

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES			
Week-on-week		As of Friday		Friday Closings				As on Thursday			
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	CNY
▲ 1.89%	▲ 1.95%	\$1,826.19	\$72.61	▲ 0.48%	▲ 2.05%	▼ 0.16%	▼ 0.43%	BUY TK 84.25	98.60	115.02	12.76
6,981.06	12,183.32	(per ounce)	(per barrel)	58,129.95	29,128.11	3,083.85	3,581.73	SELL TK 85.25	102.40	118.82	13.41

# Star BUSINESS

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This shrimp processing factory in Shingherchar area under Rupsha upazila of Khulna has been closed for years for many problems including a lack of raw materials. Around 30 such plants have already been closed, while livelihoods of roughly six million people who are directly or indirectly dependent on the shrimp industry are now in jeopardy. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

## Shrimp processors closing down

A lack of raw materials, inadequate govt support to blame

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Bangladesh's frozen shrimp processing industry is struggling to survive as factories are closing down one after another due to a lack of raw materials, competition with cheaper white-leg shrimp vannamei in the export markets and inadequate government support, according to the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFFEA).

Now 47 of 105 factories remain operational but more than half of



SOURCE: EPB

factories were established in the last three decades encouraged by export prospects to the EU and US markets.

And most of the fish and shrimp processing factories were established in Khulna, the southwest coastal division which produces the bulk of black tiger bagda and freshwater prawns.

Now, 32 of the 60 factories in Khulna division are operational. Similarly, 15 of the 43 factories in Chattogram division have continued production.

Insiders said black tiger shrimp and prawn are the main raw materials for these processing plants but production of exportable shrimps has not grown enough to keep the plants operational.

At the same time, increased farming of vannamei shrimps in countries such as India, Vietnam, and its relatively cheaper prices than locally farmed black tiger and prawns hurt export significantly.

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## Padma now seeks saviours abroad

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Padma Bank has started looking for potential foreign investors, in keeping with its earlier wish to merge with a state lender to prevent its financial health from deteriorating further.

As a part of the move, the lender signed a memorandum of understanding with California-based investment bank DelMorgan & Co on September 2, according to a press release issued by the bank.

Under the deal, the investment bank will search out potential investors to raise \$700 million, equivalent to Tk 5,900 crore, in debt and equity capital for Padma Bank.

Ehsan Khasru, managing director of Padma Bank, and Neil Morganbesser, president and chief executive officer of the DelMorgan & Co, inked the agreement representing the two sides.

The signing ceremony was held at the DelMorgan's head office in the US, said a Padma Bank official.

"We are looking forward to facilitate foreign investments to the opportunity



presented by the bank," said Rob Delgado, chairman of the DelMorgan & Co, in the press release.

Chowdhury Nafeez Sarafat, chairman of Padma Bank, said the bank took an opportunity to enter into an international financial arena under the merger and acquisition (M&A) transactions.

On August 8, the erstwhile Farmers Bank sent a letter to the finance ministry, informing of its intent to merge with any state lender in order to avoid a "potential catastrophe".

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### COMPARISON WITH A TOP PERFORMER

FINANCIAL INDICATORS	SQUARE TEXTILES	TAMIJUDDIN TEXTILE
EPS (Jul 2020 to Mar 2021)	Tk 1.84	Tk 0.98
Dividend	10-25% every year	10% only last year
Paid-up capital	Tk 197cr	Tk 30cr
Share price	Tk 49	Tk 125

## Soaring Tamijuddin Textile shares belie performance

AHSAN HABIB

Stocks of Tamijuddin Textile Mills have skyrocketed tenfold in a span of less than three months since it was listed at the Dhaka bourse last June.

The price of the stock stood at Tk 125.6 yesterday whereas it was Tk 13.2 on June 13, shows Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) data.

The company had remained in the over-the-counter (OTC) market since 2009.

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) formally launched the OTC market on September 6, 2009 for companies not in operation or which failed to hold annual general meetings, to declare dividends or to convert paper shares into

electronic ones.

Currently, 61 companies are traded on the OTC market. United Airways was the most recent company to be sent to the OTC platform following its poor performance.

Right after being relisted, the textile maker's stock price started soaring to reach Tk 87 on August 25, despite a show of poor performance for many years.

With the index meanwhile rising, the company informed of a development, literally pouring fuel on the fire.

The mills' board of directors announced their decision to invest around Tk 50 crore for balancing, modernisation, rehabilitation and expansion.

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### SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS

## Nagad hands account info to law enforcers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Nagad, a mobile financial services wing of Bangladesh Post Office, has provided to regulators and law enforcers the information of some accounts on suspicion of illegal transactions with some e-commerce platforms.

Transactions of those accounts were suspended temporarily after an official complaint was lodged against them with the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

The process of filing a case is also underway, said a press release of Nagad.

For the last few days, some unusual transactions were observed in some Nagad accounts affiliated with certain controversial e-commerce platforms.

After analysing the transaction pattern further, a few accounts were suspended temporarily, it said.

At the same time, Nagad provided a



list of the accounts to the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and Rapid Action Battalion.

"Nagad is technologically one of the most reliable operators of our country. It is quite impossible to penetrate the Nagad network for any evil intentions," said Md Kousar Soukat Ali, head of external affairs of Nagad.

Since its inception on March 26, 2019, the operator capped 5.40 crore customers with a daily average transaction of Tk 700 crore in the last two-and-a-half years.

## BSEC working to boost investor confidence

Its chairman tells TREC licence handover ceremony

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

If proper returns from the stock market can be ensured, people from all over will be encouraged to park their savings and remittance at the country's bourses, according to Professor Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, chairman of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).

"So, we are working to ensure good returns for investors as well as good corporate governance in the market," Islam said.

"If people regain their confidence in the

local stock market through good returns on their investment, they will definitely bring their savings and remittance as well," he added.

The BSEC chief went on to say that poor returns on investments will drive people away from the market.

Islam made these comments during a Trading Right Entitlement Certificate (TREC) handover programme organised by the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

At the event, entrepreneurs received 52 TREC licences.

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Entering a new league of secure digital payments.

**Trust Bank is now a proud principal member of Visa.**