

*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.*

### **World Bank loans get costlier, its terms too**

- Bangladesh will no longer eligible for concessional loan from the World Bank as it has started lending at 2.0% rate. The Washington lender has made the higher rate effective from this month instead of 0.75%, officials said on Monday. Besides rate, the bank's other lending terms will be harder than the existing conditions, they said. Moreover, the repayment period for the bank loans has been reduced to 30 years from the current 38 years.
- The bank has informed Finance Minister through a letter on Sunday last about its new lending policy to be effective from July 1, 2018. They said that since Bangladesh has graduated as the "Gap country" from the concessional loan "IDA-only" status due to its higher per capita income threshold, the global lender will charge higher rate from now.
- Bangladesh's GNI per capita in the last three years was USD 1,190, USD 1,330 and USD 1,430, which are higher than the bank's threshold. Among the South Asian nations, India and Sri Lanka have already been classified as "graduate countries" and Pakistan as the blend country.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/wb-loans-get-costlier-its-terms-too-1533146162>

### **Bangladesh's share in global apparel export market reaches 6.46%**

- The share of Bangladesh in the global apparel export market reached 6.46% in 2017, according to the latest statistics released by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The country's share in the global export of apparel products was 6.36% in 2016. Annual exports of Bangladeshi apparel products increased by moderate 2.0% to USD 29.33 billion in 2017 from USD 28.22 billion in 2016, according to The World Trade Statistical Review 2018.
- The statistical review also showed that Bangladesh retained its rank as the third largest global exporter of clothing, followed by China and the European Union (EU). Export of Chinese clothing items showed almost zero growth last year. The country also lost its global share which declined to 34.90% in 2017 from 36.40% in 2016.
- Vietnam, which registered as fourth largest manufacturer of apparel, registered around 8.0% growth in clothing export last year and inched to grasp 5.90% global share which was 5.54% in 2016. The WTO review report also showed that clothing and textile contributed 4.0% of global merchandise export in 2017.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bds-share-in-global-apparel-export-mkt-reaches-646pc-1533146527>  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/export/bangladesh-remains-the-second-biggest-apparel-exporter-1614856>

### **Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) gets 11.89% higher investment bids in FY 18**

- The amount involving the investment proposals with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has increased by around 11.89% during the last fiscal year (FY), 2017-18, according to its latest figures. BIDA received investment proposals amounting to BDT 2.072 trillion from July 2017 to June 2018, which was BDT 220.3 billion higher than those of the previous FY.
- A total of 1,643 industrial entities have registered themselves with BIDA during the period, creating employment opportunities for 287,546 people, said a press release. Meanwhile, the amount involving the quarterly investment proposals with BIDA decreased by 20.17% during the last three months of FY 2017-18, as per official figures.
- During the April-June period of FY 2017-18, BIDA received investment proposals amounting to BDT 243.641 million, which was BDT 61.57 million lower than the previous quarter of the same fiscal. The decline in quarterly investment proposals can mainly be attributed to the fall in local investment.
- On the other hand, foreign and joint venture investment proposals, however, saw a quarterly increase of 74.96% when compared to the same period of last year, as per the BIDA figures. A total of 22 wholly foreign-owned and 30 joint venture entities have registered with BIDA during the April-June period of FY 18. The total amount of investment proposals made by these entities was worth around BDT 27.77 million.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bida-gets-1189pc-higher-investment-bids-in-fy-18-1533146809>

### **Study suggests more perks for (Special Economic Zones) SEZs in lagging regions**

- The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) located in the country's rather backward regions need more lucrative incentive packages compared to the SEZs in the developed areas to attract investors, a study opined. The investors will be able to overcome locational disadvantages, if the government offers more attractive incentives for them, it also suggested.

- The Center on Budget and Policy of Department of Development Studies of University of Dhaka conducted the study with the support of UKaid and Asia Foundation. The study has also found that accommodating the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the SEZs is a challenge for the government.
- The study suggested implementing the planned 100 SEZs by the government in phases, terming it a 'practical option'. Connectivity of the SEZs in the lagging regions with the economic corridors and well-functioning infrastructure should be considered seriously, it said. The researchers of the study opined that utilising the SEZ policies for balanced regional development will need analytical policy work, for which Bangladesh currently lacks sufficient and good quality data.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/study-suggests-more-perks-for-sezs-in-lagging-regions-1532972944>

### **Disbursement of farm loan by banks exceeds target**

- Disbursement of farm loan by the scheduled banks exceeded their total target in the end of last fiscal year (FY) as banks strengthened disbursement drives, a central bank official said. The banks witnessed a high demand for credit from the country's agriculture sector, he added.
- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) is now taking special care of farm loan disbursement to jack the agro-based sector of the country up. Besides, loan disbursement in the sector has increased due to proper monitoring of the central bank, he said adding that the BB has already advised the banks to expedite both recovery and disbursement of farm loans. Loans are being disbursed in large scale in the agro sector every fiscal year (FY). As per the BB statistics as of June 30 last, the banks disbursed farm loans to the tune of over BDT 248.4 billion till July-June period of the last FY.
- The total target was fixed at BDT 204 billion for the FY 2017-18. Of the target, some BDT 95.90 billion and BDT 108.10 were fixed for disbursement by eight state-owned banks and private commercial banks (PCBs) and foreign commercial banks (FCBs) respectively, according to the BB data.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/disbursement-of-farm-loan-by-banks-exceeds-target-1533146941>

### **Rupali Bank woos big conglomerates**

- Rupali Bank Limited (RBL), a state-owned commercial bank (SoCB) has taken some positive measures including slashing the interest rates under single-digit, bringing more renowned corporate entities under its network and expanding the mobile-based banking services.
- The state-owned bank has also been able to bring some leading corporate entities of the country under its 'core banking activities'. SoCB is now consulting with Akij and Nasir Groups to finance their projects.
- Corporate insiders said big conglomerates are now being attracted by some state-owned commercial banks for borrowing at comparatively cheaper rates as private commercial banks are suffering from liquidity crunch to finance big projects.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/rupali-bank-woos-big-conglomerates-1533148555>

### **Net foreign fund drops further at Dhaka bourse**

- The net foreign fund in the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) remained negative in July, the fourth straight month, as the foreign investors remained reluctant to put fresh stakes. Analysts said overseas investment in the DSE turned negative further as foreign fund managers reluctant to put fresh stakes amid fears over political uncertainty ahead of the national election by the year-end.
- The overseas investors collected shares worth BDT 4.12 billion but sold shares worth BDT 4.44 billion last month, resulting in their net position negative by BDT 327 million, according to statistics available with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). In June, the foreign investors' net position was negative BDT 2.06 billion, as they purchased shares worth BDT 4.46 billion and sold shares worth BDT 6.53 billion, the DSE data shows.
- The political uncertainty ahead of national election coupled with depreciation of the taka against the USD kept the foreign investors at bay. Depreciation of the taka against the USD also made the foreign investors concerned about injecting fresh fund in the market as their profitability reduced due to the depreciation. DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), eroded about 103 points or 0.20% in July.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/net-foreign-fund-drops-further-at-dhaka-bourse-1533148638>

### **BRAC Bank registers 13% profit growth in H1**

- BRAC Bank Limited recorded a growth of 13% on consolidated profit after tax year-on-year (YoY) during the first half (January-June) of 2018, according to a statement. The bank reported a consolidated after tax profit of BDT 2,728 million during January-June 2018, compared to BDT 2,421 million in the same period of last year.
- On solo basis, the bank reported an after tax profit of BDT 2,551 million during January - June 2018, which was BDT 2,323 million in the same period of 2017. The bank's consolidated Earnings Per Share (EPS) reached to BDT 2.36 during January-June, 2018 from BDT 2.09 during the same period last year. The EPS on solo basis stood at BDT 2.38 during January - June 2018 which was BDT 2.17 in the corresponding period of 2017.
- The consolidated net asset value (NAV) per share at the end of June 2018 stood at BDT 29.03 compared to BDT 22.27 at the end of June 2017. The net asset value (NAV) per share on solo basis at the end of June 2018 stood at BDT 26.73 compared to BDT 21.55 at the end of June 2017.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bracepl-bank-registers-13pc-profit-growth-in-h1-1533148594>

#### World Stock and Commodities\*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$67.86	+0.20	+0.30%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$72.63	+0.24	+0.33%
Gold Spot*	\$1,219.19	+3.23	+0.27%
DSEX	5348.20	+45.57	+0.86%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,333.82	-81.37	-0.32%
FTSE 100	7,652.91	-95.85	-1.24%
Nikkei 225	22,518.04	-228.66	-1.01%

#### Exchange Rates

**USD 1 = BDT 84.23\***  
**GBP 1 = BDT 110.36\***  
**EUR 1 = BDT 98.13\***  
**INR 1 = BDT 1.23\***

\*Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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