

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.

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) issues revised public issue rules

- The securities regulator has issued revised public issue rules, setting new IPO (initial public offering) quotas for general and other eligible investors (EIs). To this effect, a gazette notification has been published on the amendments brought to the BSEC (Public Issue) Rules 2015.
- Excluding the portion of the securities under the private offer, general public, including NRBs, and the EIs, including mutual funds (MFs), would avail 75 % and 25 % IPO quota respectively under the fixed price method. The MFs have been offered 5.0 % IPO quota, which previously was 10 %. Excluding the portion of the securities under the private offer, general public and the EIs would avail 75 % and 25 % IPO quota under the book building method. The EIs would also include the MFs and Collective Investment Schemes (CISs).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bsec-issues-revised-public-issue-rules-1630433192>

Bangladesh Bank (BB) mounts monitoring

- The central bank mounted monitoring and supervision on the special fund constituted by commercial banks only for investment in the capital market, officials said, on detection of some deviations.
- A total of 29 banks out of 60 have already formed the special fund in line with the BB advice to facilitate investment in the capital market. Currently, the size of the fund stands at BDT 35 billion. Of the amount, around BDT 17.0 billion has already been invested in the capital market, the officials added.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-mounts-monitoring-1630433252>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-seeks-monthly-info-special-funds-stocks-295894>

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/147849/bb-tightens-monitoring-of-banks-stock-market-funds>

LPG prices to go up again from September 1

- Consumers will have to pay a higher price to buy liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as the cost of the imported gas continues to rise across the country as the energy regulator on Tuesday announced its new price in line with the international market, reports UNB.
- As per the new price, consumers will have to pay BDT 1,033 for a 12 kg LPG from September 1 instead of BDT 993, up by BDT 40. However, the price of LPG of the state-owned LP Gas Company Ltd will remain the same at BDT 591 for 12.5 kg LPG as it sells products from condensates produced in local gas fields and has no relation with Saudi CP. Some 20 private companies dominate the local LPG market with more than 95 % market share through an annual import of 1.2 million metric tons while the LP Gas Company supplies only 25,000 tons.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/lpg-prices-to-go-up-again-from-sept-1-1630433598>

Bangladesh (BD) to face tough fight in post-LDC trade regime

- Bangladesh would have to face a tough fight from its competitors like Vietnam in the post-LDC trade regime as its existing tariff advantages would erode substantially by then. For instance, Vietnam would then get a tariff advantage of more or less 23 % than Bangladesh in case of exporting readymade garments (RMG) to the EU market.
- The economists suggested taking national level measures for next five years to address the challenges through signing FTAs and regional and comprehensive economic partnerships for getting zero tariff facilities even after the country's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) status.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-to-face-tough-fight-in-post-ldc-trade-regime-1630433781>

Bangladesh Bank sells USD305m in August for import payments

- Bangladesh Bank has increased the volume of dollar sales in August to clear import payments, according to a central bank source. The central bank has sold USD305 million to the scheduled banks in the second month of the 2021-22 financial year. The exchange rate of the US dollar has increased to BDT85.20 in August as its demand has risen recently. The rate was BDT84.80 in the same month of the last year.
- The Bangladesh Bank has a record reserve of USD48 billion (BDT4,000 crore). Dollars will be sold in the market if the situation deserves, says a central bank source. Economists said it is a natural process to increase the sale of dollars by Bangladesh Bank as its demand has increased. It is an indication of the economic stability of the country, they said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-bank-sells-305m-august-import-payments-295900>

Padma Bank seeks to merge with state bank

- Padma Bank, the erstwhile Farmers Bank, in a letter to the finance ministry recently has sought to be merged with any state bank that fits the bill, in what seems to be a desperate effort to avoid further deterioration of its financial health.
- The bank said its advance deposit ratio stood at 94 % while non-performing loans at 65 % or BDT 3,519 crore as per Bangladesh Bank as of June 2021. The Covid-19-induced challenges led to operating losses of BDT 120 crore in the first half of 2021. As a result, shareholders' equity declined to BDT 221 crore, down from BDT 332 crore at the end of last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/padma-bank-seeks-merge-state-bank-2165686>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD69.07	USD20.55	42.35%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD72.99	USD21.19	40.91%
Gold Spot*	USD1,815.90	(USD79.20)	-4.18%
DSEX	6,869.25	1,467.18	27.16%
S&P 500	4,522.68	766.61	20.41%
FTSE 100	7,119.70	659.18	10.20%
BSE SENSEX	57,552.39	9,801.06	20.53%
KSE-100	47,419.74	3,664.36	8.37%
CSEALL	8,997.60	2,223.38	32.82%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 85.18*
 GBP 1 = BDT 117.01*
 EUR 1 = BDT 100.63*
 INR 1 = BDT 1.16*

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

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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shaown, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Nazmus Saadat, CFA	Research Analyst	nazmus.saadat@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Anika Mafiz	Research Analyst	anika.mafiz@bracepl.com	01708 805 206
Sadman Sakib	Research Associate	sadman.sakib@bracepl.com	01730 727 939

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
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BRAC EPL Research www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142
Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212
Phone: + (880)-2-9852446-50
Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52
E-Mail: research@bracepl.com