

Exports bounce back in July Export earnings in July soared 26.54 percent to \$3.2 billion, marking a strong rebound after lacklustre performance in the fiscal year that concluded in June. July's receipts, however, narrowly missed the monthly target of \$3.23 billion, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau. The surge in exports was led by garment, whose shipments soared 17.08 percent year-on-year to \$2.47 billion in July. Still, the sector's export earnings fell short of the monthly target by 5 percent.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/exports-bounce-back-july-1446214>

Inflation inches down to 5.57pc Inflation declined for the first time in eight months in July thanks to a fall in prices of both food and non-food items. Last month, the consumer price index fell 0.37 percentage points to 5.57 percent from a month earlier, according to figures released yesterday by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal disclosed the inflation figures after the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council in his ministry. The fall in inflation came as a surprise for a number of economists. "Given the rise in rice price and the devaluation of the taka against dollar, which makes imports costlier, we had apprehended that inflation would go up," said Towfiqul Islam Khan, a research fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/business/inflation-inches-down-557pc-1446211>

Country's economy to be 30th largest in five yrs, in PPP terms Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) now stands at US\$686.59 billion in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), making it the 32nd largest economy in the world in 2017. Bangladesh's GDP, in terms of PPP, is expected to cross \$1,000 billion, making the country the 30th largest economy of the world in 2022. The Review of Economic Situation in Bangladesh for April-June 2017 (Q4 of FY17), prepared by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), included the estimate. The leading chamber mentioned the size of the Bangladesh's GDP on the basis of the World Economic Outlook of the IMF (International Monetary Fund), released in April, 2017.

<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2017/08/10/79434/Country's-economy-to-be-30th-largest-in-five-yrs.-in-PPP-terms>

Bank liquidity rises on lending slowdown Overall excess liquidity with country's commercial banks increased, as of June, for a lending downturn. Sources in banking circles find two cardinal causes --- lower credit growth, particularly in the private sector, and lesser government borrowing from the banking system -- for the rise in excess liquidity. They said suspension of government borrowing from the banking system partly contributed to the surge in excess liquidity with the banks. The volume of excess liquidity rose to Tk 1.06 trillion in the last week of June from below Tk 1.0 trillion in May, officials said. It was Tk 1.23 trillion in the last week of December 2016, according to statistics with the Bangladesh Bank (BB). "Most of the excess liquidity has already been invested in the government-approved securities and BB bills as a risk-free investment for the banks," a senior official of the central bank told the FE.

<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2017/08/10/79436/Bank-liquidity-rises-on-lending-slowdown>

Decision to bring cement under mandatory jute packaging rules The government has taken a decision to add cement to the list of products under the mandatory jute packaging rules aimed at increasing the local use of jute-made bags. The decision was made recently at an advisory committee meeting, presided over by Imaz Uddin Pramanik, Minister, Ministry of Textiles and Jute (MoTJ). State Minister Mirza Azam, MoTJ Joint Secretary Nasima Begum, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, representatives from the jute millers and jute goods producers, among others, attended the meeting. A total of 17 products are at present on the list of mandatory jute packaging law, which covers paddy, rice, wheat, maize, fertiliser, sugar, spices, turmeric, onion, ginger, garlic, coriander, pulses, potato, flour, crude flour (ata) and rice bran oil.

<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2017/08/09/79415/Decision-to-bring-cement-under-mandatory-jute-packaging-rules>

Ctg port congestion lingers Chittagong port's spatial crisis seems no nearer to resolution as import goods-laden containers are now being piled up for failure to timely despatch them to the overflowing 16 inland container depots. After the containers are unloaded from ships, they are taken to the ICDs, dotted around Chittagong, from where the importers take their delivery. As of yesterday, a total of 6,581 TEUs (twenty feet equivalent units) of import-laden containers were lying at the port yards, which is way past the capacity of 1,000-1,500 TEUs. To reduce such congestion, the Chittagong Port Authority is pressurising the privately-owned ICDs to mobilise the containers faster by engaging more vehicles. But the ICD owners said they are now jam-packed with empty containers, caused by a chain reaction of the ongoing congestion at the port for the last three months.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/business/ctg-port-congestion-lingers-1446208>

Index Summary

	8/9/17	8/8/17	Point Change	% Change
DSEX	5,890.13	5,897.68	(7.55)	-0.13%
DS30	2,121.22	2,119.65	1.56	0.07%
DSES	1,311.25	1,309.36	1.89	0.14%

Market Activities

	8/9/17	8/8/17	% Change
Mkt. Turnover (BDT mn)	8,661.0	9,447.5	-8.32%
Mkt. Turnover (USD mn)	107.48	117.24	-8.32%
Total No of Trade	139,446	142,002	-1.80%
Trade Volume (mn)	298.40	341.97	-12.74%

Market Valuation

	8/9/17	8/8/17	% Change
Mkt. Capitalization (BDT bn)	3,964.6	3,963.6	0.03%
Mkt. Capitalization (USD bn)	49.20	49.19	0.03%
Trailing Market P/E*	16.61	16.61	0.04%
Annualized Market P/E**	18.16	18.15	0.04%
Market P/BV	2.29	2.29	0.04%
Dividend Yield	2.86%	2.86%	-0.04%

NBR forms panel to resolve tax disputes with telcos The National Board of Revenue yesterday formed a tripartite committee with representatives from the telecom regulator and mobile operators to resolve some pending issues. The committee will submit a report to the revenue board with suggestions to settle the sector's tax-related disputes. At present, mobile operators and the revenue board have disputes involving Tk 4,405.01 crore on issues relating to SIM replacement, interest on SIM tax, VAT on commercial rent and illegal rebate. The revenue board also has an unresolved Tk 765.91 crore VAT rebate issue involving the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, according to an official who attended the meeting.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/business/nbr-forms-panel-resolve-tax-disputes-telcos-1446202>

Plan to import 1 lakh tonnes of rice, wheat The government plans to import another one lakh tonnes of rice and wheat to improve food stocks. The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved the proposal at a meeting. The committee also approved setting up of 10 fuel-based quick rental power plants with a total power generation capacity of 1,768 megawatts. Of the foodgrains, 50,000 tonnes of rice will be imported at a price of \$419.51 per tonne. The lowest bidder, Singapore-based M/s Olam International Ltd, will import the rice.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/business/plan-import-1-lakh-tonnes-rice-wheat-1446199>

Food price hike pushes up general inflation Food price hike in both rural and urban areas increased in July on point-to-point basis as the general inflation continued to record upward trend. The food inflation in rural area was recorded at 6.86 per cent in July over 3.59 per cent recorded in July 2016. In urban area, the food inflation was recorded at 7.15 per cent in July over 6.1 per cent recorded in exact one year ago. The general inflation rose to 5.57 per cent in July compared to 5.40 per cent in July 2016.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/21602/food-price-hike-pushes-up-general-inflation>

ADB approves \$200m for urban infrastructure dev Asian Development Bank's board of directors has approved a loan package totalling \$200 million to strengthen urban infrastructure, service delivery, and governance in Bangladesh's municipalities. 'Specifically, the additional financing for the third project, bringing total ADB financing up to \$325 million, will contribute toward building or improving 600 kilometers (km) of roads and 300 km of drains, and install or upgrade 180 km of pipes for water supply with 60,000 metered household connections,' said an ADB media release.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/21591/adb-approves-200m-for-urban-infrastructure-dev>

Microcredit Regulatory Authority to set up credit information bureau Microcredit Regulatory Authority has taken initiative to set up a credit information bureau with a view to strengthening the credit operations run by the microfinance institutions and non-government organisations. The MRA signed a memorandum of understanding with Bangladesh Bank on August 8 for setting up a microfinance credit information bureau (MF-CIB) at the central bank headquarters in the capital. A BB official told New Age on Wednesday that the central bank would provide technical support to the MRA to set up the MF-CIB as the regulators of the MFIs will establish its new wing matching up the central bank's CIB. He said that a technical committee would be formed comprising officials of the central bank and the MRA to set up the MF-CIB within the shortest possible time after which the body will take an action plan to establish the new wing.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/21623/microcredit-regulatory-authority-to-set-up-credit-information-bureau>

Fuel-hungry Ctg industries get gas early 2018, Dhaka's thereafter Fuel-hungry industries in Chittagong will be getting new piped gas connections from the first half of next year while those in Dhaka and elsewhere shortly afterwards. The fresh gas supply will start immediate after the import of LNG (liquefied natural gas) into the country, according to government's energy plans rolled out Wednesday. Energy Secretary Nazimuddin Chowdhury disclosed the government plans at a seminar at the Petrobangla auditorium on the occasion of the National Energy Security Day. Prime Minister's adviser on energy issues Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury was chief guest at the seminar. The energy secretary said all necessary arrangements are being made to import LNG to meet country's mounting natural gas demand. "From next year, we hope nobody will be able to say country's industrialisation is being impeded due to energy crisis," he told the function.

<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2017/08/10/79431/Fuel-hungry-Ctg-industries-get-gas-early-2018.-Dhaka's-thereafter>

Govt endorses bids to set up 10 IPP plants The government on Wednesday approved proposals of signing deals for setting up 10 diesel and furnace oil-fired independent power producer (IPP) plants. Cabinet Committee on Public Procurement gave the approval at a meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat with Finance Minister A M A Muhith in the chair. The committee also gave approval for rice and wheat import alongside signing agreement for setting up a LNG terminal, among others. Briefing newsmen after the meeting Cabinet Division Additional Secretary Mustafizur Rahman said from the newly-approved IPP plants per unit of diesel-fired electricity will cost the exchequer Tk 19.66 to Tk 19.99, while the furnace oil-fired electricity will cost Tk 8.25 to Tk 8.37 per unit.

<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2017/08/10/79429/Govt-endorses-bids-to-set-up-10-IPP-plants>

১০ বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র অনুমোদন: তালিকায় শাহজিবাজার, কনফিডেন্স, সামিট, ওরিয়ন দেশের ক্রমবর্ধমান বিদ্যুতের চাহিদা মেটাতে নতুন করে আরও ১০ বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র অনুমোদন দিয়েছে সরকার। একইসঙ্গে এসব কেন্দ্রের মেয়াদ ও ট্যারিফ মূল্য নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে। এর মধ্যে একাধিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র স্থাপন করবে পুঁজিবাজারের তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান শাহজিবাজার, কনফিডেন্স, সামিট, ওরিয়ন পাওয়ার লিমিটেড। ১০টি কেন্দ্রের মাধ্যমে প্রায় ১৮০০ মেগাওয়াট বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদনের লক্ষ্য নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে। এর মধ্যে ৯৬৮ মেগাওয়াট বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন হবে ফার্নেস অয়েল ভিত্তিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র। বাকি ৮০০ মেগাওয়াট বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন হবে ডিজেল ভিত্তিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র থেকে।

<http://www.arthosuchak.com/archives/362673/>

বিপিডিবি'র চিঠি পেয়েছে বারাকা সাবসিডিয়ারি চট্টগ্রামের শিকলবাহায় বিল্ড, ওন, অপারেট (বিওও) শর্তে ১১০ মেগাওয়াট ক্ষমতার একটি এইচএফওভিত্তিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র স্থাপনে বাংলাদেশ পাওয়ার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বোর্ডের (বিপিডিবি) অনুমতিপত্র (এলওআই) পেয়েছে কর্ণফুলী পাওয়ার লিমিটেড। গতকাল বারাকা পাওয়ার লিমিটেড জানিয়েছে, তাদের সাবসিডিয়ারি বারাকা পতেঙ্গা পাওয়ার লিমিটেড বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্রটির ৫১ শতাংশ শেয়ারের মালিক। এর বাইরে বারাকা পাওয়ার নিজে নতুন বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্রটির ২৫ শতাংশ শেয়ার ধারণ করবে। সব মিলিয়ে শেষ পর্যন্ত কর্ণফুলী পাওয়ারের ৫১ দশমিক শূন্য ১ শতাংশ শেয়ার থাকবে বারাকা পাওয়ারের হাতে।

<http://bonikbarta.net/bangla/news/2017-08-10/127302/>

থিউরিটিক্যাল অ্যাডজাস্টমেন্টের কবলে ন্যাশনাল লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স শেয়ারবাজার রিপোর্ট: থিউরিটিক্যাল অ্যাডজাস্টমেন্টের কারণে ন্যাশনাল লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্সের শেয়ার দর আজ ১২ শতাংশ পড়েছে। এর ফলে কোম্পানিটি আজ লুজারের শীর্ষে উঠে এসেছে। এদিন ঢাকা স্টক একচেঞ্জ (ডিএসই) কোম্পানির শেয়ার দর ১২.৩৩ শতাংশ এবং চট্টগ্রাম স্টক একচেঞ্জ (সিএসই) ১১.৫৩ শতাংশ কমে লুজারের শীর্ষে উঠে আসে। জানা যায়, কোম্পানিটির গতকাল ডিভিডেন্ড ও এজিএম সংক্রান্ত রেকর্ড ডেট ছিলো। আর আজ কোম্পানির রেকর্ড ডেটের পরের কার্যদিবস ছিলো বলে দর সংশোধন হয়েছে। এর ফলে কোম্পানিটির শেয়ার দর উভয় স্টক একচেঞ্জ কমেছে। উল্লেখ্য, ন্যাশনাল লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৬ সমাপ্ত অর্থবছরে শেয়ারহোল্ডারদের জন্য ২০ শতাংশ ক্যাশ ও ১৫ শতাংশ ডিভিডেন্ড দেওয়ার ঘোষণা দেয়।

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LBSL Capital Market Research Department

Analyst	Designation	E-mail
Md. Mahfuzur Rahman	Head of Research	mrahman@lbsbd.com
Md. Rezwanaur Rahman	Senior Research Associate	rezwanur.rahman@lbsbd.com
Salma Yeasmin Xinat	Senior Research Associate	salma@lbsbd.com
Debashish Sutradhar	Senior Research Associate	debashish.sutradhar@lbsbd.com
Quazi Naureen Ahmed	Research Associate	naureen.quazi@lbsbd.com
Ahmed Irtiza	Research Associate	ahmed.irtiza@lbsbd.com
Salman Rahman	Research Associate	salman.rahman@lbsbd.com

Institutional & Foreign Trade Department

Rehan Muhammad Head of Business rehan@lbsbd.com/rmuhammad1@bloomberg.net

LankaBangla Securities Limited

Capital Market Research Department Corporate Office
A.A. Bhaban (Level-5) 23 Motijheel C/A Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Phone: +880-2-9513794 (Ext-122) Fax: +880-2-9563902
Website: www.lbsbd.com