

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.

Prepare universal pension scheme for all above 60: PM

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed the authorities concerned to work out a universal pension scheme for people aged above 60 and those who worked in public and private sectors, and the informal sector in line with the election manifesto of the ruling party. She also issued a directive to set up an authority on the universal pension scheme.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/prepare-universal-pension-scheme-for-all-above-60-pm-1645122293>

Waive VAT on RMG subcontracting

- Government's revenue authority assures consideration as exempting garment subcontracting units from VAT and resolving the HS code-related complications. The existing source tax is 0.50% while the corporate tax is 10 % and 12 % for green and other garment factories respectively. The apparel association in its proposal says VAT (value-added tax) has been collected from a third of the country's apparel factories that are doing subcontracting.
- Factories that are not getting sufficient work orders, do subcontracting to continue run of the business and meet their regular costs produce goods that are exported and earn foreign currency for the country. The association also demands relaxation of the provision of mandatory inclusion of harmonised system of codes in bond licence in releasing imported raw materials under the bonded facilities.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/waive-vat-on-rmg-subcontracting-1645120003>

BWCCI seeks raising tax-free income limit

- Women entrepreneurs have demanded that the government raise the personal tax-free income limit to BDT 4.5 lakh from the existing BDT 3.5 lakh in the national budget for the forthcoming fiscal year of 2022-23. To ensure a women-friendly business environment, they sought a three-year VAT and tax exemption facilities for new entrepreneurs.
- BWCCI president Selima Ahmad said, the government should allocate BDT 200 crore for women entrepreneurs from its Covid stimulus package to bounce back from the economic crisis. She also suggested reducing the trade licence fees over 50 % to boost the women entrepreneurs.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/163025/bwcci-seeks-raising-tax-free-income-limit>

Abdul Monem EZ gravitates giant investors

- The under-construction economic zone on the banks of the Meghna in Munshiganj's Gazaria allotted 5 acres of land for a facility of the US-based multinational chemical producer Huntsman Corporation. It has already accommodated a big factory of the Japanese motorcycle manufacturer Honda Motor Corporation.
- Investment of several other manufacturers, including the Turkish home appliance producer Arçelik, are in the pipeline. Huntsman will produce chemicals used in the apparel industry, with an initial investment of USD20 million. The company has already bought 57% shares of the publicly-listed company Singer Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/abdul-monem-ez-gravitates-giant-investors-372079>

Rubber production grows on local demand, rising exports

- Export earnings from rubber shot up 57 % year-on-year to USD28 million in the July-January period of the current fiscal year, from USD18.3 million during the same period a year ago. Rubber production was around 20,000 tonnes a couple of years ago and it rose to 43,000 tonnes last year.

- Currently, rubber is being grown on 100,000 acres of land with private operators running 1,304 gardens and state agencies operating 28 gardens. The overall tax, including 15 % value-added tax, stands at 24 % for the locally produced rubbers whereas importers can bring the item by paying a 5 % tariff.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rubber-production-grows-local-demand-rising-exports-2964911>

Banks to submit daily reports

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has included the OBU operations in a new head of daily foreign-currency-monitoring report. The daily-reporting obligation is scheduled to take effect finally from March 21. The BB officials, however, say the daily monitoring report will help them know about real situation on the country's foreign-exchange (forex) market.
- Under the BB's latest policy, the banks are now allowed to fix the interest rates on buyers/suppliers' credit at six-month LIBOR (London Inter-bank Offered Rate) plus maximum 3.50%. Effective interest rate on foreign-currency credit is now around 4.0%, according to the private banker.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-to-submit-daily-reports-1645122240>

Dual compensation package for landowners introduced in new power tower policy

- The government has amended the Power Rules 2020 to specify the process of compensation to the landowners on construction of power towers, making such provision for dual compensation package. Compensation for land lease has to be given at a 'regular market price', as determined in the amended rules, while the land-owners could also claim compensation for the crops. The amended rule would help in implementation of the Power Act 2018.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/dual-compensation-package-for-landowners-introduced-in-new-power-tower-policy-1645152572>

BSEC cuts min. limit to BDT 2.0m for investors

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) said any investor registered with the electronic subscription system (ESS) of the exchanges at time of Qualified Investors Offers (QIOs) and any investor maintaining a minimum investment of BDT 2.0 million or above in the listed securities at market value/cost, which is higher as per the portfolio statement, shall be eligible as qualified investors. Earlier, the threshold was BDT 10 million.
- It said that the Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL) shall provide detailed information of the eligible investors on the basis of condition about trading at the secondary market of Small Capital Platform of the exchanges on quarterly basis to the stock exchanges and the exchanges shall register automatically and update such list of eligible investors accordingly. The exchanges shall provide fully free automated (online/offline) registration at free of cost for the purpose of trading of securities listed with the platform.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bsec-cuts-min-limit-to-tk-20m-for-investors-1645122390>

Ring Shine Textiles needs BDT 30cr to stay afloat

- Performing poorly, Ring Shine Textiles Ltd wants to use another BDT30 crore of its initial public offering (IPO) funds to assist in production and sales. It has utilised BDT 90 crore of its BDT 150 crore in IPO funds, raised upon listing on the stock exchanges in 2019.
- In the January-March quarter, it will clear BDT 10 crore of the BDT 22 crore in dues to retrenched workers. Bepza asked it to clear at least BDT20 crore of its dues. Otherwise, the authority will suspend the export-import permits of the company, which may lead to the closure of the company once again.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ring-shine-textiles-needs-tk30cr-stay-afloat-372316>

Beximco Synthetics' EGM for exit plan approval

- In order to secure shareholder approval for its exit plan from the stock exchanges, Beximco Synthetics Ltd will hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on 10 March this year. In September last year, the company's board of directors decided to wind-up and delist Beximco Synthetics from the bourses.
- The company said despite its best efforts, its business was significantly hampered by the government's reduction of duties on the importing of synthetic yarn. It also failed to declare any dividends and maintain its targeted production and profitability for the last seven years, and thus fell into huge losses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/beximco-synthetics-egm-exit-plan-approval-372292>

Paper Processing wants to more than double its authorised capital

- The current authorised capital of the printing and publication firm, is BDT25 crore, which is divided by 2.5 crore general shares having a face value of BDT10 each. Now the company plans to raise it to BDT60 crore, which will be divided by 6 crore general shares.
- To make it happen, the company will have to amend its memorandum of association – the most important document that specifies its operations and purposes. For six months through December last year, its revenue surged by 298% to BDT 27.55 crore, and net profit jumped to BDT 2.11 crore from BDT 4.01 lakh a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/paper-processing-wants-more-double-its-authorised-capital-372277>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 90.99	USD 15.78	20.98%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 92.26	USD 14.48	18.62%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,891.00	USD 61.80	3.38%
DSEX	6,991.36	234.70	3.47%
S&P 500	4,380.26	-385.92	-8.10%
FTSE 100	7,537.37	152.83	2.07%
BSE SENSEX	57,892.01	-361.81	-0.62%
KSE-100	45,441.10	845.03	1.89%
CSEALL	12,352.38	126.37	1.03%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 85.84 BDT****1 GBP = 116.76 BDT****1 Euro = 97.55 BDT****1 INR = 1.14 BDT**

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