

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.

All exports to pass thru port scanning

- All exports from Bangladesh will now pass through port scanning in compliance with international shipment security standards and so the process of installing scanners at all gates of Chattogram seaport begins. Officials say the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) will soon start shipment of all outbound containers by checking with the scanning machines. They say the move has been made to meet the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) compliance.
- Presently, no export containers are scanned with machine in the country's prime seaport. Sources said the port authority last week asked some seven inland container-depot owners to shift their offices located outside the Chattogram Port Access Road (CPAR) gate so that a scanner machine can be set up there to scan outbound boxes.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/all-exports-to-pass-thru-port-scanning-1643391677>

Dhaka ducks Delhi's LoC loan for hard tags

- Bangladesh decides to avoid funding from the Indian Line of Credit (LoC) to install river-crossing electricity transmission lines from Rooppur nuclear power plant following exorbitant procurement price quotes. Officials say the funds, worth USD 330 million, might now be arranged by the government itself from the country's foreign-exchange reserves with assistance from a state-run commercial bank.
- Officials said the entire electricity-evacuation facilities of the 2,400 MW RNPP project, including 20-kilometre electricity-transmission lines, were supposed to be implemented under India's third LoC funding facility worth USD 1.0 billion. But the bid as offered by the designated Indian contractor was much higher than the estimated cost, leading to rejection of the offer, according to the sources.
- State-run Power Grid Corporation of Bangladesh (PGCB) will float an international tender very soon to build the transmission line, PGCB managing director Golam Kibria told the FE Thursday. Indian firms are, however, building onshore electricity transmission lines of the RNPP project under the LoC funding, he adds.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/dhaka-ducks-delhis-loc-loan-for-hard-tags-1643342494>

36% banks in BD still go banking manually

- Bangladesh's 36 % of banks still go banking on manual-documentation process in this digital era while another 46 % operate partly in digitised modes, a survey shows. Researchers at Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) also found 12 % of the banks unable to conduct meetings on virtual platforms, amid the pandemic, till December last year for "lack of adequate infrastructure".
- However, 56 % of the banks have been conducting their meetings virtually since the pandemic hit the country while 32 % met virtually during the peak of the pandemic, according to the survey. Furthermore, rural bank locations were unable to implement alternative digital channels for client connections. In 2021, the rostering arrangement was reduced in 49-% banks as both vaccine requirements were met by then, but in 2020, some 71-% banks were run through rostering process.
- Some 13-% banks in 2021 and 14 % in 2020 ran the operations through mostly work-from-home arrangement, the survey found. Another 17-% banks couldn't adopt online account opening, automated challan system for fee-based transactions, and online transactions for payment of installments and other banking charges for clients as part of the

digital transformation during pandemic. The paper states that transformation and restructuring processes in the banking industry require huge investment not only in technology but also in human-resource development.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/36pc-banks-in-bd-still-go-banking-manually-1643391889>

Housing, business hubs blossom centring metro rail

- The launch of the Metro Rail Line-6 from Diabari to Motijheel will herald a change in the communication system of the capital, complemented by an increase in civic amenities. Officials concerned said the metro rail will decrease travel time and costs, while at the same time it will also boost the country's economic growth and create millions of new jobs. According to railway officials, the train will run from Diabari in the capital to Agargaon via Pallabi and Mirpur by December this year. In 2024, the train will run from Diabari to Motijheel. About 75% of the project, called MRT Line-6, has already been completed.
- Housing hubs, various business establishments, factories, educational institutions, hospitals and various civic centres are already being set up in Uttara 12, 15, 16, 17 and 18 sectors, Mirpur 11 and 12, and Pallabi areas of the capital centring the project.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/housing-business-hubs-blossom-centring-metro-rail-363487>

Beximco Pharma, Acme Lab log robust profit growth

- Two listed drug makers -- Beximco Pharma and Acme Laboratories -- posted higher profits in the first half of the current fiscal year (FY) 2021-22, thanks to higher sales amid pandemic. The sales rose riding on higher medicine consumption, which boosted revenue of the pharma companies and their earnings per share as well, industry insiders said.
- Beximco Pharma's sales jumped to BDT 16.96 billion for July-December 2021 as against BDT 14.40 billion in the same period of the previous year, according to the financial statements published on Friday. Beximco Pharma clocked a net profit after tax of BDT 3.14 billion in the first half of the FY '22, up 40.65 % from BDT 2.23 billion in the same period a year earlier, The company has also reported consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 7.12 for July-December 2021, which was BDT 4.95 in the July-December 2020.
- Meanwhile, ACME Laboratories' net profit after tax increased 38.22 % to BDT 1.09 billion for July-December 2021, up from BDT 791.63 million in the same period a year ago. The drug maker's revenue rose to BDT 11.61 billion in July-December 2021, as against BDT 9.99 billion in the same period a year earlier. The company has also reported earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 5.17 for July-December 2021, which was BDT 3.74 in July-December 2020. Each share of the Acme Laboratories closed at BDT 88.50 on Thursday, losing 0.11 % over the previous day.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/beximco-pharma-acme-lab-log-robust-profit-growth-1643386675>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 86.82	USD 11.61	15.44%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 90.03	USD 12.25	15.75%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,791.53	(USD 37.67)	-2.06%
DSEX	7,027.55	270.89	4.01%
S&P 500	4,431.85	-334.33	-7.01%
FTSE 100	7,466.07	81.53	1.10%
BSE SENSEX	57,200.23	-1,053.59	-1.81%
KSE-100	45,077.91	481.84	1.08%
CSEALL	12,863.14	637.13	5.21%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 85.89 BDT
1 GBP = 115.10 BDT
1 Euro = 95.76 BDT
1 INR = 1.15 BDT

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