

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.

108.19 million internet users in country

- The total number of internet subscribers in Bangladesh reached 108.188 million as of August, 2020 thanks to the government's commitment and push to digitize the country. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission's (BTRC) statistics revealed that, of the total subscribers, there were 99.618 million mobile internet users and 8.571 million broadband internet users in the country until August 2020. Prior to this, total internet subscribers in the country were 99.428 million until December 2019, according to the BTRC data.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/108188m-internet-users-in-country-1602861383>

US, EU buyers cancel USD 16 billion apparel orders globally

- United States (US) and European Union (EU) buyers cancelled apparel orders worldwide amounting to at least USD 16.2 billion during April-June when the pandemic was at its peak, painting a deeply disturbing picture of irresponsibility at a moment of global crisis, according to an analysis of trade data. The clothing retailers even refused to pay for goods they asked suppliers to manufacture, according to the research by the Centre for Global Workers' Rights and the Worker Rights Consortium. In the initial weeks of the coronavirus crisis, the buyers reneged on their financial commitments on roughly USD 40 billion in orders, the two global organizations estimate.

- According to the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the apparel industry has faced about USD 3.18 billion worth of cancellations and withdrawals by international brands and buyers due to the global pandemic. BGMEA officials said as of September, about 90% of held-up and cancelled orders have been reinstated. But, the prices of these work orders have shrunk by up to 15% upon the buyers' demand. The buyers are also deferring payments up to 180 days. Most of the buyers are concerned about the second wave of the pandemic. That is why they are not placing orders as they did in the pre-pandemic period, chairman of Envoy Textiles Ltd said. The research analysts also noted the drop cannot be blamed on government-imposed lockdowns rather than cancelled orders, since figures show substantial losses in export value in countries with strict lockdowns and those without strict lockdowns.

<https://tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/us-eu-buyers-cancel-16bn-apparel-orders-globally-146005>

BSEC asks Robi to issue employee shares after IPO subscription

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has asked mobile telecom operator Robi Axiata Limited to allot employee shares, subject to two years of lock-in, after the company's IPO subscription. Earlier on September 23, the BSEC approved Robi's proposal to raise BDT 5.24 billion, the biggest public offering on the country's capital market. The company will offload 523.8 million shares at BDT 10 each where 387.8 million shares will be offered to the public and institutional investors and the remaining 136.1 million shares will be kept aside for its employees under the employee share purchase plan.

- In September, BSEC decided to exempt Robi from a provision of the public issue rules for its IPO in response to an application submitted by the company. According to the public issue rules, a company must offer at least an amount equivalent to 10% of its paid-up capital or BDT 300 million at par value, whichever is higher. Robi's pre IPO paid-up capital is worth BDT 47.14 billion, but its public offering amounts to BDT 3.88 billion, less than 10% of its paid up capital. As per the decision, the employee shares will be considered as part of the IPO. Of the total IPO proceeds, Robi would utilize BDT 5.16 billion on network expansion and spend BDT 80.2 million to meet IPO-related expenses.

- Robi commenced operations in 1997 as Telekom Malaysia International (Bangladesh) under the brand name of Aktel. In 2010, the company was rebranded as Robi and the company changed its name to Robi Axiata Limited. Following its merger with Airtel Bangladesh, Robi Axiata Limited (Robi) started commercial operations as a newly merged company on November 16, 2016.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/119151/bsec-asks-robi-to-issue-employee-shares-after-ipo-subscription>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$40.88	(\$20.75)	-33.67%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$42.93	(\$25.51)	-37.27%
Gold Spot*	\$1,899.29	\$377.82	24.83%
DSEX	4,872.30	419.37	9.42%
S&P 500	3,483.81	253.03	7.83%
FTSE 100	5,919.58	(1,667.47)	-21.98%
BSE SENSEX	39,982.98	(1,659.16)	-3.98%
KSE-100	40,164.02	(571.06)	-1.40%
CSEALL	5,945.79	(183.42)	-2.99%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.80*

GBP 1 = BDT 109.52*

EUR 1 = BDT 99.36*

INR 1 = BDT 1.15*

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

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