

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.

### **Inflation 25-month high in November**

- Inflation in the month of November last shot up to 25-month high and crossed the projection of average annual rate of 5.5% for the fiscal year 2019-20. Current account deficit increased to USD 1.30 billion at the end of October of this fiscal with both import and export recording a negative growth over those of the corresponding period of last FY. The execution of the BDT. 2.15 trillion annual development programme (ADP) was as low as 19% during the first five months of the current FY.
- The monthly inflation rate on a point-to-point basis hit a 25-month high at 6.05% in November mainly due to higher prices of rice and onion, officials said on Tuesday. In September 2017, the monthly inflation rate was recorded at 6.12%, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data showed. Officials said the monthly inflation rate on a point-to-point basis started falling after September 2017 and hovered around 5.0% in the latter months.
- The point-to-point inflation rate for food items increased to 6.41% in November from 5.49% in October. On the other hand, the non-food inflation rate rose slightly to 5.47% in the last month from 5.45% in the previous month. The BBS data showed that the rate of point-to-point inflation increased in rural areas at a higher rate than in urban areas in November. The inflation rate rose to 6.01% from 5.36% in the previous month. In the urban areas, the inflation on a point-to-point basis also went up to 6.17% in the last month from 5.67% in October. The government in the fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 has set a target to keep the inflation rate within the limit of 5.5%.
- The current account deficit stood at USD 1.30 billion during the July-October period of the current fiscal year (FY), 2019-20, according to the central bank's statistics, released on Tuesday. It was USD 2.07 billion in the first four months of FY 19. The overall trade deficit widened by 5.58% to USD 5.62 billion during the period under review from USD 5.32 billion in the same period of FY 19, the BB data showed. The country's export growth fell by 6.65% to USD 12.52 billion in July-October from USD 13.41 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal. Import growth also dropped by more than 3.0% to USD 18.14 billion from USD 18.73 billion. Meanwhile, the BoP deficit came down to USD 224 million in the first four months of this fiscal from USD 444 million in the same period of FY 19. It was USD 204 million in the first quarter (Q1) of this fiscal.
- The government agencies spent 19% of their development budget in the first five months of the current fiscal year (FY), 2019-20, officials said. The figure is 1.0%age point lower than that in the corresponding period of last fiscal. In the same period (July-November) of fiscal year (FY) 2018-19, the government ministries and agencies utilized 20% of the BDT 1.80 trillion Annual Development Programme (ADP) outlay. Of the total ADP outlay of BDT 2.15 trillion, BDT 1.31 trillion will come from internal resources, BDT 718 billion from external resources as project aid and BDT 123.93 billion from the funds of the autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-25-month-high-in-november-1576000397>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-hits-25-month-high-1838671>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2019/12/10/inflation-inches-to-6-05-in-november>

### **GDP growth hits 8.15% in FY 19**

- Bangladesh's economy expanded at a striking 8.15% rate in fiscal year (FY) 2018-19, a slight 0.02% point higher from a provisional estimation. In its interim assessment this March, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) recorded an impressive 8.13% gross domestic product (GDP) rate.
- Meanwhile, the per-capita income (gross national income or GNI) was estimated at USD 1,909 for the past FY 2019, USD 158 up from the fiscal before last. In FY 2018, the income was USD 1,751 per head. Official data shows GDP per capita was estimated at USD 1827 for FY 2019, USD 152 higher over FY 2018.
- According to the BBS final data, the country's total GDP size at current price boosted to BDT 25.42 trillion (USD 302.43 billion) in FY 2019. It was BDT 22.50 trillion (USD 274 billion) in FY 2018. GNI also expanded to BDT 26.497 trillion (USD 315.97 billion) in FY 2019 from that of BDT 23.53 trillion (USD 286.612 billion) in FY 2018.
- According to the BBS GDP data on constant prices, the industrial sector expanded at a striking rate of 12.67% in FY 2019. In FY 2018, the rate was recorded at 12.06%. The service sector grew at an estimated 6.78% in last fiscal from that of 6.39% in the fiscal before that, the data disclosed. But the agricultural growth fell to a 3.92-per cent rate in FY 2019 from that of 4.19% in FY 2018.
- Meanwhile, the investment-GDP ratio has finally been estimated at a slightly higher 31.57% in FY 2019 from that of 31.23% in FY 2018. The private sector investment-GDP ratio has picked up to 23.54% from the provisionally estimated 23.26%. Similarly, the public sector investment-GDP ratio has also risen to 8.03% from the provisional estimation of 7.97%.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/gdp-growth-hits-815pc-in-fy-19-bbs-releases-final-figures-1576000631>  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/record-gdp-growth-despite-challenges-1838689>

### Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support healthcare Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects

• The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government have agreed to jointly promote the public-private partnership (PPP) projects in the country's healthcare sector. To this end, a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed at the secretariat in the city on Tuesday, said an ADB press release. ADB will provide holistic support through the Asia Pacific Project Preparation Facility (AP3F), which can provide integrated support for capacity building, development of standardised templates for procurement and contracting, creation of a potential health care project pipeline, and transaction advisory services.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/adb-to-support-healthcare-ppp-projects-1576001614>

### Ring Shine Textiles makes debut tomorrow

• Trading of the shares of Ring Shine Textiles Ltd will commence on Dhaka Stock Exchange and Chittagong Stock Exchange from tomorrow (Thursday) under 'N' category, officials said. The textile company raised a fund worth BDT 1.50 billion from the capital market by floating 150 million ordinary shares at a face value of BDT 10 each using the fixed price method. The company's IPO oversubscribed by 6.74 times as the company received total BDT 10.11 billion against IPO offer of BDT 1.50 billion, according to data from the Chittagong Stock Exchange.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ring-shine-textiles-makes-debut-tomorrow-1575998891>  
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/93256/ring-shine-debuts-tomorrow>

### World Stock and Commodities\*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$58.91	-0.33	-0.56%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$63.89	-0.45	-0.70%
Gold Spot*	\$1,463.94	-0.45	-0.03%
DSEX	4,506.94	-26.82	-0.59%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	27,881.72	-27.88	-0.10%
FTSE 100	7,213.76	-20.14	-0.28%
Nikkei 225	23,352.91	-57.28	-0.24%
BSE SENSEX	40,285.20	+45.32	+0.11%

### Exchange Rates

**USD 1 = BDT 84.90\***  
**GBP 1 = BDT 111.54\***  
**EUR 1 = BDT 94.18\***  
**INR 1 = BDT 1.20\***

\*Currencies are taken from XE Currency Converter and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.

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