

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.

Korea to provide US\$700m to Bangladesh as soft loan

- A "Framework Arrangement" was signed between the governments of Bangladesh and Korea on Sunday to provide a soft loan of US\$700.00 million for the period of 2021-2025, reports BSS. The amount will be used as project assistance for various development schemes in Bangladesh.
- At the end of FY 2020-21, the total commitment from the EDCF has been US\$1330.48 million. This is the second largest amount committed by the Korean government for its development partners. Under this Framework Arrangement, the Korean government will provide financial assistance to implement several projects in the next five years. The loan agreements to be signed under this Framework Arrangement will bear an interest rate of 0.01 per cent to 0.05 per cent with 40 years' repayment period and 15 years' grace period.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/korea-to-provide-us700m-to-bangladesh-as-soft-loan-1635094361>

CCCI President calls for increasing Canadian investment in Bangladesh

- Mahbubul Alam made the call during a meeting with Angela Dark, Counselor (Commercial Affairs) of the Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh on Sunday afternoon at the chamber's office at World Trade Centre in Chattogram. Stating Canada as one of the top trading partners of Bangladesh, President of Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Mahbubul Alam called for increasing Canadian investment. Mahbubul Alam further said that Bangladesh will attract about 15 billion US dollars in foreign investment through the Mirsarai Economic Zone.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/dropped/trade/ccci-president-calls-increasing-canadian-investment-bangladesh-320344>

FDI inflow rises marginally

- Foreign direct investment to Bangladesh rose 6 per cent year-on-year to \$2.51 billion in the last fiscal year, continuing the recent trends whereas peer countries secured a higher level of investment from external investors. The FDI flow has been far lower than expected because of strict regulations and bureaucratic complexities, according to analysts.
- Fresh investment, or equity capital, did not arrive as expected in 2020-21. Foreign companies operating in Bangladesh largely reinvested their earnings in the year, helping the country keep its FDI trend stable. FDI in the field of equity capital rose 12.08 per cent to \$816 million, disappointing analysts as it remains less than \$1 billion.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fdi-inflow-rises-marginally-2205596>

Tax revenue grows almost 17pc in first quarter

- The collection of tax revenue registered a 16.72 per cent growth in the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year (FY) as compared to the same period last FY, thanks to economic reopening after the Covid-induced lockdown. Increased prices of imported commodities, particularly fuel oil and food items, in the global market have helped enhance the collection of duties and taxes by the customs wing, suggested an analysis of import data.
- The average tax revenue collection growth was 11.36 per cent during the last five years. However, the overall collection fell by Tk 63.43 billion short of the period's target, according to provisional data of the National Board of Revenue (NBR). In the July-September quarter, the NBR collected Tk 583.51 billion in tax revenue against its target of Tk 646.95 billion

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/tax-revenue-grows-almost-17pc-in-first-quarter-1635044480>

Government mulling establishing agri entrepreneurship cell

- The government is considering setting up a dedicated agriculture entrepreneurship cell for the betterment of the country's agriculture sector, said Agriculture Minister Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzaque on Saturday. This cell will help create new agriculture entrepreneurs, the minister observed.
- He said the cell will provide information to the farmers about what crops they should cultivate considering places and seasons, the process of agriculture crops and give them other necessary supports. The minister said the officials at the grassroots level have been asked to monitor strictly whether the deserving farmers were getting agriculture loans properly or facing any problem in getting the same.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/government-mulling-establishing-agri-entrepreneurship-cell-1635046015>

Electronics will overtake RMG sector

- Private Industry and Investment Advisor to Prime Minister Salman Fazlur Rahman has said that the government has created a suitable atmosphere for the private industry sector and Walton fully utilised those opportunities, according to a press release. He said, "The company has product diversity. They are manufacturing various products including all kinds of spare parts. The way Walton is marching forward, I firmly believe that in export earnings the electronics sector will overtake readymade garment sector." The Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser made the remarks just after visiting a Walton factory at Chandra in Gazipur on Saturday.
- Walton manufactures every spare parts. R&D is most vital for achieving the target of becoming a developed country within 2041 and Walton is doing excellent work in this sector. Walton products are being exported to more than 40 countries around the world. Walton holds 75 percent of country's refrigerator market while 50 percent of AC and 40 percent of TV market. This means consumers have confidence and trust on Walton products.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/electronics-will-overtake-rmg-sector-1635094331>

DSE key index hits two-month low

- Stocks plummeted on Sunday with the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSEX) dipping nearly two months low as cautious investors were on a selling binge. At the end of the session, DSEX plunged 70.52 points or 0.99 per cent to settle at nearly two months lowest at 7,005, after gaining more than 55 points in the previous day. Turnover stood at Tk 14.71 billion on the country's premier bourse, which was 12 per cent higher than the previous day's tally of Tk 13.10 billion.
- Market analysts said the market fell further amid remarkable profit booking sell-offs on major sector stocks by the risk-averse investors. The year-end dividend and quarter-end earnings declarations may have failed to meet the investors' expectations which prompted them for selling shares, said a stockbroker. Some investors purchased shares of Beximco, United Power, BSRM and Orion Pharma following their higher profit growth, but failed to offset the losses, he said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/dse-key-index-hits-two-month-low-1635070723>

Asiatic Laboratories launches IPO

- Asiatic Laboratories Limited started its journey to initial public offering (IPO) under book building method as per Bangladesh Public Issue Rules-2015. The company arranged a road show program at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in the capital on Sunday, said a press release.
- To gain market share and to become a reputed pharmaceutical company in Bangladesh Asiatic Laboratories Limited is participating in the IPO for Tk95 crore subject to the approval of BSEC through the book building method. After

spending on the IPO, the company will use the rest of the money to build new factory buildings, capital machineries and partially repayment of its loans.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/2021/10/25/asiatic-laboratories-launches-ipo>

Capital Alliance enters Bangladesh merchant banking

- Capital Alliance (CAL), Sri Lanka's leader in capital markets services entered into an investment and partnership agreement with Bangladesh's BetaOne Investments Limited. With the formalization of this agreement and its entry to Bangladesh, CAL continues its ambitious journey to realize its vision to be 'The No.1 Investment Bank in Frontier Markets', according to a press release.
- Established in 2011, BetaOne Investments Limited is a leading licensed merchant bank in Bangladesh offering a wide range of financial solutions for both individual and institutional investors. Under the agreement, CAL will own a significant equity interest in BetaOne Investments Limited and will partner with the current group of shareholders which includes a handful of highly reputed family businesses and professionals in Bangladesh.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/10/24/capital-alliance-enters-bangladesh-merchant-banking>

BSRM ups investment by 164% to meet growing demand

- BSRM Steels Ltd has revised up its investment plan for capacity expansion amid a boost in demand for its products. A year ago, the listed company had announced a Tk700 crore investment plan to increase its annual production capacity of construction rod and some other products by five lakh tonnes, taking the total capacity to over 21 lakh tonnes per year. But amid soaring demand, it has now planned to increase rod re-rolling capacity by six lakh tonnes, for which it will also increase its billet making capacity by 2.5 lakh tonnes.
- For the revised melting and re-rolling capacity of 22 lakh tonnes each per year, the total investment needed has been revised up to Tk1,850 crore and the project is set to be completed by the end of 2023, instead of the previous plan to begin production by mid-2023. The expansion project would be financed using BSRM's own money and some borrowed funds, the company disclosed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bsrm-ups-investment-264-meet-growing-demand-320359>

Two Square Group firms to invest Tk676cr to boost production capacity

- To meet the growing demand and increase their market stakes, two listed companies of Square Group will invest Tk676 crore for enhancing their production capacity. Square Textiles will invest Tk376 crore and Square Pharmaceuticals Tk300 crore. Square Pharma said in its financial report that the board of the company approved the investment plan to buy new capital machinery and land for expansion.
- A senior officer at Square Pharma, seeking anonymity, told that the export is on the rise and the local pharma market is seeking double-digit growth. That is why it needs a new facility with modern technology. Square Pharma's main competitors Beximco Pharma, Renata Pharma, and Incepta Pharma have together invested more than Tk1,000 crore in recent years to expand their market shares.
- Square Textile will invest to enhance its yarn production capacity to produce 11,565 tonnes per annum, adding projected Tk371 crore to the company's turnover. The new project will complete in April 2023. Square is investing more to grab the market stake for textile export.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/two-square-group-firms-invest-tk676cr-boost-production-capacity-320338>

UK to help Beximco make international standard PPE

- British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson has assured of extending cooperation to Beximco so that the firm can achieve and uphold international standards in personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturing. "At this time of the pandemic, the demand for and crisis on PPE availability is growing worldwide," he said, adding that Beximco's PPE production venture is a positive move.
- The Beximco PPE team demonstrated production facilities and cutting-edge technologies to produce hospital-grade gowns, coveralls, surgical masks, respirators and non-woven fabrics for local and international markets. The British team highly appreciated the state-of-the-art facilities for production and testing of high-quality PPE in Beximco PPE park.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/10/24/uk-to-help-beximco-make-international-standard-ppe>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 84.25	USD 35.73	73.64%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 85.82	USD 34.02	65.68%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,796.37	(USD 98.73)	-5.21%
DSEX	7,005.71	1,603.64	29.69%
S&P 500	4,544.90	788.83	21.00%
FTSE 100	7,204.55	744.03	11.52%
BSE SENSEX	60,821.62	13,070.29	27.37%
KSE-100	45,578.36	1,822.98	4.17%
CSEALL	9,915.22	3,141.00	46.37%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 85.55 BDT

1 GBP = 117.81 BDT

1 Euro = 99.64 BDT

1 INR = 1.14 BDT

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