

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.

Uniform call rate on cards

- The government plans to introduce a uniform call rate for mobile phones to establish a level playing field for the country's telecom operators. Currently, for each minute the operators charge BDT 0.35 to BDT 0.40 on an average for on-net (same network) calls and BDT 0.91 to BDT 1.05 for off-net (other network) calls. Telecom and ICT minister said that the abolishment of the different call rates will create pressure on the mobile operators to improve their service quality to attract customers.
- Banglalink recommended the rate be fixed at BDT 0.45 a minute while Robi wants it to be BDT 0.55 a minute but the largest operator, Grameenphone, opposed the whole idea. Grameenphone, which has over 670 million customers, said on-net and off-net tariffs have been part of the industry for years. The uniform call rate would not hurt the earnings of the operators and the government, Robi said in its presentation to the BTRC. Last year, the BTRC conducted a study and recommended setting per minute off-net charge at BDT 0.45 and BDT 0.35 for on-net calls but the government did not pay heed to the call.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/telecom/uniform-call-rate-cards-1595284>

Bangladesh to get Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) focus this year

- Chief investment officer said that Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank plans to lend out USD 3.5 billion this year, with India, Bangladesh and Turkey to take greater focus than the other 83 member countries. The amount will take the bank's outlay to USD 7.9 billion in a significant scaling up of lending activities for the two-and-a-half-year-old multilateral development bank, which has committed USD 4.4 billion to 25 projects thus far. AIIB's interest rate on loans for public sector projects is priced according to consensus among multilateral lenders: the lowest is 0.75 basis points over LIBOR and the maximum is 1.45 basis points for 35-year tenure, according to Najeeb Haider, its investment operations manager.
- The bank has adequate capital -- USD 20 billion in cash and another USD 80 billion in guarantee from various member countries -- and is on the lookout for projects that meet its strategy of: sustainable development, connectivity and mobilising private sector, according to Pandian. The AIIB is also looking to fund projects that increase access to clean, safe, affordable, and reliable energy, as it is fundamental to driving sustainable economic growth and ending poverty, said Quan Zheng, its director general for policy and strategy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-get-aiib-focus-year-1595269>

Deposit govt funds with PCBs at rates below 6%: Association of Bankers (ABB)

- Top executives of the private commercial banks (PCBs) have urged the Bangladesh Bank (BB) to ensure depositing the government's fund with their banks at rates below 6.0% for implementing the single-digit lending rate. The leaders of Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB) have also requested the central bank to intervene in the public sector banks for depositing their funds with the PCBs at maximum 6.0% interest rate. On June 20, Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB) decided to bring down the interest rates on both lending and deposit at 9.0% and 6.0% respectively from July 01. ABB chairman said the PCBs will implement the proposed cut in their lending and deposit rates in line with the BAB's decisions.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/deposit-govt-funds-with-pcbs-at-rates-below-60pc-abb-1529948815>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/banks-see-bb-support-lower-interest-1595275>

Government's debt from bond sales set to fall 13%

- The government liabilities, in terms of borrowing through domestic debt securities, are likely to be 13% lower in the next fiscal year (FY) over those of the outgoing fiscal. It has projected mobilisation of BDT 1.22 trillion through the sale of the debt securities. It also expects that the balance from the ways and means will stand at BDT 100 billion in the year beginning on July 01, the budget document showed. The people familiar with the budget preparation said there has been a falling trend of domestic borrowing in recent years. This is because of the higher net sales of the national savings tools, they added. However, economists view that such sluggish activities in the T-bills and T-bonds are having an impact on the growth of the country's bond market.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govts-debt-from-bond-sales-set-to-fall-13pc-1529949468>

Fund raising by companies through rights shares drops 62%

- Funds raised by listed companies through issuance of rights fell sharply by 62% in the outgoing Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 compared to the previous FY. Three listed firms netted about BDT 3.93 billion, including premium of BDT 622

million, by issuing more than 330 million rights in the outgoing FY, according to statistics available from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). In the FY 2016-17, four companies-Bangladesh Thai Aluminium, IDLC Finance, Saif Powertec and IFIC Bank - raised a capital worth BDT 10.42 billion, including premium of BDT 1.82 billion. Market insiders said securities regulator's go slow policy in giving approvals, insufficient documents and a downward trend in the secondary market were the major factors behind the significant fall of rights issue.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/fund-raising-by-cos-through-rights-shares-drops-62pc-1529951092>

Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) becomes partner of Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE)

- Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has become the partner of Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE), a platform organised by United Nations (UN), to promote sustainable investment in the country's stock market. The SSE initiative is a UN initiative, working as a partnership between the UN, UN-supported organisations, stock exchanges, investors, companies, regulators and governments. Under the commitment signed with the SSE, the DSE will take initiative to encourage corporate governance in stock exchange and listed companies. The SSE having 75 exchange partners is an active platform to arrange dialogs among the stock exchanges across the world. It also facilitates the coordination among the stock exchanges, stock market regulators, and companies as part of encouraging sustainable investments.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dse-becomes-partner-of-sse-1529951117>
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/2018/06/25/dse-becomes-a-partner-exchange-of-the-un-sse-initiative>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$68.28	+0.20	+0.29%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$74.88	+0.15	+0.20%
Gold Spot*	\$1,264.31	-1.33	-0.11%
DSEX	5433.79	-88.21	-1.60%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	24,252.80	-328.09	-1.33%
FTSE 100	7,509.84	-172.43	-2.24%
Nikkei 225	22,306.48	-31.67	-0.14%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 83.78*
 GBP 1 = BDT 111.31*
 EUR 1 = BDT 98.14*
 INR 1 = BDT 1.23*

*Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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