

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.

Government to incentivize migrant workers sending remittances

- The government has taken a decision to provide incentive to Bangladeshi migrant workers in sending remittances, says the director general of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET). He also said the move will help protect the interests of the migrant workers as well as increase the flow of inward remittances.
- The director general said that he had yet to be informed about the amount of the incentive. But within a few days the BMET will get an update, he said.
- If the workers enjoy incentive then they will be encouraged to send money via official channel, according to the director general.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/govt-to-incentivise-migrant-workers-sending-remittances-1556562755>

Non-food inflation rose in Q2 according to the Finance Minister

- Finance Minister admitted on Monday that non-food inflation in the second quarter of the current fiscal increased, but the food inflation decreased. He made the statement while placing the report on budget implementation progress of the second quarter, the trend of income and expenditure, and macroeconomic analysis.
- Data showed that non-food inflation in October was 5.9%, 5.49% in November and 5.45% in December. The 12 months average after the quarter is 4.51%. During the same period in the last fiscal, the rates were 3.61%, 4.10% and 3.85% respectively. The 12 months average after the quarter was 3.5%.
- Food inflation in the October-December period was 5.08, 5.295 and 5.28% while it was 7.62, 7.09 and 7.13% in the same period of the last fiscal. The 12 months average after the quarter of the current fiscal is 6.21% while it was 7.17% in the previous fiscal.
- The overall inflation in the stipulated three months of the current fiscal was 5.4, 5.37 and 5.35% which was 6.04, 5.91 and 5.83% in the previous fiscal. The 12 months average after the quarter of the 2018-19 fiscal is 5.54%. It was 5.7 during the last fiscal.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/non-food-inflation-rose-in-q2-fm-tells-js-1556561733>

SMP Restriction: GP call rate to rise by 5 paisa/minute

- Grameenphone subscribers' minimum call rate is set to increase by 5 paisa a minute to BDT 0.50 as part of restrictions imposed on the operator for being declared a significant market power. Currently, the minimum call rate for operators is BDT 0.45 a minute and after adding the value-added tax and other duties the charge goes up to BDT 0.54 to any operator. But, Grameenphone's average call rate is BDT 0.70 a minute, so the penalty from the telecom regulator is unlikely to affect its customers. The operator, however, cannot pass on the burden of the incremental costs to existing customers already using packages that charge less than BDT 0.50 a minute for calls.
- The leading operator will also have to pay 5 paisa more to other operators for calls its subscribers make to another network. At present, the interconnection cost is 10 paisa a minute. But for Grameenphone it will be 15 paisa, according to a proposal that will be placed at the commission meeting today. The extra charge also cannot be passed on to their customers.
- The third penalty on the operator will be prior approval from the telecom regulator before it can roll out any package.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/telecom/news/smp-restriction-gp-call-rate-rise-5-paisa-minute-1736884>

Loan default becomes 'business model'

- Loan default has become a 'business model' in the country as borrowers who defaulted on loans believe that they can manage to escape the situation, eminent economist Professor said on Monday.
- The amount of defaulted loans keeps multiplying over the last four decades and now it (loan default) has got incorporated into a business model of the country, according to the economist.
- He added: that a section of people have started believing that they will get out of the situation if they became

defaulted once, twice or thrice so that there is an issue of governance.

- The chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), observed that the laws are seen to be applied severely to the people who belong to opposition parties, but the situation is almost reverse to the people having strong political engagement.
- Executive chairman of Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) said that the country managed to reach the economic growth at this level mainly because of the contribution of the citizen's initiative. Referring to the current state of the banking system, he said the authority should not put law violators in the driving seat at policy level.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/loan-default-becomes-business-model-1556561427>

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) decides to review some provisions

- The securities regulator decided on Monday to take several steps for the betterment of the stock market. The steps included reviewing the existing provision for requirement of holding of minimum shares (2.0%) for becoming sponsors directors of any listed companies.
- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) also decided that no prior permission would be required from the BSEC for issuing shares under private placement.
- Besides, a minimum of BDT 500 million needs to be raised through initial public offering (IPO) under the fixed price method while the minimum size of IPO under book-building method will be BDT 1.0 billion, it said.
- The meeting also decided that the IPO quota for institutional investors would be scrapped unless they discharge their responsibilities accordingly. The provision regarding the existing one-year lock-in period for placement shares will remain in force from the date of debut trading of the company's shares, according to the decisions.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bsec-decides-to-review-some-provisions-1556561599>

Permanent market for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) products on cards

- Industries Minister said that a permanent market will be established to facilitate marketing of products to be produced by small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The permanent market will create employment opportunities. It will also help achieve the target of the government's election manifesto, according to the Industries Minister.
- Industry ministry will continue to provide necessary policy supports to ensure the market value of SME entrepreneurs and the appropriate prices of the SME products.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/permanent-market-for-sme-products-on-cards-1556562851>

Coppertech's IPO lottery draw today

- Coppertech Industries will hold initial public offering (IPO) lottery draw today (Tuesday) to allocate 20 million ordinary shares among the successful applicants, officials said. The lottery draw will be held at 10:30am at The AGB Colony Community Center, Motijheel in Dhaka.
- As per the BSEC approval, the company raised a capital worth BDT 200 million by offloading 20 million ordinary shares under the fixed price method. Total subscription received BDT 7.71 billion against public issue of IPO of BDT 200 million which is oversubscribed by 38.58 times, according to Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE).

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/coppertechs-ipo-lottery-draw-today-1556556939>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$63.45	-0.05	-0.08%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$71.93	-0.11	-0.15%
Gold Spot*	\$1,283.09	+3.19	+0.25%
DSEX	5,175.46	-62.73	-1.20%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	26,554.39	+11.06	+0.04%
FTSE 100	7,440.66	+12.47	+0.17%
Nikkei 225	22,258.73	-48.85	-0.22%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.18*
GBP 1 = BDT 108.99*
EUR 1 = BDT 94.20*
INR 1 = BDT 1.21*

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

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