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## Stock Market & Company

### Stocks drop for sixth day

Newage, October 18, 2021

- Dhaka stocks dropped for the sixth day on Monday as investors unnerved by the recent downward trend on the market continued selling shares to avoid any further losses. DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 1.24 per cent, or 89.18 points, to close at 7,097.27 points on Monday.
- The DSEX lost 129 points at one point of the day on panic-driven share sales but recovered some losses at the end of the session.
- Among the prominent companies, share prices of Square Pharmaceuticals, British American Tobacco Company, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Grameenphone and BRAC Bank plunged on Monday.
- Average share prices of non-bank financial institution, textile, general insurance and pharmaceutical sectors dropped by 2.6 per cent, 2.3 per cent, 1.2 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively. Turnover on the DSE declined to Tk 1,393.83 crore on Monday from Tk 1,655.37 crore in the previous session.
- Of the 374 scrips traded on the DSE on Monday, 324 declined, just 33 advanced and 17 remained unchanged. DS30, a composition of 30 large capitalised companies, dropped by 0.98 per cent, or 26.58 points, to close at 2,678.26.58 points on Monday.
- Shariah index DSES shed 1.36 per cent, or 21.14 points, to settle at 1,525.17 points. DSMEX Index, an index of the SME platform, slid by 4 per cent, or 29.87 points, to close at 716.45 points on Monday.
- Orion Pharmaceuticals led the turnover chart with its shares worth Tk 89.76 crore changing hands on the day. Delta Life Insurance, British American Tobacco Company, Fortune Shoes, BEXIMCO, IFIC Bank, NRBC Bank, Genex Infosys and Power Grid Company were the other turnover leaders on the day.



<https://www.newagebd.net/article/152130/stocks-drop-for-sixth-day>

## Heidelberg Cement's losses rise in Jul-Sep despite higher sales

The Daily Star, October 19, 2021

- Listed multinational Heidelberg Cement Bangladesh Limited has incurred higher losses year-on-year in the July-September period of the current year despite a rise in sales.
- Sales had gone up 21 per cent to Tk 306 crore from Tk 251 crore in the same quarter of last year, said the company's quarterly report published yesterday after a board meeting. However, the cement maker failed to prevent a loss of Tk 10.78 crore during the period this year, which was Tk 2.7 crore in the same period of the previous year.
- Despite incurring a higher loss, the Heidelberg Cement logged a profit of Tk 55 crore in the nine months of this year. It was a loss of Tk 17 crore in the same period of the previous year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/heidelbergcements-losses-rise-jul-sep-despite-higher-sales>

## Singer's Q3 profit crashes

The Daily Star, October 19, 2021

- Profits of Singer Bangladesh, a listed multinational home appliance manufacturer, suffered a year-on-year crash in the July-September period of the current year for a slump in sales amidst the pandemic. Net profit nosedived 70 per cent to Tk 12.72 crore from Tk 42.63 crore in the same period the previous year, according to the company's quarterly financial report published yesterday after a board meeting.
- Meanwhile, sales dropped 26 per cent to Tk 460 crore from Tk 625 crore. Earnings per share stood at Tk 1.28 whereas it was Tk 4.28 a year earlier. In the first quarter of the year, sales exceeded expectations thanks to positive customer behaviour and turnouts, the company said in its financial report.
- Sale of cooling products and demand for computers, sewing machines and others were higher than anticipated. Promotional activities were also run to actualise market demand and increase sales.
- Sales dropped to Tk 1,495 crore in 2020, which was Tk 1,537 crore in the preceding year. Profits also slid to Tk 80 crore from Tk 103 crore. Yesterday, stocks of Singer Bangladesh dropped 0.60 per cent to Tk 183.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/singers-q3-profit-crashes-2201801>

## Lovello profit soars defying pandemic shock

The Business Standard, October 18, 2021

- Beating the pandemic shock, ice cream maker Taufika Foods and Lovello Ice-cream PLC has registered a 53% jump in net profit for the 2020-21 fiscal. Despite the lower sales due to the pandemic as its profit rose, its board of directors has recommended 11% cash dividends for the shareholders.
- On Monday, the company published the financial statement as price-sensitive information (PSI). The net profit for FY21 stood at Tk11.98 crore while the earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk1.41 for FY21, which was Tk6.20 crore and EPS Tk1.31 respectively in the previous fiscal year.
- Earlier, up to the first nine months of that fiscal, its revenue had declined but profit slightly rose for cost optimisation over the same time of the previous year. Up to June 2021, its net asset value per share stood at Tk12.57, which was Tk12.75 in the previous year.
- The company said its annual general meeting will be held on 28 December and the record date has been fixed for 17 November. In the first nine months of FY21, the net sales were Tk53.88 crore and net profit of Tk4.66 crore.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/lovello-profit-soars-defying-pandemic-shock-317824>

## Saif Powertec to sign off-dock deal with railway Tuesday

The Business Standard, October 18, 2021

- Bangladesh Railway's Container Company of Bangladesh Limited (CCBL) and Saif Powertec Ltd are set to sign an agreement on Tuesday to build a new Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Chattogram.
- Saif Powertec will build a new ICD on a 21.29-acre land, owned by the Bangladesh Railway, at Halishahar in the port city, with an estimated expense of Tk300 crore to boost the capacity of Chattogram port, said people linked to the project. The ICD will contribute Tk120 crore to business by handling two lakh containers per year. It will create about 500 jobs, they added.
- According to the agreement, Saif Powertec will hand over a fully operational ICD after a 20-year term and then the next operating entity will be selected through an open tender.
- Experience in the ICD sector, including container terminal operation, handling of at least 50,000 TEUs containers were conditions for the ideal candidate for the project. Other conditions included -- designing the ICD, preparing financial management and drafting its management plan, he said.

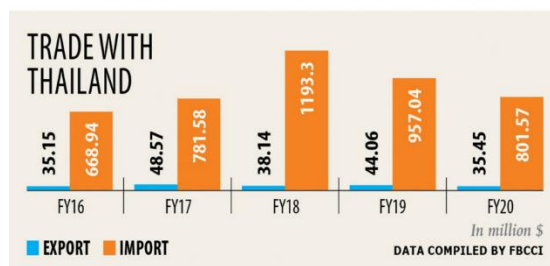
<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/saif-powertec-railway-sign-deal-tuesday-build-icd-ctg-317830>

## Economy & Industry

### Govt conducts feasibility study for FTA with Thailand

The Daily Star, October 19, 2021

- Bangladesh's plans of signing a free trade agreement (FTA) with Thailand has turned more plausible with a feasibility study conducted by the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission.
- Bangladesh exported goods worth \$35.45 million in fiscal 2019-20 while imports amounted to \$801.57 million, according to the Export Promotion Bureau and Bangladesh Bank. In 2001-02, it was \$21.58 million and \$158.90 million respectively.
- Major exports in fiscal 2019-20 include garments, optical, precision and surgical instruments; oil seeds and oleaginous fruits, grains, seeds and fruit, copper, leather goods, fish and crustaceans, rubber and pharmaceutical products.
- The imports primarily comprise salt, sulphur, earth and stone, base metals, plastering materials, lime and cement, plastics and rubber articles, products of chemical or allied industries, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; mineral fuels, prepared foodstuffs, beverages, spirits and vinegar and man-made fibres.
- Currently, Bangladesh enjoys duty benefit on export of some goods to Thailand under the least developed country (LDC) category. However, the preferential trade benefit to Thailand will come to an end in 2026 with the LDC graduation.



<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/govt-conducts-feasibility-study-fta-thailand-2201786>

### BB allows receiving remittances through payment gateways

The Business Standard, October 18, 2021

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has allowed receiving inward remittances through online payment gateway service providers. The central bank issued a circular in this regard on Monday to simplify the repatriation of inward remittances against service export.
- According to the circular, from now on service providers can maintain notional accounts with only those Online Payment Gateway Service Providers which have arrangements with authorised dealer (AD) banks in Bangladesh.
- The circular also said that AD banks can facilitate repatriation of service income deposited in their "nostro accounts" by international market places or platforms, including eligible payment operators.
- In this context, the banks will obtain detailed information from their service provider customers regarding maintenance of merchant accounts with international marketplaces, and the notional accounts with eligible payment service operators abroad.

- The circular instructed the relevant banks to credit the respective bank accounts of their customers on receipt of deposits in their "nostro accounts". Funds can be credited in local currency through digital wallets maintained with mobile financial service providers. The Exporters' Retention Quota (ERQ) accounts of customers can also be credited up to the permissible limit, the circular added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-allows-receiving-remittances-through-payment-gateways-317758>

## International

### China's GDP growth hits 1-year low

The Daily Star, October 19, 2021

- China's economy grew at the slowest pace in a year in the third quarter, hurt by power shortages, supply bottlenecks and sporadic Covid-19 outbreaks and raising heat on policymakers amid rising jitters over the property sector. Data released on Monday showed gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.9 per cent in July-September from a earlier, the weakest pace since the third quarter of 2020 and slowing from 7.9 per cent in the second quarter.
- That marked a further deceleration from the 18.3 per cent expansion in the first quarter, when the year-on-year growth rate was heavily flattered by the very low comparison seen during the Covid-induced slump of early 2020. A Reuters poll of analysts had expected GDP to rise 5.2 per cent in the third quarter.
- On a quarterly basis, growth eased to 0.2 per cent in July-September from a downwardly revised 1.2 per cent in the second quarter, the data showed. The world's second-largest economy has rebounded from the pandemic but the recovery is losing steam, weighed by faltering factory activity, persistently soft consumption and a slowing property sector as policy curbs bite.
- Global worries about a possible spillover of credit risk from China's property sector into the broader economy have also intensified as major developer China Evergrande Group wrestles with more than \$300 billion of debt.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/chinas-gdp-growth-hits-1-year-low-2201771>

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