

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.

Inflation down marginally in November

- The point-to-point inflation rate in the rural areas increased to 4.91% last month (November) after continuous fall during the previous seven months, official data showed.
- The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data, unveiled on Tuesday, showed that the rate of overall inflation dropped marginally to 5.37% last month. But, in the rural areas it reached 4.91% in November from that of 4.87% in October.
- The BBS officials said the point-to-point inflation dropped to 5.37% last month compared to that of 5.40% in October, but the food inflation is rising.
- The non-food inflation, however, dropped to 5.49% last month than that of 5.90% in October.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/inflation-down-marginally-in-november-1543944309>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-sinks-18-month-low-1669177>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/57949/inflation-hits-22-month-low-in-nov>
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2018/12/04/inflation-slightly-eases-to-5-37-in-november>

Stimulus for jute millers

- The government has offered a stimulus package to debt-stricken jute millers with a view to giving a boost to export earnings by the sector.
- Under the package, banks will move the outstanding loans of a debt-ridden miller to a block account and offer a two-year grace period to repay the loans.
- The millers will also get a repayment period of 10 years and a lower interest rate, to be set based on the cost of fund of banks, according to a central bank notice sent to lenders on Monday.
- The ratio of defaulted loans in the jute sector stood at 19% of the total outstanding loans of BDT 79.61 billion as of June last year, according to data from the central bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/stimulus-jute-millers-1669180>
<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/jute-spinners-liabilities-exceed-assets-1543940089>

12 banks still lending aggressively

- Salehuddin Ahmed, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said that aggressive lending is not a good sign before the election.
- Despite most lenders and borrowers remaining cautious ahead of the national elections, twelve banks are still lending aggressively, bypassing Bangladesh Bank (BB) instructions.
- According to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, Farmers Bank, Midland Bank, BASIC Bank, AB Bank, National Bank, NRB Bank, Mercantile Bank, and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, are eight conventional banks still lending aggressively.
- Additionally, Exim Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank, and Shahjalal Islami Bank, are four Islamic banks also practicing aggressive lending.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2018/12/04/12-banks-still-lending-aggressively>

DSEX crosses 5,300-mark riding on bank shares

- Stocks ticked higher on Tuesday with core index crossing the 5,300-mark again as investors showed their buying spree on banking and telecommunication issues.
- Market insiders said some institutional investors were active on sector specific issues, particularly banking, financial institutions and telecommunication, taking the core index above 5,300-mark.
- Share price of GlaxoSmithKline rose 6.25% or BDT 85.70 each to close at BDT 1457.80 on Tuesday after the news

that Unilever will buy GlaxoSmithKline's health food and drinks business in Bangladesh.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dsex-crosses-5300-mark-riding-on-bank-shares-1543940026>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/57952/dhaka-stocks-rise-sharply-as-financial-scrips-soar>

Tax collection deficit reaches BDT 167.99 billion

- Aggregate shortfall in tax revenue collection against the target widened further, marking a deficit amounting to BDT 167.99 billion in the first four months of the current fiscal year (FY), 2018-19.
- The shortfall was about BDT 114 billion in the first quarter (July-September) of FY 19.
- According to the provisional statistics of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), released on Tuesday, deficit in tax revenue collection was BDT 53.69 billion in October alone.
- NBR collected BDT 621.29 billion tax in July-October period against its target of BDT 789.28 billion.
- However, the aggregate tax revenue collection posted 6.28% growth in the first four months of the current FY compared to that of the corresponding period last year.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tax-collection-deficit-reaches-BDT-16799b-1543943890>

Last fiscal's yield curve witnesses steeper rise

- The gap between short and long-term government fixed-income securities yields was steeper during fiscal year 2018 than its previous year, which indicated a "tightened year" for money market.
- This type of steeper yield curves represent that the treasury tools are more attractive than the banking instruments.
- Dr Zahid Hussain, lead economist at the Dhaka office of the World Bank, said that the money market was tight in terms of liquidity. He also said the primary dealers, who are eligible to participate in the auction, were active on short term bills, especially the 91-bills.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2018/12/04/12-banks-still-lending-aggressively>
<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/last-fiscals-yield-curve-witnesses-steeper-rise-1543944223>

Deposits in school banking accounts rise to BDT 14.28 billion

- Total deposit in the school banking accounts increased to BDT 14.28 billion as of September 30 this year from BDT 12.54 billion as of September 30 last year. The number of bank accounts opened by schoolchildren rose to 1.61 million as of September 30 this year from 1.39 million as of September 30 last year, according to the Bangladesh Bank data released this week.
- The number of bank accounts opened by schoolchildren rose to 1.61 million as of September 30 this year from 1.39 million as of September 30 last year, according to the Bangladesh Bank data released this week. A total of 446,000 accounts were opened in the state-run commercial banks and BDT 1.91 billion were deposited in the accounts. The amount is 13.38% of the total deposit.
- The BB data showed that 34.60% of schoolchildren's accounts were opened with the bank branches in rural areas while 61.40% in the branches in urban areas. The accounts opened with the bank branches in rural areas secured 25.31% of the total deposit while accounts with urban branches secured 74.69 per cent, the data showed.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2018/12/04/12-banks-still-lending-aggressively>
<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/last-fiscals-yield-curve-witnesses-steeper-rise-1543944223>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$52.29	-0.96	-1.80%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$60.96	-1.12	-1.80%
Gold Spot*	\$1,235.43	-3.11	-0.25%
DSEX	5345.42	+48.87	+0.92%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,027.07	-799.36	-3.10%
FTSE 100	7,022.76	-39.65	-0.56%
Nikkei 225	21,855.21	-180.84	-0.82%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 83.56*

GBP 1 = BDT 106.15*

EUR 1 = BDT 94.66*

INR 1 = BDT 1.18*

**Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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