

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.

Interest rates go down from July 1

• Private commercial banks (PCBs) will fix interest rates for both lending and deposit as per the decision of their board of directors. The decision was made at a general meeting of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB). The ABB chief said that they are committed to implement the cut in the banks' lending and deposit rates in line with the decision of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB). He also said the banks will have to reduce the interest rates on lending to help create employment opportunities through boosting investment across the country. The banks will slash the lending rates to 9.0% from the existing level in line with their respective board of director's decisions, he explained.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/top-bankers-decide-to-comply-with-decisions-of-their-boards-1530122306>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/interest-rates-go-down-jul-1-1596493>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/44644/banks-to-device-own-strategy-for-interest-rate-cut>

Parliament passes Finance Bill 2018

• The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) passed the Finance Bill 2018 on Wednesday, bringing a number of changes in taxes/duties proposed earlier in the finance minister's budget speech. Besides, problems of the private commercial banks (PCBs) will be discussed next month, as there are allegations that directors of one PCB take loan from other banks, he added. The changes in the corporate tax rates remain the same, as proposed in the budget placed in June 07 by the finance minister, although there are criticisms over these. Finance minister announced at the JS session that the VAT on internet would come down to 5.0% from the existing 15%.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/parliament-passes-finance-bill-2018-1530122258>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/muhith-breaks-silence-over-banking-crisis-1596499>

GDP growth to hit 7.78% this fiscal: Prime Minister

• Prime Minister told Parliament that the outgoing fiscal year will see a 7.78% GDP growth. She also said that the size of the country's GDP was only USD 72 billion in 2005-'06 fiscal year, which has increased to USD 274 billion in the 2017-'18 fiscal year. The target has been set in the 7th Five-year Plan to attain an average 7.4% GDP growth annually. The GDP growth will increase to 8.0% in 2020, she expressed the hope.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/gdp-growth-to-hit-778pc-this-fiscal-pm-1530122364>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/44642/outgoing-fy-to-see-778pc-gdp-growth-pm>

Bangladesh's power generation capacity now 18,353MW: Prime Minister

• Prime Minister said in parliament on Wednesday that the country's power generation capacity is now 18,353-megawatt (MW) including the captive power. She said that the government has undertaken a programme to purchase 2,336 MW power from India by the year 2022. Under the programme, this year 500 MW power will be purchased from India. Sheikh Hasina hoped that the country's power generation will be 24,000 MW by 2021 and 60,000 MW by 2041.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bangladeshs-power-generation-capacity-now-18353mw-pm-1530119336>

3 mobile firms lose customers in May

• The number of active mobile phone users increased marginally by 0.4 million in May this year as three operators — Robi, Banglalink and Teletalk — lost customers due mainly to operators' go-slow strategy for customer hunt. According to a Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission data released on Wednesday, the number of active mobile phone subscribers increased to 150.73 million at the end of May this year from 150.34 million a month ago. Mobile phone operators' go-slow strategy for hunting customers was first observed in April this year when the number of mobile phone subscribers increased by only 55,000 in the month. Before April, the volume of increase in mobile phone subscribers was 1.89 million in January, 1.7 million in February and 1.5 million in March. Of the four mobile phone companies operating in the country, only leading operator Grameenphone managed to add 0.6 million subscribers in May against 0.3 million customers lost by three other operators.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/44643/3-mobile-firms-lose-customers-in-may>

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) guidelines bar cos from declaring dividend whimsically

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has made it mandatory for the listed companies not to declare dividends out of their capital reserve accounts and to maintain post-dividend retained earnings positive, and to distribute dividends for a year out of profits made in the year. Besides, the listed companies must explain the reason for declaring stock dividend and the utilisation of such retained amount as capital (stock dividend) must be disclosed in the annual report. According to the new rules, dividend must not be declared out of the capital reserve account or the revaluation reserve account or any unrealised gain or out of profit earned prior to the incorporation of the company.
- The company must not declare dividend through reducing paid-up capital or through doing anything so that the post-dividend retained earnings become negative or a debit balance. The guidelines also stated that no dividend would be paid other than out of profits of the year or any other undistributed profits. The regulator has made it mandatory for the listed companies to provide right reasons for any significant deviation in any parameter between the quarterly periods.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/44641/bsec-guidelines-bar-cos-from-declaring-dividend-whimsically>

Bashundhara Paper makes debut Monday

- Bashundhara Paper Mills Ltd is set make its share trading debut on July 2 (Monday) on the Dhaka and Chittagong bourses under "N" category. DSE trading code for the company is "BPML" and company code is 19512 while CSE scrip Id is 19011 and scrip code is "BPML". Bashundhara Paper Mills, a concern of the country's leading business conglomerate - Bashundhara Group, raised a capital worth BDT 2.0 billion by floating more than 26 million ordinary shares under the book-building method. In August 2017, Bashundhara Paper received approval from the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to conduct the bidding process for determining the cut-off price for its IPO shares. The company conducted electronic bidding in October 2017 and the cut-off price was fixed at BDT 80, including a premium of BDT 70, for a share of BDT 10 each for the eligible institutional investors.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bashundhara-paper-makes-debut-monday-1530117627>

Consortium led by Unique Hotel to develop 584 megawatt power plant

- A consortium comprising three companies led by Unique Hotel & Resorts will develop a 584 megawatt power plant at Meghnaghat, Narayanganj. The gas/R-LNG based Combined Cycle Power Generation Facility will be installed for a period of 22 years from the date of commencement of commercial operation. The power plant will be set up on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis under the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) following the Private Sector Power Generation Policy of Bangladesh. Unique Hotel & Resorts, presently an 'A' category company, was listed with the stock exchanges in 2012.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/consortium-led-by-unique-hotel-to-develop-584-megawatt-power-plant-1530117704>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$72.51	-0.22	-0.30%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$77.47	-0.15	-0.19%
Gold Spot*	\$1,252.44	+0.09	+0.01%
DSEX	5429.04	+17.76	+0.33%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	24,117.59	-165.52	-0.68%
FTSE 100	7,621.69	+83.77	+1.11%
Nikkei 225	22,217.24	-54.53	-0.24%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.11*
 GBP 1 = BDT 110.29*
 EUR 1 = BDT 97.28*
 INR 1 = BDT 1.22*

*Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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