

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.

Bangladesh (BD) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flow up despite global decline in 2018

- The flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country recorded substantial rise in 2018 with China becoming the top contributor. The development came in contrast to the decline in global inflow of FDI last year.
- Net inflow of FDI into the country, according to the Bangladesh Bank data, was USD2.26 billion during the January-September period of 2018. The figure represented a 51.62 % increase in FDI inflow over that of corresponding period of 2017. A total of USD1.49 billion FDI flowed into the country during the first nine months of 2017.
- China became the top source of FDI in Bangladesh as net inflow of FDI from the second largest economy of the world reached USD812.15 billion in the first nine months of 2018 due to big Chinese investment in the power sector.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-fdi-flow-up-despite-global-decline-in-2018-1548093196>

Bangladesh Bank (BB) steps up monitoring as farm loan disbursement falls by 5.0%

- The central bank has strengthened monitoring and supervision as the first half (H1) of this fiscal year (FY) has witnessed a fall in the disbursement of agriculture loans by nearly 5.0 %.
- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) is set to meet with senior officials of 30 local and foreign private banks today (Tuesday) to know about their 'action plan' for the second half (H2) of FY 2018-19.
- The agriculture loan disbursement came down to BDT 102.31 billion in the July-December period of FY '19 from BDT 107.56 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal.
- All the banks have achieved nearly 47 % of their annual agricultural loan disbursement target for FY '19. The target has been fixed at BDT 218 billion. The central bank has asked the eight state-owned banks to continue their efforts to achieve the target by the end of this fiscal.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bb-steps-up-monitoring-as-farm-loan-disbursement-falls-by-50%-1548091918>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/62482/loan-disbursement-to-smes-drops-6%-in-9-months>

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to launch mobile phone handset database

- The telecom regulator is launching a database of information on mobile phone handsets to prevent theft and illegal import.
- It will be possible to recover stolen mobile phones once the database is launched.
- The other details of the services such as how the users will be able to know whether their handsets are on the database will be revealed during the launch.
- Any SIM other than the one specified with the handset will no longer work on it.
- There are an estimated 30 million illegal handsets in Bangladesh.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/btrc-to-launch-mobile-phone-handset-database-1548093654>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imei-database-opens-today-1691068>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/62481/imei-database-to-be-inaugurated-today>

Chattogram customs to introduce Pre-Arrival Processing System (PAPS) for expediting trade flow

- Chittagong Customs House will introduce Pre-Arrival Processing System (PAPS) to expedite the flow of trade as well as check smuggling of contraband goods into the country through the Chittagong Port.
- The PAPS will come into effect on July 1, 2019. And the present system in which the Import General Manifest (IGM) and Bill of Entry (BE) are to be submitted will cease to exist from the day one of the upcoming financial year (2019-20).
- The importers will require to submit their IGMs as soon as a vessel with import consignments leaves the port of

departure.

- They have already taken up a project involving BDT 24 billion for the implementation of customs modernisation scheme. Under the project, they are going to install fixed scanner machines at all 12 gates of the Chittagong Port by June 2020

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/ctg-customs-to-introduce-paps-for-expediting-trade-flow-1548092293>

Pearl Paper plans to raise BDT 400 million from stock market

- Pearl Paper and Board Mills, a unit of BGD-Magura Group, has planned to raise BDT 400 million from the capital market using the fixed price method.
- The company has decided to float 40 million ordinary shares at an offer price of BDT 10 each for raising the said amount for business expansion.
- The initial public offering (IPO) proceeds will be used for purchasing machinery, repay partial bank loans and bearing the IPO expenses.
- Magura Group has also planned to bring other concern in the capital market in near future.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/pearl-paper-plans-to-raise-BDT-400m-from-stock-mkt-1548090160>

National Board of Revenue (NBR) issues guideline for customs houses

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR), for the first time, has issued a guideline on auction and destruction of confiscated goods by the customs houses.
- Unreleased or smuggled goods will be auctioned and demolished by the customs houses in accordance with the NBR's prescribed guideline. The NBR Customs Wing issued a gazette notification in this connection on January 10 last.
- The new guideline has incorporated disposal procedures of all types of goods, including perishable goods, import-prohibited goods, unreleased imported goods, and confiscated and seized goods following allegation of smuggling.
- People can participate in the auction from anywhere through the e-auction process. E-auction must be conducted through e-auction software on Bangladesh Customs website.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-issues-guideline-for-customs-houses-1548093331>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/62480/nbr-frames-integrated-disposal-procedures>

Mobile phone assembly picks up momentum

- Local handset plants churned out 2.3 million units in 2018, with the government's policy that compelled importers to set up plants in the country looking to bear fruit.
- So far five plants have started rolling, while a good number of local and international brands are in the process of setting up new factories, thanks to the duty structure designed to discourage imports.
- The assembly line rolled very slowly initially, but it picked up pace later on, so much that Walton fully stopped importing handsets.
- Some defaulters fled the country, forcing the lender to face difficulties in recovering classified loans. They are now fully dependent on their factory's production

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mobile-phone-assembly-picks-momentum-1691104>

BDT 18.93 billion projects await nod

- Eight projects are likely to be placed in today's Ecne meeting, in what can be viewed as a return to normal order following the flurry of project approvals in the three months to the 11th general elections.
- The projects that are set to get the green light in the meeting, the first under the new government, involve a total of BDT 18.93 billion.
- The most notable one among the projects is the construction of a four-lane road to reduce traffic jam and accidents on

the roads to Chattogram and Sylhet from the capital. The 5.4 kilometre-long four-lane will be from Jatrabari (Mayor Hanif Flyover) to Demra (Sultana Kamal Bridge), with 8.44 km-long service lane on both sides of the road.

- At least 82 projects, involving BDT 887.82 billion, have been approved in October.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/BDT-1893cr-projects-await-nod-1691065>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$53.39	-0.41	-0.76%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$62.33	-0.41	-0.65%
Gold Spot*	\$1,278.21	-2.26	-0.18%
DSEX	5859.30	-27.97	-0.47%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	24,706.35	+336.25	+1.38%
FTSE 100	6,970.59	+2.26	+0.03%
Nikkei 225	20,706.66	-12.67	-0.06%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 83.93*
GBP 1 = BDT 108.15*
EUR 1 = BDT 95.41*
INR 1 = BDT 1.18*

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