

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.

Remittance inflow rises 32% in September

- The expatriate Bangladeshis have sent home over USD1.13 billion in September, an increase of about 32% from the same period a year earlier. In the first three months (July-September) of the current fiscal year, expatriates remitted over USD3.86 billion, which is 13.73% higher than the remittance sent in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, according to latest data released by the Bangladesh Bank.
- A rise in global oil prices, the stronger dollar against BDT and the central bank's steps to encourage expatriates to remit funds through legal channels are the reasons for the higher remittance inflow. The remittance growth has also boosted foreign currency reserves that were USD32.12 billion on Tuesday

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/remittance-inflow-rises-32%-in-sept-1538501432>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/remittance-jumps-31%-1641757>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/52167/q1-remittance-rises-1375%>

Bangladesh Bank concerned over upward non-food inflation, inflation expectations

- Rising non-food inflation and expectations for upward inflation may become the challenges for Bangladesh Bank to contain the overall inflationary pressure in the coming days. The central bank hinted at this without explicitly mentioning any concern in this regard. Looking ahead, a good harvest of food production may offset some inflation risks from the pass-through effects of global oil and commodity prices. However, rising non-food inflation and inflation expectations may constrain any significant improvement in the inflation momentum.
- The annual average headline inflation edged down to 5.78% in the last quarter of the past fiscal year (FY18), mainly 'due to moderating food inflation' after rising gradually since the last quarter of FY17. The decomposition of headline inflation shows that of the 5.78% inflation in June 2018, almost three-fourths of the increase (4.30 %) came from food inflation and the rest (1.48 %) from non-food inflation. Household's inflation expectations are mainly influenced by the movements in prices of food items, reflecting their consumption basket.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bb-concerned-over-upward-non-food-inflation-inflation-expectations-1538468202>

Domestic demand to drive economy: World Bank

- Aided by domestic demand, the World Bank (WB) has said Bangladesh economy will expand at a rate of 7.0% during the current fiscal year. The projection is lower than the official target of 7.8% set for the current fiscal. The bank said Bangladesh's economy remains among the fastest-growing economies in the developing world. It would grow at an even faster pace if it implemented economic reforms.
- Increased public spending on infrastructure, along with robust private investments, exports and remittance inflows will support growth, without ignoring downsides like adverse weather conditions, regulatory unpredictability and a problematic banking sector. To realise its goal of achieving upper-middle income status, Bangladesh must make sure its economic fundamentals are sound with ensuring necessary structural reforms. Policy and institutional reforms are the best defense against the downside risks.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/domestic-demand-to-drive-economy-wb-1538503178>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-resilient-1641784>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/52163/economists-question-quality-inclusiveness-of-gdp-growth>

National Board of Revenue asks Non-government Organisations, private firms to use new income tax return form

- The income tax wing has asked NGOs, firms and private organisations to submit their tax returns for fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 in the new form, which was introduced in 2016. The wing under the National Board of Revenue (NBR) recently issued an instruction for all tax offices across the country after it found many taxpayers are submitting returns in the old forms. The nongovernment organisations, firms and private entities will have to submit their tax returns in new return form IT-11CHA 2016. However, the organisations will not have to submit return in the new forms if they have already submitted their respective tax returns in the old forms.
- In 2016, the NBR amended the Income tax Rule-1984 to introduce three new tax return forms for individuals, corporate taxpayers and NGOs, firms and private entities. Initially, it will accept tax returns in both old and new forms, but gradually it will be phased out. There are some faults in the old tax return forms, which have been addressed in the

new versions. The deadline for submission of individuals' tax returns started from July 1, 2018 and will end on November 30 next. In case of submitting tax return in the new form, taxpayers will have to use the NBR's scheduled one.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-asks-ngos-pvt-firms-to-use-new-income-tax-return-form-1538503556>

Tax waiver on Liquefied Natural Gas import to cause BDT 110 billion revenue loss

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has estimated a total of BDT 110 billion loss in revenue collection after the government waived import taxes on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The gas sector is one of the largest revenue contributors to the national exchequer that may face a blow following withdrawal of Customs Duty (CD) and Supplementary Duty (SD) along with reduction of Advance Income Tax (AIT).
- NBR has issued a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) waiving 5.0% CD on import of LNG. The order came into force with retrospective effect from September 18, 2018. In April 2018, NBR's Income Tax Wing reduced AIT on import of LNG to 2.0% from 5.0%. Withdrawal of 93.24% SD is also underway. The import taxes have been cut in a bid to keep the prices of natural gas 'rational' in the local market.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/tax-waiver-on-lng-import-to-cause-BDT-110b-revenue-loss-1538503221>

Solar firm secures USD 1.66 million from global investors

- A local solar energy firm, SOLshare, has secured USD1.66 million from three global investors as it seeks to widen people's access to clean energy. The three investors are: Singapore-based IIX Growth Fund, Silicon Valley-based Innogy New Ventures LLC, and Portuguese utility firm EDP. The funds will be used to increase access to clean energy for more than 19,000 rural households and 14,000 micro-entrepreneurs, and address climate change by avoiding more than 2,200 tonnes of carbon emissions by 2021.
- SOLshare is making affordable clean energy and offers the world's first peer-to-peer solar electricity trading platform for off-grid households in Bangladesh. The platform interconnects users with and without solar home systems (SHS) to a smart direct-current grid, while empowering communities to be solar entrepreneurs by selling their excess energy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/solar-firm-secures-166m-global-investors-1641760>

Change Bangladesh Bank's approach, develop secondary market: Experts

- Channeling of green financing in Bangladesh remains largely inadequate, as the central bank's approach in this regard is hardly bearing any result. At the same time, development of a secondary market is urgently needed to ensure long-term financing sources for green initiatives. It is the high time that Bangladesh Bank (BB) shifts its focus from a supply-driven approach to a demand-driven approach when it comes to green financing. In fact, the current classification of indirect green finance should also be abolished.
- The banks and financial institutions should be provided with more clear instructions on how to monitor working capital loans, channelled for operating, is actually used. National Board of Revenue (NBR) can also offer tax incentives for green products to encourage investment in the relevant schemes. Currently the government is offering only 2.0% tax rebate for eco-friendly garment units and no factory will go for green schemes for such a tax rebate.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/change-bbs-approach-develop-secondary-market-experts-1538503456>

Government's tax revenue from Dhaka Stock Exchange slumps 30% in first quarter

- The government's revenue earnings from the Dhaka bourse fell 30% in the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year (FY) compared to the same quarter a year ago as trading volume was on the decline. Sluggish trading activities coupled with low share sales by sponsor-directors affected the government's revenue earnings from the prime bourse in the Q1 of the FY2018-19. The government bagged revenue worth about BDT 582 million in July-September quarter of the current FY which was BDT 831 million in the same quarter a year ago, according to statistics from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).
- Of the total earnings in Q1 of the current fiscal year, BDT 450 million came from the TREC holders' commission, popularly known as brokerage commission while BDT 132 million came from the share sales by sponsor-directors and placement holders, the DSE data shows. However, month-on-month, the government earnings from DSE rose 51% in September as the total revenue collection stood at BDT 215 million in September which was BDT 142 million in August 2018, the DSE data shows.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/govts-tax-revenue-from-dse-slumps-30%-in-q1-1538500402>

Social Islami Bank Limited signs deal with Rural Electrification Board

• Social Islami Bank Limited (SIBL) signed a corporate deal with Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (REB) for collecting electricity bills of REB through SIBL agent banking outlets at the office of REB recently, according to a statement.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/sibl-signs-deal-with-reb-1538500780>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$75.25	+0.02	+0.03%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$84.86	+0.06	+0.07%
Gold Spot*	\$1,207.72	+4.40	+0.37%
DSEX	5380.93	+11.02	+0.21%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	26,773.94	+122.73	+0.46%
FTSE 100	7,474.55	-21.12	-0.28%
Nikkei 225	24,257.21	-13.41	-0.06%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.20*
GBP 1 = BDT 109.41*
EUR 1 = BDT 97.53*
INR 1 = BDT 1.15*

**Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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