

*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.*

### **'Banks to follow simple interest calculation from next FY'**

- Finance Minister said the government would encourage banks to offer simple interest loans instead of compound interest ones from the next financial year (FY). Simple interest calculation will be applicable (in the case of bank loans). This will be announced in the next budget.
- For long term financing, the minister announced that the bond market would be developed shortly. There are few countries in the world, where banks provide long-term loans by collecting short-term deposits, he said, adding this is happening in Bangladesh because of the absence of a bond market.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-to-follow-simple-interest-calculation-from-next-fy-1552931708>  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/kamal-simple-interest-rate-instead-compound-1717213>  
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2019/03/18/mustafa-kamal-no-compound-interest-rate-from-next-fiscal-year>

### **EBL signs deal with JP Morgan**

- Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) has entered into an agreement with J.P. Morgan, Singapore for processing letter of credit documents through electronic channel.
- Besides ensuring quicker payments for Bangladeshi exporters it will also support J.P. Morgan's client that require quicker turnaround on document processing for imports from Bangladesh.
- The arrangement will help Bangladeshi representative offices of foreign importers, faster receipt of their documents. It will reduce the need to for physical movement of document between Singapore and Bangladesh which, typically can take up to 10 days.
- EBL handles about 4.5% of trade business of the country and handled around USD 3.5 billion of trade businesses last year and plans to handle more in year 2019.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ebel-signs-deal-with-jp-morgan-1552927783>  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ebel-jp-morgan-process-lcs-electronically-1717189>

### **Commerce Minister for boosting RMG export to India**

- Commerce Minister said Bangladesh would take initiatives to increase export of readymade garment (RMG) to Indian market. The minister revealed it after a meeting with newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das at his ministry office.
- Terming India as a big market, he said Bangladeshi RMG has good demand in India that is why Bangladesh is trying to increase the export of apparel items to grab the opportunity. About the India-Bangladesh Border Haat, the commerce minister said it [border haat] has created huge enthusiasm among the people of both countries.
- In last fiscal year, Bangladesh exported different products worth USD 873.27 million to India against the import of USD 8619.40 million. Mentioning that Bangladesh and India have huge scopes to boost bilateral trade, Riva Ganguly laid emphasis on utilising the potentialities.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/tipu-for-boosting-rmg-export-to-india-1552931113>  
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/67795/tipu-wants-to-increase-rmg-export-to-india>

### **BD's apparel export to US sees 6.65% growth in 2018**

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the United States grew by 6.65% to USD 5.40 billion in 2018 compared to that of 2017. The country fetched USD 5.06 billion in 2017, according to data from Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) affiliated with the US Department of Commerce.
- Last year, Bangladesh shipped 1.93 billion square metres of apparel than that of 1.85 billion square metres in the previous calendar year. The US imported a total of USD 5.60 billion of textiles and apparel from Bangladesh during January to December period of 2018, while Chinese apparel exports grew by 1.34% to USD 27.37 billion in 2018 out of China's total USD 40.58 billion textiles and apparel exports to US.

- After the Rana Plaza building collapse in 2013, Bangladesh's apparel exports to US declined in 2014 and stood at USD 4.83 billion, which was USD 4.95 billion in 2013. In 2017, the country earned USD 5.06 billion from garment exports to US, according to the OTEXA.
- Though Bangladesh is taking advantage of shifting orders, the country might not be able to take the advantage of investment, which would be seized by Vietnam and partially by India and Cambodia due to infrastructural bottlenecks in Bangladesh according to the research director of Centre for Policy Dialogue

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bds-apparel-export-to-us-sees-665pc-growth-in-2018-1552931025>

### Annual Development Programme (ADP) may be revised down to BDT 1.65 trillion

- The government may slash the size of the annual development programme by BDT 80.00 billion or 4.62% in the revised ADP for the current fiscal year (2018-2019) following a slow progress in implementation of the development budget. The size of the revised ADP may stand at BDT 1.65 trillion if the National Economic Council approves the proposal placed by the planning ministry.
- The government adopted the original ADP at BDT 1.73 trillion, excluding the allocation from own funds of the autonomous bodies, estimating that BDT 1.13 trillion would come from the domestic fund and BDT 600.00 billion would come from the foreign source as project assistance.
- Under the proposed revised ADP, the allocation from the foreign source segment may be cut by BDT 90.00 billion to BDT 510.00 billion following a slower progress in implementation of the foreign-funded development projects in eight months (July-February) of the fiscal year.
- On the other hand, the allocation from the domestic fund may be increased by BDT 10.00 billion to BDT 1.14 trillion. The planning ministry revises the allocations based on progress in implementation of projects under the self-fund.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/67796/adp-may-be-revised-down-to-BDT-165-lakh-crore>

### World Stock and Commodities\*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$59.08	-0.01	-0.02%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$67.63	+0.09	+0.13%
Gold Spot*	\$1,307.64	+3.93	+0.30%
DSEX	5604.90	-50.92	-0.90%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,914.10	+65.23	+0.25%
FTSE 100	7,299.19	+70.91	+0.98%
Nikkei 225	21,552.66	-31.84	-0.15%

### Exchange Rates

**USD 1 = BDT 84.06\***  
**GBP 1 = BDT 111.60\***  
**EUR 1 = BDT 95.39\***  
**INR 1 = BDT 1.23\***

\*Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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