

*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.*

### **RMG exports to India can hit USD 2 billion in 2 years**

- Bangladesh has the capability to export USD 2 billion worth of apparel to India in the next two years on the back of its duty-free access to the market and rising demand for garment items at competitive prices.
- In fiscal 2017-18, garment exports to India more than doubled to USD 278.68 million.
- On the widening gap in trade balance between the two countries, the diplomat said India's export to Bangladesh is growing as the country mainly imports raw materials for export.
- Bangladesh imported goods worth USD 8.61 billion and exported goods worth USD 873.27 million in last fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rmg-exports-india-can-hit-2b-2yrs-1693924>

### **Bangladesh to import 1.42 million tonnes of fuel oil in H1**

- Bangladesh will import around 1.42 million tonnes of petroleum from eight state-owned companies of different countries under the government-to-government (G2G) arrangements in the first half of 2019.
- Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, the government will require to spend about US USD 806.769 million, equivalent to over BDT 67.72 billion, to procure this bulk refined petroleum from January to June of this current calendar year.
- Of the total fuel oil, the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) will buy 1.19 million tonnes of gasoil (diesel) while 0.1 million tonnes of Jet A-1, 30,000 tonnes of petrol (mogas) and 0.1 million tonnes of furnace oil.
- The committee also approved the premium of the fuel import proposals which are USD2.95 per barrel for diesel, USD3.95 per barrel for Jet A-1, USD5.50 per barrel for petrol and USD29.75 a tonne for furnace oil.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bangladesh-to-import-142m-tonnes-of-fuel-oil-in-h1-1548606166>  
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2019/01/27/government-to-import-1-42m-tons-of-petroleum-by-june>

### **4G not flourishing for handset dearth**

- The initial enthusiasm for fourth generation (4G) mobile services has started to fall off in the absence of affordable 4G-enabled handsets in the country.
- Rolled out in December 2016 by Teletalk and in February last year by the three private operators, 4G has 11.7 million active users as of December last year out of the 85.4 million mobile internet subscribers.
- At present, about 40%of the handsets in use are 3G-enabled. The private operators rolled out 3G service in October 2013.
- At present, about 40%of the handsets in use are 3G-enabled. The private operators rolled out 3G service in October 2013. About 20%of the handsets in use in Bangladesh are 4G-enabled.
- At present, more than 50%of the spectrum available to the government is sitting unused, according to Ahmed. The operator, which is the second largest in the country, said it has taken an aggressive approach to make 4G successful and deployed a huge network.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/telecom/news/4g-not-flourishing-handset-dearth-1693918>

### **Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) allows internet pack with minimum 3-day validity**

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission has revised its directive on setting the minimum validity of internet and voice packages by lowering the validity to three days.
- An earlier directive of the telecom regulator set the minimum validity of internet and voice packages to seven days scrapping packages with validity ranging from one hour to six days.

- The telecom regulator asked the mobile phone operators to implement the latest directive from February 1 this year.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/63058/btrc-allows-internet-pack-with-minimum-3-day-validity>

### **Mobile users facing trouble in getting One Time password (OTP) SMS service**

- Mobile phone users, who have availed the mobile number portability (MNP) service, are facing trouble in getting OTP SMS service from banks, and mobile financial service (MFS) and other service providers.

• The assigned MNP operator, Infozillion Teletech BD Limited, said they are in persuasion with all the banks, MFS providers like bKash and Rocket, and other service providers, but they are very reluctant to extend cooperation. So, at the end of the day, the mobile phone users are being affected.

• The biggest impediment to popularizing the MNP service is the incidence of not getting OTP messages. Especially, in case of availing the Mobile Financial Services, this problem gets magnified.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/63060/mobile-users-facing-trouble-in-getting-otp-sms-service>

### **LankaBangla Finance gets first Shariah-compliant foreign currency financing from Islamic Corporation for Development (ICD)**

• The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), the member of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, signed a Murabaha Facility fund worth USUSD 20 million with LankaBangla Finance Limited (LBFL) on Sunday.

• Green Delta Capital will manage the fund. This is the first time in Bangladesh that a NBFIs is going to avail shariah compliant foreign currency financing from ICD to build up the SME portfolio.

• The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) opened its new regional hub in Dhaka, as part of its continued commitment to support sustainable socio-economic development in the region in September last year.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/lankabangla-finance-gets-first-shariah-compliant-foreign-currency-financing-from-icd-1548605756>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lankabangla-gets-20m-icd-1693915>

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/63040/icd-signs-20m-murabaha-facility-with-lankabangla-finance>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

| <b>Index Name</b>            | <b>Close Value</b> | <b>Value Change</b> | <b>% Change</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Crude Oil (WTI)*             | \$53.44            | -0.25               | -0.47%          |
| Crude Oil (Brent)*           | \$61.50            | -0.14               | -0.23%          |
| Gold Spot*                   | \$1,303.19         | -2.06               | -0.16%          |
| DSEX                         | 5939.45            | -10.56              | -1.78           |
| Dow Jones Industrial Average | 24,737.20          | +183.96             | +0.75%          |
| FTSE 100                     | 6,809.22           | -9.73               | -0.14%          |
| Nikkei 225                   | 20,708.22          | -65.34              | -0.31%          |

**Exchange Rates**

USD 1 = BDT 83.71\*

GBP 1 = BDT 110.44\*

EUR 1 = BDT 95.54\*

INR 1 = BDT 1.18\*

*\*Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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