

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.

### **Swiss institutional investor raises its stakes in British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATBC)**

- The current rout of the Dhaka bourse has a silver lining: many well-performing companies are becoming bargains. Swiss wealth management firm Pictet spotted this opening, which is why one of the funds it manages is set to grab 0.525 million shares, or 0.29%, of heavyweight British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATBC) at the prevailing market price. Yesterday, the only listed tobacco company's share traded at BDT 910.20, so the purchase will set back PICTET LUX A/C THS KFFC (THS Kingsway Fund) by about BDT 470 million.
- Coronavirus fears have driven many solid companies' price down, so all on a sudden they became good deals for astute investors, said a stock market analyst requesting anonymity. The shares will be bought through the block market from institutional investors. According to the annual report of 2018, the fund holds 9.99% shares of BATBC. In April 2019, it also bought 0.137 million shares.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/swiss-institutional-investor-raises-its-stakes-batbc-1881442>

### **The Bangladesh Merchant Bankers' Association (BMBA) seeks Bangladesh Banks's intervention as few banks form special fund**

- The Bangladesh Merchant Bankers' Association (BMBA) on Sunday sought Bangladesh Bank's intervention so that all scheduled banks formed special fund for investing in the stock market. The central bank officials said they are working to expedite the ongoing process of creating the special funds meant for investment in the capital market. The capital market intermediary's appeal came against the backdrop of the benchmark equities index dropping below the 'psychological' threshold of 4,000-mark on Sunday following the news of travel restrictions announced by major countries.
- On February 10, BB allowed scheduled banks to form their special fund worth BDT 2 billion each to invest in the stock market in an attempt to boost the sagging capital market. Eight banks have formed special funds worth BDT 13.65 billion for investing in the stock market and three other banks would complete the stock market fund formation by this week. Of the eight banks, Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Shahjalal Islami Bank, Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank and United Commercial Bank have formed BDT 2 billion in stocks fund each. Of the rest two banks, Rupali Bank formed a fund worth BDT 850 million and The City Bank BDT 500 million. Besides the eight banks, Dhaka Bank, Mercantile Bank and Bank Asia would complete the fund formation process by this week.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/merchant-bankers-for-fast-creation-of-special-funds-1584293824>  
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2020/03/15/bmba-see-bb-intervention-as-few-banks-form-special-fund>  
<https://www.newagebd.net/article/102315/eight-banks-form-BDT-1335cr-in-special-funds-for-stocks>

### **Trade war proves a boon for apparel**

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the US grew 16.09% year-on-year to USD 637 million in January amid the US-China trade war. Apart from Bangladesh, four other countries, which are among the top 10 garment producers worldwide, also saw their shipment to the US market rise in January, according to data from the Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) of the US. Garment exports from Vietnam grew 4.25% to USD 1.39 billion, from Indonesia 3.48% to USD 445 million, from Cambodia 25.61% to USD 319 million and from Honduras 1.07% to 155 million year-on-year, OTEXA data showed.
- Although Bangladesh seemed to benefit from the trade conflict, the garment export may come under pressure in the coming months because of the fast-spreading coronavirus in the world and in particular in the developed economies that are also the country's major export destinations. Since the supply chain for raw materials from China is improving gradually, production may soon return to normalcy as well, said the president of the Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trade-war-proves-boon-apparel-1881394>

### **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) provides USD 400m to upgrade international road corridor**

- The Asian Development Bank yesterday signed an agreement with Bangladesh to provide EUR 360 million, or USD 400 million, to help upgrade the Dhaka-Northwest international trade corridor. The project is part of a priority international transport corridor that connects Bangladesh with Bhutan, India, and Nepal, said the country director of the Manila-based multilateral lender. The assistance forms the second tranche of USD 1.2 billion ADB loans for the second South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Dhaka - Northwest Corridor Road Project. The loan will have a 25-year term, including a grace period of five years.

- In 2017, the lender gave USD 300 million in the first tranche. The third tranche and fourth and final tranche will be released in December 2021 and 2023 respectively. The total cost of the project is USD 1.67 billion, of which the government will meet USD 472.6 million. Work will be carried out over 10 years to 2026.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-provides-400m-upgrade-international-road-corridor-1881376>  
<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-ADB-sign-400m-loan-deal-to-develop-elenga-rangpur-highway-1584286823>  
<https://www.newagebd.net/article/102316/government-ADB-ink-400m-loan-deal-to-upgrade-road-corridor>

### Readymade Garments goods pile up at factories as buyers ask for shipment delay

- Undelivered ready garments are piling up in the country's readymade garment factories as a good number of buyers from European countries have asked their suppliers to delay the shipment of their products two to four weeks due to the global coronavirus outbreak. Bangladesh's exporters said that they might incur a huge amount of losses for putting the shipment on hold and might face a shortage of working capital in the sector as the payment from buyers would be deferred until receiving the products.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/102311/rmg-goods-pile-up-at-factories-as-buyers-ask-for-shipment-delay>

### World Stock and Commodities\*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$31.21	-0.52	-1.64%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$32.90	-0.95	-2.81%
Gold Spot*	\$1,546.55	+16.72	+1.09%
DSEX	3,969.31	-160.65	-3.89%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	23,185.62	+1,985.00	+9.36%
FTSE 100	5,366.11	+128.63	+2.46%
Nikkei 225	17,449.59	+18.54	+0.11%
BSE SENSEX	34,103.48	+1325.34	+4.04%

### Exchange Rates

**USD 1 = BDT 85.23\***  
**GBP 1 = BDT 105.20\***  
**EUR 1 = BDT 94.67\***  
**INR 1 = BDT 1.15\***

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

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