

*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.*

### **BTRC firm on previous price over Robi spectrum renewal**

- Mobile phone operator Robi Axiata Limited will have to pay in full for the renewal of spectrum which was purchased by the operator 15 years ago and is scheduled to expire on December 19, a senior Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission official said. The commission will not issue any discount to the telecom operator in allocation of the 11.6 Megahertz of spectrum, the official said. The telecom regulator approved the spectrum price at a commission meeting held recently, keeping the rate unchanged as it was determined at the spectrum auction held on February 14, 2018.
- The 11.6 Megahertz spectrum includes 900MHz and 1800MHz bands and was allocated to Airtel, which later merged with Robi in 2017, 15 years ago when the operator obtained the 2G licence from the BTRC. The last spectrum auction was held in 2018 and Robi will have to pay the same rate for renewal of the spectrum. In 2018, each MHz of the spectrum in the 2100MHz band was sold for USD 28 million while each MHz spectrum in the 1800MHz band was sold for USD 31 million for a period of 15 years. The commission would now allocate spectrum to Robi at the same rate but the rate would depend on the period for which the operator would take the allocation.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/123707/btrc-firm-on-previous-price-over-robi-spectrum-renewal>

### **Bangladesh Bank (BB) issues licence to Citizens Bank**

- The Bangladesh Bank on Monday approved licence to the country's 61st commercial bank named Citizens Bank. The new bank is coming at a time when several banks that started their journey in the past few years have not been able to spread their services outside Dhaka city. Considering the country's economy and type of businesses, it will be difficult for a new bank to survive without innovation, a former deputy governor of the Bangladesh Bank said.
- He said 80% of people in the country are still out of the banking services. A bank can be successful if it can bring them under service, put more emphasis on the SME sector, and introduce a new type of business model to take services at the upazila and village level without focusing on the city. Law Minister is one of the shareholders of the Citizens Bank.

<https://tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-issues-licence-citizens-bank-168586>

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/another-pvt-bank-gets-go-ahead-1607364144>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2020/12/07/citizens-bank-gets-the-final-nod-from-bangladesh-bank>

### **November sees 0.15 million new BO accounts**

- Attracted by a positive market over the last few months, investors opened around 0.15 million new beneficiary owner (BO) accounts in November alone. Market insiders said the initial public offering (IPO) market has made a turnaround in the last few months and investors are receiving profit from the primary market during this period. As a result, the rate of BO account opening has increased in the brokerage firms.
- In October this year, the number of active BO accounts was 2.36 million, which stood at 2.51 million at the end of November, according to the Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL). And of the new account holders, 0.13 million are residential Bangladeshis and the rest 23,000 are non-resident Bangladeshis. In the last fiscal year, around 0.25 million BO accounts were closed.

<https://tbsnews.net/economy/stock/november-sees-15-lakh-new-bo-accounts-168583>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$45.64	(\$15.99)	-25.95%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$48.79	(\$19.65)	-28.71%
Gold Spot*	\$1,864.11	\$342.64	22.52%
DSEX	5,053.49	600.56	13.49%
S&P 500	3,691.96	461.18	14.27%
FTSE 100	6,555.39	(1,031.66)	-13.60%
BSE SENSEX	45,426.97	3,784.83	9.09%
KSE-100	42,115.31	1,380.23	3.39%
CSEALL	6,473.76	344.55	5.62%

**Exchange Rates**

USD 1 = BDT 84.61\*

GBP 1 = BDT 112.99\*

EUR 1 = BDT 102.45\*

INR 1 = BDT 1.15\*

*\*Currencies are taken from XE Currency Converter and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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