

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.

Export earnings grow 17.24% in five months

- Merchandise export earnings in the first five months of the current fiscal year stood at USD 17.07 billion, a 17.24% rise from the same period last year.
- Official data showed exports fetched USD 14.56 billion in the July-November period of fiscal year (FY) 2017-18. The export performance was 12.07% higher than the target set for the period under review.
- Single-month earnings in November grew by 11.94% to USD 3.42 billion from USD 3.05 billion in 2017, according to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data. The November performance also surpassed the target set at 10.10%.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/export-earnings-grow-1724pc-in-five-months-1544033121>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/58055/exports-soar-to-17b-in-jul-nov>

Remittance through mobile financial services (MFS) doubles in October

- Remittance disbursement through mobile financial services (MFS) more than doubled in October compared to the previous month due to growing popularity of the alternative payment channel among expatriates.
- The MFS providers disbursed remittance amounting to BDT 610.0 million in October, which was BDT 307.8 million in September and only BDT 62.6 million in October last year, according to Bangladesh Bank data.
- The MFS providers go into an arrangement with different banks to disburse remittance through mobile accounts to facilitate remitters, said an adviser of bKash, the largest MFS provider in the country. Such arrangement with the banks helped to pick up remittance inflow through the MFS channel and the uptrend will continue in the coming days, he added.
- The arrangements were taken as the central bank raised concerns over illegal inflow of remittance through the MFS channel.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/remittance-through-mfs-doubles-oct-1669891>

Non-performing loans (NPLs) soar 34% to reach record high at BDT 993.7 billion

- The amount of classified loans in the country's banking sector reached an all-time high of nearly BDT 1.0 trillion in September ahead of the upcoming national election.
- The volume of non-performing loans (NPLs) jumped by nearly 34% or BDT 250.67 billion to BDT 993.70 billion as on September 30, from BDT 743.03 billion as on December 31, 2017 despite close monitoring of the central bank.
- The amount of classified loans was BDT 803.07 billion a year before.
- Senior bankers as well as the central bankers said the amount of classified loans in the banking system has increased during the period under review, as some borrowers did not make repayment of installments against their rescheduled loans.
- They also said a portion of restructured large loans has already turned into classified ones that also pushed up the overall volume of NPLs in the banking system.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/npls-soar-34pc-to-reach-record-high-at-BDT-9937b-1544032060>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/default-loans-all-time-high-1669894>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/58085/bad-loans-swell-to-BDT-100000cr>

Limit number of offers, packages to 35

- The telecom regulator, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), has asked mobile phone operators to improve their packages and offers for both voice and data services, and bring down the number to 35 from more than a hundred now.
- The regulator asked the operators not to offer any data or voice package with less than seven days' validity. No package validity will exceed 30 days, the directive said. The telecom watchdog has sought package lists from the

operators by today.

- After receiving complaints from customers for years, the BTRC has finally moved to control unwanted offers and packages as it has no other mechanism to protect the interests of customers, said a top official of the regulator.
- Mobile operators, however, said the new order would deprive the customers of cheaper deals as many are used to buy a high volume of data for a very short period. At present, there are plenty of offers with validity for two days to three days and even for a few hours at a very cheap rate and these are very popular among the youth.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/limit-number-offers-packages-35-1669879>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/58056/btrc-bars-mobile-packages-with-less-than-7-day-validity>

Capital market achieves high quality structure: Finance Minister

- Finance minister said the country's capital market has achieved the ability of performing like a high quality market although its expansion is yet to be remarkable.
- "Now we have no need for interfering in the activities of the securities regulator as the capital market has achieved high quality structure through accomplishment of reform works," finance minister said.
- He said during the tenures of Awami League, the capital market witnessed debacles twice. "That's why it was a big challenge for the Awami League government. Then we have started the job of restructuring the regulatory body," he said.
- He said their objective of reforming the regulatory body and rules and regulation was to contain 'bubble'.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/capital-market-achieves-high-quality-structure-muhith-1544030711>

Foreign funds in Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) slump further in November

- The net foreign funds in the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) remained negative in November as foreign investors were reluctant to put fresh stakes.
- Market insiders said depreciation of taka against the USD coupled with political tension surrounding national elections played a crucial role in withdrawing funds by the foreign portfolio investors.
- In November, the overseas investors collected shares worth BDT 3.24 billion but sold shares worth BDT 3.46 billion, resulting in their net position negative by BDT 0.22 billion, according to statistics available with the DSE.
- In the eleven months from January to November in 2018, the overseas investors bought shares worth BDT 42.48 billion and sold stocks worth BDT 47.40 billion, taking their net position in the negative BDT 4.92 billion.
- A year earlier, the net investment by foreigners was BDT 16.42 billion for January-November period, as they brought shares worth BDT 59.82 billion and sold shares of BDT 43.40 billion, the DSE data shows.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/foreign-funds-in-dse-slump-further-in-nov-1544030666>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/58060/foreign-fund-at-dse-drops-again-in-nov>

ADN Telecom sees 13% growth in net profit

- ADN Telecom Limited, a leading IT and telecommunication service provider of the country which is expected to be listed with the stock exchange soon, registered a net profit growth of 12.93% in the fiscal year 2017-18.
- This year, the company announced 6% cash dividend for its shareholders.
- During the last fiscal year, ADN Telecom's net revenue and gross profit also increased 10.97% and 16.60% respectively.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/adn-telecom-sees-13pc-growth-in-net-profit-1544031745>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$52.27	-0.62	-1.17%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$61.09	-1.12	-0.76%
Gold Spot*	\$1,239.23	+1.94	+0.16%
DSEX	5361.11	+15.68	0.29%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,027.07	-799.36	-3.10%
FTSE 100	6,921.84	-100.92	-1.44%
Nikkei 225	21,459.55	-180.84	-2.10%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 83.69*

GBP 1 = BDT 106.47*

EUR 1 = BDT 94.91*

INR 1 = BDT 1.18*

**Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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