



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Bangladesh: Economy

March 01, 2022

Cabinet Okays Policy Focusing on Economic Diplomacy

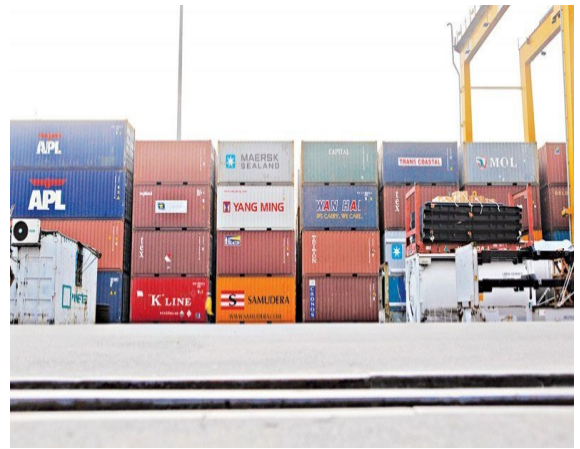
‘The Export Policy 2021-24 has been prepared keeping in view the possible challenges Bangladesh may face following its graduation from the least developed country in 2026 although we will have grace period till 2030 in the European countries,’ cabinet secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam told a press conference at the secretariat after the weekly cabinet meeting.

The cabinet secretary said that the economic diplomacy was given importance in the export policy usually updated every three years to diversify the country’s export industries and promote exports in various sectors.

The three-year policy has a target of total the export earnings from both the goods and services at \$80 billion in 2024.

According to the official data, Bangladesh’s export earnings in the financial year 2020-21 fetched \$38.75 billion from goods and \$6.61 billion from services.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/164027/cabinet-okays-policy-focusing-on-economic-diplomacy>



MetLife Settled Life Insurance Claims Worth Tk 1,792cr in 2021

In the last five years (2017-2021), cumulatively MetLife Bangladesh has settled claims of Tk 5,900 crore. To make insurance more convenient and trustworthy for customers, MetLife has begun using Artificial Intelligence for the online submission of insurance claims.

As a result, customers can now receive their claims within three days upon uploading the correct documents.

MetLife Bangladesh has been serving over a million individual customers and more than 800 corporate clients.

In this regard, Ala Ahmad, chief executive officer, MetLife Bangladesh, said, ‘We are committed to stand beside our customers by settling claims in an efficient and transparent manner. We will continue to make the claims settlement process even faster to improve customer convenience.’

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/164007/metlife-settled-life-insurance-claims-worth-tk-1792cr-in-2021>

Excellence in claim settlement
by MetLife in Bangladesh

Claims settled in 2021
1,792 Crore Taka

In the last five years, we have stood beside millions of families by settling over 5,900 crore taka of claims.

MetLife

জীবনের পাথে চলি একসাথে

BSEC Plans to Allow Share Selling the Day after Purchase

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has taken an initiative to reduce the trade settlement cycles on bourses by a day.

Once implemented, investors can sell a share on the very next trading session after their purchase, while currently, they have to wait at least one day in the middle of the buying and selling days.

BSEC Commissioner Shaikh Shamsuddin Ahmed told The Business Standard the regulator is working on the plan as a part of its mission to take the country's capital market to an international standard.

Currently, in the settlement process, the seller's broker gives shares, the buyer's broker pays the money and that has been done through the stock exchanges. The process also includes updating the share ownership data with the Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd (CDBL).



Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-plans-allow-share-selling-day-after-purchase-377914>

Banglalink's Profit Drops 22.97% despite Revenue Growth

Despite significant revenue growth, the operating profit of Banglalink, the country's third largest mobile operator, dropped by 22.97% to Tk488.66crore in 2021.

In the previous year, it made Tk634.40cr in operating profit from Bangladesh, according to the company's financial result published by VEON Ltd (VEON), the parent organisation of Banglalink on Monday.

During the same period, the operator's network investment also dropped sharply by 29.6%.

In 2021, Banglalink's revenue grew to Tk4,794.1cr, up from Tk4560.1cr in the previous year.

Commenting on the revenue growth, Banglalink's Chief Executive Officer Erik Aas, said, "Banglalink's revenue growth indicates an increase in performance as the company continues to execute its growth strategy."



Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/banglalinks-profit-drops-2297-despite-revenue-growth-377875>

Stocks Return to the Black

Bangladesh's stocks bounced back yesterday enabling investors to recoup some of their losses incurred in the previous two days.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), soared 63 points, or 0.94 per cent, to 6,739 yesterday. The CASPI, the key index at the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), soared 140 points, or 0.72 per cent, to 19,641.

Stocks of Beximco Ltd traded the most worth Tk 55 crore followed by Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Anwar Galvanizing, Fortune Shoes, and Sonali Paper and Board Mills.

Among the sectors, paper & printing, jute and general insurance witnessed highest price appreciation, whereas cement, travel & leisure, and ceramic sectors recorded prices decline.

The gainers took a strong lead over the losers, as out of 377 issues traded, 314 advanced, 36 declined and 27 remained unchanged on the DSE floor.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/stocks-return-the-black-2972906>



Nebras Power Makes first Phase Payment to Unique Hotel for Power Plant Acquisition

Nebras Power Investment Management BV, a Qatar based investment company, has paid Tk82 crore to Unique Hotel and Resorts Ltd as the first phase payment for acquiring Unique Meghnaghat Power Ltd - a power plant of Unique Hotel.

In April last year, Nebras Power signed an agreement with Unique Hotel and Strategic Finance & Investments Ltd to buy a 24% stake in Unique Meghnaghat Power at a total cost of Tk450 crore.

Currently, Unique Hotel owns 65.01% of the power plant and Strategic Finance holds the rest.

As per the agreement, Unique Hotel will sell 11.76% of its holding at a value of Tk205 crore, and Strategic Finance will sell 12.24% of its holding at a value of Tk245 crore. Nebras will pay off the total amount in four phases.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/nebras-power-makes-first-phase-payment-unique-hotel-power-plant-acquisition-377890>



Russian Ruble Tanks 30pc

Russia's ruble plunged nearly 30 per cent against the dollar Monday after world powers imposed fresh, harsher sanctions on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

The ruble was indicated to be down 27 per cent at 114.33 per dollar in offshore trading, according to Bloomberg News.

The United States and European Union said they would exclude some Russian banks from the international bank payments system SWIFT and personally targeted Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. They also banned all transactions with Russia's central bank.

Meanwhile, the G7 nations -- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States -- warned they would "take further steps" to add to the sanctions already announced if Russia did not cease its operation.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/russian-ruble-tanks-30pc-2972891>



Oil Prices Rise to \$103.06

West Texas Intermediate crude surged more than 6 per cent Monday and Brent jumped more than 5 per cent as traders grow increasingly worried about an energy crisis after Western nations imposed fresh sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

WTI rose 6.27 per cent to \$ 97.33, while Brent crude was up 5.24 per cent at \$ 103.06.

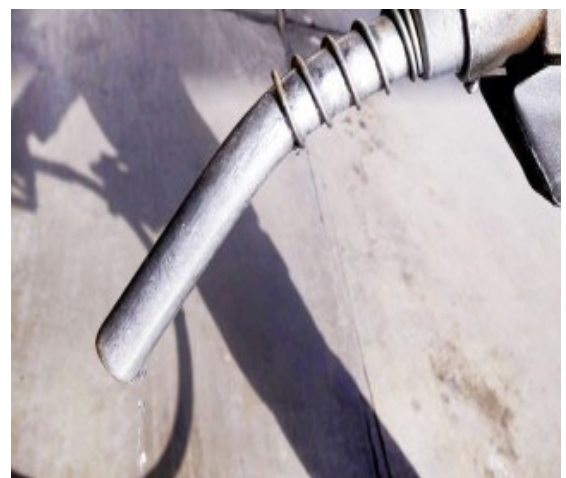
The United States and European Union said they would exclude some Russian banks from the international SWIFT payments system and personally targeted president Vladimir Putin and foreign minister Sergei Lavrov.

They also banned all transactions with Russia's central bank, sending the ruble crashing with Bloomberg saying it was nearly 30 per cent down in offshore trading Monday.

'Removing some Russian banks from SWIFT could result in a disruption of oil supplies as buyers and sellers try to figure out how to navigate the new rules,' Andy Lipow, of Lipow Oil Associates in Houston, Texas, noted.

Traders will be closely watching a meeting this week of OPEC and other major producers led by Russia, where they will discuss plans for further output.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/164035/oil-prices-rise-to-10306>



Thailand's Economy Rebounds in Q4

Thailand's economy rebounded in the fourth quarter of last year on the back of rising exports and the easing of coronavirus restrictions that allowed tourists to return, senior officials said Monday.

The 1.9 per cent on-year expansion was more than double what was forecast and marked a strong bounce after a 0.2 per cent contraction in the previous three months.

For the whole year the economy grew 1.6 per cent, according to the National Economic and Social Development Council, and also beat expectations.

South East Asia's second largest economy was hit with a 6.1 per cent contraction in 2020 -- its worst economic performance since the 1997 Asian Economic Crisis.

The NESDC said it saw growth of 3.5-4.5 per cent this year as tourism picks up and government spending kicks in.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/thailands-economy-rebounds-q4-2967516>



Gold Bid, Stocks Dumped further

Russia's invasion of Ukraine saw investors scrambling for the safety of gold and the protection of inflation hedges as weeks of brinkmanship came to a head on Thursday.

While market participants had been bracing for some form of aggression on Russia's part, Thursday's attack that brought explosions even in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, and across the country, made the war real for market participants.

Trader playbooks seemed to change from one that was built around the possibility of a diplomatic resolution to the crisis, to what had at one point been a tail-risk, or extreme, scenario.

"It looks pretty clear that they are moving toward Kyiv, which was always one of the worst case scenarios, because we now have a long night ahead of us trying to understand how bad this gets, and what sanctions get put up," said Chris Weston, head of research at brokerage Pepperstone in Melbourne.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/gold-bid-stocks-dumped-further-2970031>



Disclaimer

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