reopened following the ease of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Steel prices jumped 44.22% in the past one year as millers hiked the rates in the wake of spiralling scrap prices in the international market. Now, it is being retailed at BDT 77,500 per tonne, up from BDT 53,000 a year ago. The price of stone chips increased by 56.41%, bitumen 59.52%, and cement 19.44%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/construction-cost-goes-20pc-2225351>

Bid for striking LNG deals sans bidding

- State-run Petrobangla bids for making deals with local Summit Group and Middle East's Emirates' National Oil Company (ENOC) for long-term LNG supply sans biddings. Both the firms, alongside half a dozen more companies, had earlier proposed to supply liquefied natural gas or LNG under long-term arrangements.
- But the energy and mineral resources division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) has instructed the petroleum agency to open negotiations with Summit and ENOC, in what appears to be a pick-and-choose manner.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bid-for-striking-lng-deals-sans-bidding-1636395623>

Banking sector reform, subsidy to top agenda

- The International Monetary Fund will inquire about Bangladesh's progress in reforming the local banking and subsidy sectors as well as ongoing vaccination drive as it is set to hold its first dialogue with the government since the coronavirus outbreak.
- The Article IV consultation to be held from December 5 to 15 will focus on five key areas, namely the banking, subsidy, revenue and exchange rate reforms, the Covid-19 vaccination programme, as well as USD 3 billion in loans that will be extended to the country over a three-year period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/banking-sector-reform-subsidy-top-agenda-2225361>

bKash relaunches digital payroll solution to build a sustainable ecosystem in RMG

- bKash has relaunched its digital payroll solution to facilitate automated, easy, fast and affordable salary disbursement along with building a sustainable financial ecosystem for RMG workers. With this new automated system, factory authorities now can disburse salary to the workers directly in a faster and effective way which will make the salary disbursement easier, safer and more transparent.
- Not only disbursing salary, bKash is also working on building a sustainable ecosystem for RMG sector. As a result, workers will be able to better manage their finances digitally by utilizing the salary received through bKash.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bkash-relaunches-digital-payroll-solution-to-build-a-sustainable-ecosystem-in-rmg-1636385314>

BRAC Bank, Ekush Wealth Management sign custodial agreement

- BRAC Bank Limited and Ekush Wealth Management Limited have signed a Custodial Agreement for management of mutual fund named 'Ekush Growth Fund'. BRAC Bank, under the agreement, will be providing custodial services to Ekush Wealth Management for the operation of the mutual fund under the bank's Capital Market Unit.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/brac-bank-ekush-wealth-management-sign-custodial-agreement-1636384289>

Tax receipts from DSE down 22% in October

- The government's revenue collection from Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) plunged by 22% or BDT 113 million in October compared to a month earlier due to a decline in turnover on the prime bourse. The government bagged revenue worth BDT 407 million in October as against BDT 520 million in September.
- Of the total earnings in October, BDT 370 million came from the TREC holders' commission, popularly known as brokerage commission, while BDT 37 million came from share sales by sponsor-directors and placement holders. The daily turnover dropped to BDT 18.50 billion on average in October which was around BDT 23 billion in September.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/tax-receipts-from-dse-down-22pc-in-october-1636397443>

Aziz Pipes shuts factory

- Aziz Pipes Ltd, the PVC pipes and door manufacturer, has announced the closure of its factory production from Monday due to financial and other crises. The board of directors stated that lack of working capital, complexity with bank loans, financial crisis and liable loan, raw material crisis and lack of reserves, etc. were the reasons behind the decision.
- The factory will remain closed until the situation becomes normal and favourable. Following the news, its share price plunged 5.11% to close at BDT 96.40 on Monday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/aziz-pipes-shuts-factory-1636397483>

Southeast Bank fined BDT 10 lakh for overinvestment in stocks

- The Bangladesh Bank has fined Southeast Bank BDT 10 lakh for overinvestment in stocks of a single company violating the banking company law. The bank invested in the stocks of National Life Insurance Company, exceeding the authorised ceiling of 25% of its capital.
- In September this year, the Bangladesh Bank asked the bank to bring down its investment within the authorised limit but it did not follow the central bank's instructions. Instead, the bank authorities tactfully transferred the share to another account they hold. At the same time, the bank will be fined BDT 50,000 every day until it adjusts the over investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/southeast-bank-fined-tk10-lakh-overinvestment-stocks-327019>

Two Orion companies declare cash dividends

- Orion Pharma Ltd and Orion Infusion Ltd – two companies belonging to Orion Group – have recommended a 12% and 10% cash dividends, respectively, for their shareholders for the financial year that ended on 30 June 2021.
- Orion Pharma reported consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 4.01 and Orion Infusion posted an EPS of BDT 1.37. The approval of those dividends will be finalised at their annual general meetings (AGMs). Both the AGMs are slated for 19 December this year and the record date for both is 29 November.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/two-orion-companies-declare-cash-dividends-327010>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 82.04	USD 33.52	69.08%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 83.43	USD 31.63	61.06%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,824.56	(USD 70.54)	-3.72%
DSEX	6,799.64	1,397.57	25.87%
S&P 500	4,701.70	945.63	25.18%
FTSE 100	7,300.40	839.88	13.00%
BSE SENSEX	60,545.61	12,794.28	26.79%
KSE-100	47,115.04	3,359.66	7.68%
CSEALL	10,621.40	3,847.18	56.79%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.48 BDT****1 GBP = 116.03 BDT****1 Euro = 99.15 BDT****1 INR = 1.15 BDT**

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