

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 Bank (BB) to unveil H1 monetary policy tomorrow

- Bangladesh Bank will unveil its monetary policy statement for the first half (H1) of the 2018-19 fiscal, covering the period from July to December. Central bank governor will announce the monetary policy statement (MPS) at a press conference at Bangladesh Bank.
- According to sources at the central bank, the MPS is likely to continue the cautionary monetary policy geared towards arresting any significant uptick in the rate of inflation, that has been the norm over the course of the current governor's tenure, and even earlier.
- The imperative to keep prices under control is even greater this time, against the backdrop of the coming general election likely anytime between December and January next. The central bank has adopted the current 'cautionary' policy to support the targeted GDP growth by ensuring quality credit for the productive sector.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-to-unveil-h1-monetary-policy-tomorrow-1532886483>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/47220/bb-to-declare-mps-tomorrow-major-changes-unlikely>

Japan to help build another mass transit corridor

- The government is likely to get highest-ever funds from Japan to construct next mass transit corridor from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) to Kamalapur Railway Station. The assurance about around USD 6.0 billion was given during the meetings between the ministry concerned and agency and a mission of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) last week.
- Officials said the mission talked with the officials of the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges (MoRTB) and Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL) and discussed the issues of project formulation and implementation.
- The mission also set some actions needed to be taken to get the loan agreement signed in the next Official Development Assistance (ODA) which is the 40th Yen Loan package, they added. The loan agreement will be signed as per the JICA's new ODA terms and conditions which mean 1.0% interest with 30 years of repayment period and 10 years' grace period.
- IBC also alleged that real representation of the sector was not made as the worker representative appointed at the board was favoured by the government and garment factory owners.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/japan-to-help-build-another-mass-transit-corridor-1532886298>

ECNEC okays nine projects involving BDT 75.39 billion

- The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved nine projects with the total estimated cost of BDT 75.39 billion, including a BDT 25.11 billion project to expand the scope for science education in some 200 government colleges across the country, reports UNB. The approval came from an ECNEC meeting held at the NEC conference room in the city with EECNEC chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.
- Of the total estimated cost, BDT 67.51 billion will come from the national exchequer, while BDT 5.28 billion as project assistance and BDT 2.85 billion from the own funds of the organisations concerned. Eight of the projects are new while another is revised one.
- In terms of cost, the biggest project is 'Expansion of Science Education's Scope in Government Colleges Project' involving BDT 25.11 billion. The entire cost will come from government funds. The goals of the project are to extend infrastructures, expand scope for ICT and science research and enhance skills of teachers with a view to expanding scope for science education.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ecnec-okays-nine-projects-involving-BDT-7539b-1532886446>

Building materials' prices budge, bricks defiant

- The prices of key construction materials like steel rod and cement have receded slightly in recent weeks. Traders have attributed this fall in prices and demand for the raw materials to monsoon. The price may zoom up at the end of the rainy season when building work will start in full swing. Scrap price has decreased in the global market which also another reason behind the price fallen of steel and rod in the market.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/building-materials-prices-budge-bricks-defiant-1532793543>

City Bank, bKash to establish interconnectivity

• City Bank and bKash Limited, through a strategic partnership, are set to establish interconnectivity, aiming to help their customers make cross-platform financial transactions. The customers will be able to carry out instant fund transfer between bank and mobile bank account, pay credit card bill with bKash and withdraw cash from ATM within a few days. City Bank Limited (CBL), a private commercial bank, and bKash Limited, a mobile financial service (MFS) provider, signed an agreement in this regard on Sunday.

• Following the integration between City Bank and bKash, any customer of the bank would be able to transfer fund to any of 35 million bKash users with the help of internet banking solution, Citytouch. On the other hand, a bKash user would be able to withdraw cash from any of 350 plus ATM's of the bank

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/city-bank-bkash-to-establish-interconnectivity-1532881350>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/city-bank-bkash-team-serve-each-others-clients-1613116>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$68.88	+0.19	+0.28%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$74.31	+0.02	+0.03%
Gold Spot*	\$1,219.96	-4.26	-0.35%
DSEX	5280.07	-25.10	-0.47%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,451.06	-76.01	-0.30%
FTSE 100	7,701.31	+38.14	+0.50%
Nikkei 225	22,565.33	-147.42	-0.65%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.23*

GBP 1 = BDT 110.38*

EUR 1 = BDT 98.16*

INR 1 = BDT 1.23*

*Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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