

# News Blaze of the Week

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## Quotation Corner

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

-- Winston S. Churchill

"Opportunities don't happen. You create them."

-- Chris Grosser

"Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value."

-- Albert Einstein

# Contents



## Govt Initiatives

Work on Ctg elevated expressway resumes 05



## Central Bank Regulation

Forex reserves cross \$39b for first time 06



## Banks and Financial Institutions

Prime Bank to get on agent banking bandwagon this year 07

Beximco Pharma, IFIC Bank and Nepal BD Bank donate Remdesivir for Nepal 08

Midland Bank signs deal with UK-based Primadoller 08

UCB plans to launch new MFS co by Dec 09

Dhaka Bank elects EC chairperson, other committee chairmen 10

Bank Asia to establish neobank 11

## Banks and Financial Institutions

Sonali Bank launches eSheba mobile app 12

IBBL opens 100th sub-branch, 43 agent banking outlets 12

SIBL launches Call Center 12

Meghna Life, BD Finance declare dividend 13

Banks assuage BB on deadline 13

City Bank launches country's first global all-network QR for cards payment 14

New MD of BD Finance 14

MTB introduces digitized account opening service 'MEasy' 15

AB Bank moves into Category A 15



## Stock Market Update

- DSE key index surges 665 points in Aug 16**
- Stocks snap four-day winning streak 17**
- 12 'Z' category cos upgraded 18**
- BSEC for taking actions against rumour-mongers under Digital Security Act 18**



## International Business

- Germany set to revise up its 2020 GDP forecast 19**
- Sterling above \$1.33 first time in 2020 20**



### Work on Ctg elevated expressway resumes

- The construction work of elevated expressway from Lalkhan Bazar to Shah Amanat International Airport which remained suspended for three months due to the coronavirus outbreak has restarted recently.
- Due to delay in shifting electricity poles from roadside, the construction work is now going on at a snail's pace. A total of 200 piles, 40 pile-caps and 40 pillars have been completed so far. Besides, road expansion on both sides from Kathgarh to Cement Crossing has already been completed.
- Sources said the project is expected to be completed by 2022. It has been divided into six segments -- Lalkhan Bazar to Dewan Haat (1,300 metre four-lane), Dewan Haat to Barik Building (2,000 metre four-lane), Barik Building to Saltgola (2,900 metre four-lane), Saltgola to Cement Crossing (3,150 metre four-lane), Cement Crossing to Kathgarh (2,150 metre four-lane), Kathgarh VIP Road (2,350 metres) and Sea Beach to VIP Road (850 metres).
- Sources said the elevated expressway to be set up on 450 pillars and 24 ramps at nine points will help reduce traffic congestion in the city.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/trade-market/work-on-ctg-elevated-expressway-resumes-1598971622>

# Central Bank Regulation

## Forex reserves cross \$39b for first time

- Foreign exchange reserves have crossed \$39 billion for the first time, an official of Bangladesh Bank says, reports bdnews24.com.
- The reserves recorded at \$39.4 billion on Tuesday are equivalent to about 10 months of import payments with \$4 billion a month.
- An increase in inward remittances and exports topped with \$300 million from the Japan International Cooperation Agency boosted the reserves to a new high, said Kazi Rafiqul Hassan, general manager of Forex Reserve and Treasury Management Department at Bangladesh Bank.
- The coronavirus pandemic has left inward remittances largely unscathed. Expatriates remitted \$1.72 billion in 27 days of August, according to the central bank, compared to \$1.4 billion in the full month of August a year earlier. The total remittance in July was \$2.6 billion, a monthly record.
- Bangladesh's exports rose 0.59 per cent year-on-year to \$3.91 billion in July. The amount was 13.4 per cent higher than the target. Through this, Bangladesh's exports reversed a decline of seven months. More than 10 million expatriates working across the globe remit funds home to Bangladesh playing a major role in the economy. Remittances account for 12 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/last-page/forex-reserves-cross-39b-for-first-time-1598979189>

# Banks and Financial Institutions

## Prime Bank to get on agent banking bandwagon this year

- Prime Bank plans to step into the agent banking arena this year as part of its push to widen footprint and cut reliance on branches, said its top executive. The central bank introduced agent banking in 2013 to provide a safe alternative delivery channel of banking services to the underprivileged, under-served population who generally live in the remote locations that are beyond the reach of the traditional banking network.
- It has so far issued licences to 27 banks for operating agent banking activities. Of them, 22 are in operation. Deposits soared 129 per cent year-on-year to Tk 8,535 crore at the end of March, the latest for which data is available. Loan disbursement grew 306 per cent to Tk 853 crore.
- As of March, the total number of accounts, which could be opened with deposits ranging from Tk 10 to Tk 100, under the programme stood at 2.13 crore and aggregate deposits Tk 2,385 crore. There are outlets 11,875 under 8,260 agents in the country.
- About 65 lakh accounts were opened through the outlets, out of which 29.6 lakh are owned by women, BB data showed. The year-on-year growth of agents, outlets, and accounts in the first quarter stood at 69.8, 51.5 and 123.5 per cent respectively. Deposit, loans disbursed and inward remittance had a growth of 128.6 per cent, 220.3 per cent and 172 per cent respectively.
- A staggering 87 per cent of the agents and 88 per cent of the outlets are located in the rural area in an indication that banks are contributing significantly to promote financial inclusion. Bank Asia has the highest number of accounts at 24.6 lakh accounts, or 37.8 per cent of the total. It also disbursed the highest amount of loan of about Tk 276 crore, or 41 per cent of the total disbursement as of March.
- Islami Bank Bangladesh had the highest amount of deposit with Tk 2,159 crore and Dutch-Bangla Bank distributed the highest amount of inward remittance of Tk 7,526 crore.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/prime-bank-get-agent-banking-bandwagon-year-1953269>



## Banks and Financial Institutions

### **Beximco Pharma, IFIC Bank and Nepal BD Bank donate Remdesivir for Nepal**

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd. ("Beximco Pharma"), IFIC Bank Ltd. and its Nepalese subsidiary Nepal Bangladesh Bank have donated 5,000 vials of Remdesivir Injection (Bemsivir) to Nepal Government for treating hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
- The medicine was handed over to Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh Dr. Banshidhar Mishra in a simple ceremony held at latter's office recently. High officials from Beximco Pharma and IFIC Bank were present and spoke on this occasion.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/beximco-pharma-ific-bank-and-nepal-bd-bank-donate-remdesivir-for-nepal-1598712185>

### **Midland Bank signs deal with UK-based Primadoller**

- Midland Bank Limited, signed an agreement with Primadollar Operations Limited, a UK-based company, to provide better services to its foreign trade customers, said a statement.
- Midland Bank Limited jointly with Primadollar Operations Limited, will launch fintech-based factoring services for exporters. This will allow local exporters to receive their usance bills instantly drawn under sales contract. This will increase the cash flow of exporters.
- Headquartered in the United Kingdom since 2015, Primadollar has 12 offices worldwide.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/midland-bank-signs-deal-with-uk-based-primadoller-1598886402>



# Banks and Financial Institutions

## UCB plans to launch new MFS co by Dec

- Bangladesh's mobile financial service (MFS) sector is likely to get a big boost with the new foothold of an old market player to serve potential customers independently in paperless banking, company sources said.
- The United Commercial Bank Limited's (UCB) MFS wallets - U-Cash and U-pay - are going to be replaced with a new brand under an independent company by this year-end, its project head told the FE. Bangladesh is one of the growing and potential tech-based financial service markets, as most of its banking and financial transactions are still being done manually.
- The country's nearly 50 per cent population are still unbanked, who are the potential customers of the digital financial services. The fintech-based money handling, especially the MFS, is annually posting growth at a rate of 20 per cent over the last few years.
- After launch of the first MFS company in 2011, Bangladesh's digital platforms for money transaction and payments are growing at high rates, the market insiders said. There are three independent MFS companies in the country - bKash, Nagad and SureCash.
- The UCB's current MFSs - U-cash and U-pay - were launched in 2013 and 2017 respectively. Currently, Bangladesh has some 15 MFS service providers of commercial banks, which handle nearly some 88.8 million customers, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) data showed.
- According to the BB, the daily transactions through MFSs in this June were worth Tk 44.831 billion. The growing number of mobile subscribers and internet users has become one of the major drivers of a Digital Bangladesh. The Statista's report predicted that global mobile payments would cross the US\$1.0 trillion mark in 2020.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/trade-market/ucb-plans-to-launch-new-mfs-co-by-dec-1598711195>

# Banks and Financial Institutions

## Dhaka Bank elects EC chairperson, other committee chairmen

- Rokshana Zaman has recently been elected as the chairperson of the executive committee of the board of directors of Dhaka Bank Limited, said a statement.
- Mrs. Zaman is an experienced business person and a prominent woman entrepreneur in the country. She has exposure in the line of business for many years. She is the Proprietress of Dhaka Enterprise and M/S. Manehor Fisheries and Director of Dhaka Bank Securities Ltd. She became the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Dhaka Bank Limited on June 29, 2004 and continued her tenure till March 28, 2006. Since long, she has been associated with various CSR initiatives. Other members of the Executive Committee are Reshadur Rahman, Altaf Hossain Sarker, Mohammad Hanif, Khondoker Monir Uddin, Jashim Uddin and Mirza Yasser Abbas.
- Meanwhile, Khondoker Monir Uddin has been re-elected as the Chairman of the Risk Management Committee of the Board of Directors of the bank. Mr. Monir is a passionate entrepreneur and a perceptive businessman. He started his venture in business in 1985. The succeeding years saw his scintillating entrepreneurship in diverse fields of business spanning Readymade Garment (RMG), Real Estate, Chemicals, Business Equipment & Machine Supply, Banking, Health Care, Education and Brokerage Services, etc. Other members of the Risk Management Committee are Md. Amirullah, Amanullah Sarker, Manoara Khandaker and Md. Muzibur Rahman.
- Mr. M.A. Yussouf Khan has been re-elected as the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of the bank. Mr. Khan is a seasoned banking expert and held the office of the Chief Executive Officer consecutively for three leading private commercial Banks from 1989 to 2004. He started his career with National Bank of Pakistan in 1960. Other members of the Audit Committee are Abdullah Al Ahsan, Tahidul Hossain Chowdhury, Khondoker Jamil Uddin and A.S. Salahuddin Ahmed.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/dhaka-bank-elects-ec-chairperson-other-committee-chairmen-1598886513>

# Banks and Financial Institutions

## Bank Asia to establish neobank

- Bank Asia is set to form a neobank, a completely new concept for Bangladesh, within December, in a move that can change the face of banking in the country broadening the financial inclusion.
- According to a recent Dhaka Stock Exchange disclosure, the customers of the platform will settle all transactions by way of using apps and online modules to be installed by Bank Asia, a leading PCB in the country.
- A neobank is a kind of digital banking operation where no branch is required as the service would totally be delivered online. Developed nations have already adopted the method in order to build a cashless society. The platform will accomplish all types of microcredit and small lending, deposit, fund transfer and card payments.
- The platform will be popular among the tech-savvy youths because of its innovative and cutting-edge ethos, the Bank Asia officials hoped. Bank Asia, which started its operation in November 1999, is running its operation through 129 branches.
- The bank has so far recruited 3,600 agents, which have been providing banking services to more than 3.0 million clients.
- As of June this year, the bank disbursed Tk 23,500 crore in loans and mobilised deposits of nearly Tk 27,000 crore.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/bank-asia-to-establish-neobank-1598886284>

# Banks and Financial Institutions

## Sonali Bank launches eSheba mobile app

- Citizens can now pay their passport fees online using the mobile phone app Sonali eSheba developed by the largest state-owned bank, says a statement.
- Senior Secretary of Financial Institutions Division under Finance Ministry Md Asadul Islam inaugurated the digital service at a ceremony held at the bank's head office on Tuesday morning.
- Sonali Bank Limited CEO & Managing Director Md Ataur Rahman Prodhan presided over the inauguration ceremony of the digital service. People enjoying different services under the government social safety net program would be able to open their accounts with the bank in the first stage of this app services. Later, other services would be added.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/trade-market/sonali-bank-launches-esheba-mobile-app-1598971600>

## IBBL opens 100th sub-branch, 43 agent banking outlets

- Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited inaugurated 100th, 101st and 102nd sub-branches as well as 43 agent banking outlets across the country. Md. Mahbub ul Alam, Managing Director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the sub-branches and agent banking outlets on Monday on a virtual platform as the chief guest.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/ibbl-opens-100th-sub-branch-43-agent-banking-outlets-1598972486>

## SIBL launches Call Center

- Social Islami Bank Ltd launched Call Center to provide banking services to the clients 24/7. Clients can now easily obtain any information by dialing 16491 for home through any local mobile operator and 09612001122 for abroad.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/sibl-launches-call-center-1598972380>

## Meghna Life, BD Finance declare dividend

- The board of directors of two more listed firms- Meghna Life Insurance and Bangladesh Finance and Investment Company- have recommended dividends for the year ended on December 31, 2019, according to official disclosures on Tuesday.
- Meghna Life Insurance: The board of directors of Meghna Life Insurance has recommended 20 per cent cash dividend for the year ended on December 31, 2019.
- The final approval of the dividend will come during the annual general meeting (AGM) scheduled to be held on October 22 at 11:00am through digital platform. Each share of the company, which was listed on the DSE in 2007, closed at Tk 13.80 on Tuesday, soaring 8.66 per cent over the previous day.
- The company disbursed 10 per cent cash dividend in 2018. The company's paid-up capital is Tk 1.67 billion and authorised capital is Tk 2.0 billion while the total number of securities is 167.52 million.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/meghna-life-bd-finance-declare-dividend-1598972414>

## Banks assuage BB on deadline

- Commercial banks on Wednesday assured the central bank of meeting the deadline of October 31 for disbursement of funds meant for cottage-micro-small-medium enterprises (CMSMEs).
- The rate of fund disbursement under the government announced stimulus package for the CMSMEs that was believed to be the hardest hit by the pandemic is poor.
- Banks have so far disbursed Tk 21.0 billion or over 10 per cent of the total package amounting to Tk 200 billion.
- Bangladesh Bank (BB) earlier gave a deadline of October 31 to the commercial banks for disbursing all funds meant for the CMSMEs. Each bank has a target of over Tk 3.0 billion to disburse to the CMSMEs within the deadline.
- Some banks however disbursed around 40 per cent while mostly hovering between 10-15 per cent.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-assuage-bb-on-deadline-1599067642>

# Banks and Financial Institutions

## City Bank launches country's first global all-network QR for cards payment

- City Bank, the largest credit card player in Bangladesh with a 35 per cent market share, launched interoperable QR-based payment solution with four payment schemes in one QR code: American Express, UnionPay, Mastercard and Visa. By launching this service, City Bank becomes the first bank in Bangladesh to launch Interoperable QR having three-pronged benefits.
- First, customers will not need to scan separate QR codes of different payment networks. Second, merchants will only need to display one QR code at the storefront, so there will be no cluttering of space. Third, City Bank QR code can be scanned by inbound customers visiting Bangladesh from other countries making it a global interoperable solution.
- Customers will need to download & use Citytouch - City Bank's mobile banking app and set any of their credit, debit or prepaid cards as the default payment option to scan & pay by QR codes displayed at merchants. Interoperability with multiple schemes coupled with 'no-contact' payments during this pandemic will drive swift adoption by smart phone users.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/city-bank-launches-countrys-first-global-all-network-qr-for-cards-payment-1599061730>

## New MD of BD Finance

- Md. Kyser Hamid has recently been appointed as Managing Director & CEO of Bangladesh Finance And Investment Company Limited (BD Finance), said a statement.
- Before joining BD Finance, he served as the Deputy Managing Director & Head of Retail Business at IPDC Finance Limited.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/new-md-of-bd-finance-1599061813>

# Banks and Financial Institutions

## MTB introduces digitized account opening service 'MEasy'

- Mutual Trust Bank Ltd (MTB) in partnership with i-exceed technology solutions, a leading global FinTech company for rapid digital banking transformation, has recently launched 'MEasy' service, a fully-digitized banking service that provides a cutting-edge, advanced, and hassle-free digital banking experience.
- Appzillon, a low-code omni-channel application development platform built by i-exceed, has helped the bank in developing the Fully Digital On-Boarding Solutions. Customers, from now onwards, will be able to open their account at their convenience from anywhere using MEasy through MTB Website.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mtb-introduces-digitized-account-opening-service-measy-1599061777>

## AB Bank moves into Category A

- The 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of AB Bank Limited was held on Wednesday on a digital platform, says a statement. The meeting unanimously approved 5% Stock Dividend for the year 2019.
- The listing category of the Bank has been placed in category "A" with effect from September 02, 2020 as per directives of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission.
- AB Bank Limited completed 38th year of successful operation on April 12, 2020. Net Asset Value (NAV) of the Bank stood at Tk 22.84 billion (2,284 crore) and total assets stood at Tk 365.57 billion (36,557 crore) in 2019 which registered 13.33% growth over last year. The AGM also adopted Directors' Report, Audited Financial Statements and appointed Moshtaque Ahmed Chowdhury and Shajir Ahmed as Directors. Shareholders also appointed ACNABIN, Chartered Accountants, as Statutory Auditor of the Bank for the year 2020.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/ab-bank-moves-into-category-a-1599062314>

# Stock Market Update

## DSE key index surges 665 points in Aug

- The core index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) soared 665 points or 15.77 per cent in August riding on active participation of high net worth individuals.
- The market witnessed rallies in recent days riding on the regulatory steps to ensure accountability of the market stakeholders, according to market insiders and experts.
- The DSEX, the key index of the DSE, went up by 5.97 points or 0.12 per cent on Monday to settle at 4,879, extending the gaining streak for fourth straight session.
- The month of August witnessed 19 trading sessions. Of them, only two sessions faced correction while 17 sessions ended higher.
- The DSEX surged a cumulative 665 points or 15.77 per cent month-on-month in August. The DSE market-cap recovered Tk 441 billion during the month under review.
- Daily trade turnover on DSE also scaled Tk 10-billion-mark in nine trading sessions out of 19 trading sessions in August.
- Market analysts said factors like lower returns on the money market, lucrative price level of listed securities and strong regulatory actions against wrongdoers helped buoy the market.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/dse-key-index-surges-665-points-in-aug-1598886335>



# Stock Market Update

## Stocks snap four-day winning streak

- Stocks witnessed a mild correction Tuesday, snapping a four-day winning streak as risk-averse investors opted for booking quick-profit on sector specific issues.
- DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), went down by 16.92 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 4,862, after gaining 117 points in the past four straight sessions.
- The market was in a positive territory for the first 20 minutes of trading and the prime index crossed the 4,900-mark, but the profit booking tendency wiped out the initial gains.
- Market analysts said stocks retreated as cautious investors opted for booking profit on issues which saw significant gain in recent price upsurge.
- DSEX, the core index of the DSE, surged 665 points or 15.77 per cent in the outgoing month riding on active participation of high net worth individuals. Turnover, the crucial indicator of the market, fell sharply to Tk 7.77 billion on the country's prime bourse, which was Tk 33 per cent lower than the previous day's mark of Tk 11.66 billion.
- Among the major sectors - life insurance, food, financial institutions and banking witnessed the highest price correction, losing 2.3 per cent, 2.0 per cent, 0.8 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively.
- On the other hand, general insurance, telecom and power sectors gained 2.6 per cent, 0.50 per cent and 0.10 per cent respectively.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/stocks-snap-four-day-winning-streak-1598972515>



## Stock Market Update

### 12 'Z' category cos upgraded

- Twelve 'Z' category companies were upgraded from Wednesday after redefinition of 'Z' category stocks as the securities regulator took major steps to bring the underperforming companies back to the track.
- The companies are AB Bank, Renwick Jajneswar, Bangladesh Thai Aluminum, Salvo Chemicals, Safko Spinning, Appollo Ispat Complex, Zahintex Industries, Prime Insurance, Libra Infusions, Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries, Fu-Wang Ceramic and Heidelberg Cement.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) issued directives in this regard on Tuesday which became effective from Wednesday.
- AB Bank, Renwick Jajneswar, Prime Insurance, Libra Infusions and Heidelberg Cement were placed in 'A' category from 'Z' category.
- Bangladesh Thai Aluminum, Salvo Chemicals, Safko Spinning, Appllo Ispat, Zahintex Industries, Khan Brothers PP Woven and Fu-Wang Ceramic placed in 'B' category from 'Z' category.
- The BSEC also reduced the time for trading settlements for the companies in the 'Z' category to T+3 days instead of T+9 days, also effective from Wednesday.

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/12-z-category-cos-upgraded-1599061663>

### BSEC for taking actions against rumour-mongers under Digital Security Act

- Trade turnover on Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) exceeded Tk 12 billion-mark again on Wednesday as the enthusiastic investors put fresh stakes on stocks riding on new hopes.
- The turnover stood at Tk 12.01 billion on the country's premier bourse, climbing by 55 per cent over previous day's mark of Tk 7.77 billion.
- It was the biggest single-day transactions in two weeks since August 17, when the turnover totalled a record Tk 14.08 billion. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has directed all concerned to refrain from spreading any prediction or price forecasting or undisclosed information in any forms including social media, otherwise the BSEC will take legal actions as per securities laws as well as digital security act-2018.

Page | 18

Source: <https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-for-taking-actions-against-rumour-mongers-under-digital-security-act-1599061607>

## Germany set to revise up its 2020 GDP forecast

- The German government is set to revise upward its economic growth forecast for this year to a decline of less than 6 per cent from a previous estimate of -6.3 per cent, a coalition source told Reuters on Friday.
- Economy Minister Peter Altmaier is scheduled to present the revised outlook early next week, the source added.
- An Economy Minister spokeswoman said the new forecasts were still being finalised and that Altmaier will unveil them on Tuesday. She declined to give further details.
- The German economy contracted by a record 9.7 per cent in the second quarter as consumer spending, company investments and exports all collapsed at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. But recent economic data has fanned hopes that Europe's largest economy is set for a strong recovery. Sources had told Reuters in June that German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz will ask parliament to increase new borrowing by a further 62.5 billion euros (\$74.33 billion) to a record 218.5 billion this year for measures to boost recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.
- The plan underlines Germany's shift from Europe's austerity champion to one of the biggest spenders in the euro zone's efforts to rebound from the pandemic.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/germany-set-revise-its-2020-gdp-forecast-1953233>

## Sterling above \$1.33 first time in 2020

- Sterling rose above \$1.33 for the first time in 2020 and touched an eight-month high versus the U.S. dollar purely on the greenback's weakness in the aftermath of Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's speech at Jackson Hole.
- In his address, Powell steered expectations of lower interest rates for longer as the central bank gets ready to accept an inflation above target after so many years of it undershooting 2%.
- Against the euro, the pound remained relatively steady, with most traders staying on the sidelines and not taking a clear directional view on the British currency in thin August trading. Renewed weakness in the British pound is not out of the woods, analysts say, as a mix of Brexit uncertainty, coronavirus fears and dismal economic data could well mean a return to a continuous decline in sterling.
- British business confidence has ticked up but remains far below usual levels as the economy struggles to cope with social distancing and employers are preparing to cut jobs, a survey showed on Friday.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/sterling-above-133-first-time-2020-1953217>



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