

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.

Covid toll at 3-month low

- The daily death toll from Covid-19 reached nearly a three-month low at 38 while the virus caseload maintained a downward trend in Bangladesh on Friday. Previously, 39 deaths were reported in the country on June 12, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).
- With the latest daily count, total fatalities from coronavirus stood at 26,832 since the virus was detected first here in March 2020. On the other hand, daily Covid-19 cases also declined to 2,325 on Friday against the previous day's 2,588, disclosed the DGHS data. A total of 26,878 samples, including antigen-based rapid ones, were tested while 27,230 samples collected across the country during the past 24 hours.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/covid-toll-at-3-month-low-1631295294>

IFC to issue taka bond on Bangladesh bourse

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) plans to issue taka-denominated bond on Bangladesh market to extend financial support to domestic industries and agencies in need of funds. Official sources said Friday the World Bank Group's private-sector-lending arm had recently sought approval from the government of Bangladesh for issuing the bond.
- Earlier, the IFC for the first time had issued BDT-denominated 'Bangla Bond' on the London Stock Exchange, worth BDT 800 million (USUSD9.5 million), to help expand operations and distribution of funds in Bangladesh. The three-year bond, listed on the UK stock market, was placed with asset managers dedicated to emerging markets, with the deal arranged by Standard Chartered Bank and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ifc-to-issue-taka-bond-on-bangladesh-bourse-1631295114>

Bangladesh can sign FTA with South Korea after LDC graduation: envoy

- South Korean ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang-Keun on Thursday suggested that Bangladesh should explore a free trade agreement with his country after the country graduated from the club of the least developed countries. South Korea already has signed FTAs with around 70 countries, including China, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Europe, he said.
- The East Asian nation is the fifth-largest source of FDI for Bangladesh, and most of the investments come from the manufacturing sector. Around 93 % of Bangladeshi products get duty- and quota-free market access in South Korea. There is a steady increase in bilateral trade between the two countries, which currently stands at approximately USD1.6 billion.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/148731/bangladesh-can-sign-fta-with-s-korea-after-ldc-graduation-envoy>

BGMEA-USGBC to collaborate on green growth

- Representatives of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) have expressed interest in collaborating to further facilitate the Bangladesh apparel industry's progress towards environmental sustainability.
- Currently, Bangladesh has 145 factories certified as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) by the USGBC. Of them, 42 are LEED platinum-rated and 91 are LEED gold-rated units. 500 more factories are in the process of achieving LEED certification.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bgmea-usgbc-collaborate-green-growth-300349>

SPM to save govt BDT 8.0 billion per annum

- The government would save BDT 8.0 billion annually by cutting carrying cost of petroleum products from outer anchorage to fuel tankers once the SPM (single-point mooring) project is complete. An estimated 63.53-% work on the overall SPM project has already been completed.
- The state corporation is implementing the project at BDT 65.68 billion. Of the total cost, the government is providing BDT 12.19 billion, the BPC 6.85 billion and the remaining BDT 46.63 billion is being provided as project aid. As part of the project work, approximately 135 kilometre (km) offshore pipeline and 58-km onshore pipeline have already been installed.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/spm-to-save-govt-Tk-80b-per-annum-1631295183>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD69.72	USD21.20	43.69%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD72.92	USD21.12	40.77%
Gold Spot*	USD1,787.58	(USD107.52)	-5.67%
DSEX	7,258.75	1,856.68	34.37%
S&P 500	4,458.58	702.51	18.70%
FTSE 100	7,029.20	568.68	8.80%
BSE SENSEX	58,305.07	10,553.74	22.10%
KSE-100	47,198.29	3,442.91	7.87%
CSEALL	8,865.30	2,091.08	30.87%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 85.12*

GBP 1 = BDT 117.72*

EUR 1 = BDT 100.54*

INR 1 = BDT 1.15*

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

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