

*Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.*

### **World Bank's assertive plan for job creation**

- The World Bank has attached several conditions to its budget support programme that it extended to Bangladesh for three years with a view to creating faster job growth, which has slowed down in recent times.
- The Washington-based multilateral lender is set to provide USD 750.0 million in three equal instalments and the first instalment of USD 250.0 million was approved recently.
- Before the first instalment was approved, the government had to fulfil nine conditions.
- The conditions include: enactment of the One-Stop Shop Act 2018; placement of the Customs Act 2018 in the parliament; approval of the National Environment Act by the cabinet; passage of the Bangladesh Labour Act (Amendment) 2018; and enactment of the National Skills Development Authority Act 2018.
- For release of the second instalment, specific conditions will have to be met. The conditions mostly deal with proper implementation of the conditions that were tagged with the first instalment.
- The budget support, which comes after a gap of ten years, was extended because of a slump in job creation since 2010: the growth rate for jobs fell to 1.8% in 2010-16 from 2.7% in 2003-10.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wbs-assertive-plan-job-creation-1678030>

### **Farmers Bank to take new name amid image crisis**

- Farmers Bank is set to be renamed Padma Bank as the troubled bank looks to sweep the gross irregularities and loan scams under the carpet and get an image makeover.
- The move got the go-ahead from the central bank yesterday on grounds that it would have a positive impact on client confidence.
- The bank, which was established in 2013, became a hotbed for financial irregularities in less than three years of operation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/news/farmers-bank-take-new-name-amid-image-crisis-1678054v>

### **Ashuganj Power to issue bonds to raise BDT 6.00 billion**

- State-run Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd is going to raise BDT 6.00 billion by issuing bonds for the first time.
- Of the amount, BDT 5.00 billion will be collected through private placement and the rest through stock markets.
- Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund, Agrani Bank, Rupali Bank, Sonali Bank, Uttara Bank, Sadharan Bima Corporation, and the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh will purchase bonds worth BDT 3.85 billion.
- Dutch-Bangla Bank will purchase bonds worth BDT 500.00 million, said an official of the Power Division. Bonds worth BDT 650 million will be sold to other banks and financial institutions later. Bonds valued BDT 1.00 billion will soon be released through stock exchanges and work on it has already begun.
- The yield on the bonds will be 8.5% to 10%.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/trade-market/vietnam-wants-to-boost-trade-with-bangladesh-1545322374>

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/59659/apscl-launches-BDT-500cr-bond>

### **Bourses to remain closed for 5 days**

- Trading will take place for only three sessions in the outgoing year as bourses will remain closed for five days due to Christmas Day, national elections, bank holiday and weekly holiday.
- Trading on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) will take place today (Monday), Wednesday and Thursday.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bourses-to-remain-closed-for-5-days-1545586244>

### Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) introduces monthly fee for mobile app users

- Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has decided to introduce Mobile App usage monthly fee of BDT 150 per user from January 1, 2019.
- Of BDT 150, FlexTrade will get BDT 100, TREC holder and DSE will get BDT 25 each, said a DSE official.
- The prime bourse on March 9, 2016 launched the mobile-based share trading app and the usage of the app has been free since the introduction.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dse-introduces-monthly-fee-for-mobile-app-users-1545586276>  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/investors-frown-upon-dse-app-charge-1678048>  
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/59658/dse-scraps-mobile-app-trading-fee>

### Fundraising through IPO triples in 2018

- Small-cap companies dominated the initial public offering (IPO) market in the outgoing year 2018 that has seen a constantly bearish market.
- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) data show 13 companies raised a total of BDT 5.46 billion by floating IPOs this year.
- Fundraising by companies through IPOs has jumped 223% year on year in 2018, after hitting a nine-year low in the previous year.
- In 2017, six companies raised a total of BDT 1.69 billion through IPOs, according to the DSE data.
- Meanwhile, the outlook appears to be bullish for the coming year 2019, as some companies, including Esquire Knit Composite and Runner Automobiles, are expected to launch their initial share sale offers in the coming months.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fundraising-thru-ipo-triples-in-2018-1545587706>

### World Stock and Commodities\*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$45.96	+0.37	+0.81%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$54.33	+0.51	+0.95%
Gold Spot*	\$1,263.36	+6.42	+0.51%
DSEX	5281.78	16.46	0.3126%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	22,445.37	-414.23	-1.81%
FTSE 100	6,721.17	+9.24	+0.14%
Nikkei 225	20,166.19	-226.39	-1.11%

### Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 83.80\*  
 GBP 1 = BDT 106.17\*  
 EUR 1 = BDT 95.44\*  
 INR 1 = BDT 1.20\*

\*Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

## IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

**Analyst Certification:** Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

**Disclaimer:** Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

**Compensation of Analysts:** The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

**General Risk Factors:** BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and also revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

#### Research

Ayaz Mahmud, CFA	Deputy Head of Research	<a href="mailto:ayaz.mahmud@bracepl.com">ayaz.mahmud@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 221
Md. Sakib Chowdhury	Research Analyst	<a href="mailto:sakib.chowdhury@bracepl.com">sakib.chowdhury@bracepl.com</a>	01709 641 247
S. M. Samiuzzaman	Research Analyst	<a href="mailto:sm.samiuzzaman@bracepl.com">sm.samiuzzaman@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 224
Sadman Sakib	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:sadman.sakib@bracepl.com">sadman.sakib@bracepl.com</a>	01730 727 939
Ahmed Zaki Khan	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:zaki.khan@bracepl.com">zaki.khan@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 211
Md. Rafiqul Islam	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:mrafiquislam@bracepl.com">mrafiquislam@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 229

#### International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	Head of International Trade & Sales	<a href="mailto:bappi@bracepl.com">bappi@bracepl.com</a>	01730 357 991
----------------------	-------------------------------------	--	---------------