

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.

Move to raise BDT 8.78 trillion from bond market to propel economic growth

- Coordinated efforts are on to raise BDT 8.78 trillion from the bond market for achieving 8.0% plus economic growth by 2021. To this end, a tripartite committee has already been formed to boost the country's nascent bond market, particularly the corporate one.
- The fund will be required to bridge the resource gap for achieving the 8.0% plus growth within the timeframe to become a middle-income country.
- The size of nominal gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to reach BDT 32.78 trillion by the end of fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 while the resource gap will hit BDT 8.78 trillion, according to the central bank. The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has calculated the resource gap taking into consideration the credit flow by banks, investment and fund flow from the capital market.
- The banks are still a dominant financial system asset in Bangladesh, contributing more than 62% of asset in 2018, while the capital market has contributed 16.50%.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/move-to-raise-BDT-878t-from-bond-mkt-to-propel-economic-growth-1550599699>

FY '16 to be new GDP base year

- The local statistical agency has said it will adopt a new base year for calculating the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) effective from July 2020 and it is expected to raise the size of the economy by at least 10%.
- Under the rebasing procedure, the fiscal year 2015-16 (FY '16) will be the new base year replacing the existing FY '06. Bangladesh last did it in 2013 by replacing the FY 1995-96 as the base year. On the last occasion the economy had expanded by around 12%.
- Executive director of Economic Research Group (ERG) said updating the baseline will give a more precise figure of the inflation rate as it could deliver latest status of rice's share in the consumer goods basket
- Economist and chairman of the state-run Agrani Bank Ltd, said, It is a step in the right direction, as the closer the base year is to the current year, the better the results are.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fy-16-to-be-new-gdp-base-year-1550599120>

Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA's) 15 services go online from February 24

- Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) will make 15 services available online from February 24 to ease the process of getting permissions for opening business in the country.
- The services are visa recommendation (new), visa recommendation (amendment), visa on arrival, visa on arrival (amendment), work permit (new), work permit (amendment), work permit (cancellation), work permit (extension), office permission (new), office permission (extension), office permission (cancellation), office permission (amendment), project registration (new), remittance services (new) and payment gateway.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/65329/bidas-15-services-go-online-from-feb-24>

Japanese investors want Bangladeshi companies to better governance

- Japanese investors emphasized improving of corporate governance in Bangladeshi companies for attracting joint venture from Japan.
- At a seminar on the role of corporate governance in investment decision making, they also said that Japanese firms were now showing huge interest to invest in Bangladesh but they felt lack of corporate governance in Bangladeshi firms for choosing local partner.
- The number of Japanese companies operating in the country increased 10 times to 269 in 10 years and the number is increasing every year.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/65325/japanese-investors-want-bangladeshi-cos-to-better-governance>

Two banks back off from opening branches in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Country's two commercial banks, Janata Bank and Standard Bank Ltd (SBL) have backtracked on their decision to open their branches in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).
- The authorities of the two banks said although they decided to set up their branches in Saudi Arabia earlier, they are not interested to open branches at this movement.
- The authorities of state-owned Sonali Bank have showed interest to open a branch in the Arab country.
- The authority of Social Islami Bank Limited (SIBL) is also working to open its branches in Makkah/Jeddah in line with the condition/policy of the Islamic state.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/two-banks-back-off-from-opening-branches-in-ksa-1550600957>

Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) approves Royal Tulip IPO

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved the initial public offering (IPO) prospectus of Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Spa Ltd (owners of Hotel Royal Tulip Sea Pearl Beach Resort in Cox's Bazar), aimed at raising BDT 150 million.
- As per the BSEC approval—under the fixed price method—Sea Pearl Beach Resort will offload 15 million ordinary shares for BDT 10 each.
- According to the financial statement ended on June 30, 2018, the company's net asset value (NAV) per share stood at BDT 10.48, while the weighted average of earnings per share (EPS) was BDT 0.41.
- Banco Finance and Investment Limited and Prime Bank Investment Limited will act as the issue manager for the IPO process.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/2019/02/20/bsec-approves-royal-tulip-ipo>

Beximco Pharma to acquire eight Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs) from Sandoz Inc

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited announced the signing of a definitive agreement with Sandoz Inc., a division of Novartis, to acquire a portfolio of eight Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs) in the US for an undisclosed amount in cash.
- Beximco Pharma's current US portfolio comprises six US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved products. Four of these products are currently being exported to the US and two products are awaiting regulatory approval. Following this transaction, Beximco Pharma's US portfolio will consist of 14 approved ANDAs.
- In August 2016, Beximco Pharma became the first Bangladeshi pharmaceutical company to export medicine to the US market following its manufacturing site approval by the US FDA in June 2015.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/beximco-pharma-to-acquire-eight-andas-from-sandoz-inc-1550591376>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2019/02/20/beximco-to-acquire-eight-drug-applications-of-sandoz>

Appollo Ispat's shock loss in July-December

- Appollo Ispat's earnings per share nosedived in the first half of its financial year -- a surprising turn given the corrugated iron sheet maker's forecast of a jump in operating revenue for the period.
- Its earnings per share for the July-December period stood at BDT 0.23 in the negative, down BDT 0.10 in the positive a year earlier.
- Earlier in March last year, the company had said its revenue will increase by BDT 5.40 billion annually due to higher production thanks to a new plant. A stock market analyst said, this looks like cheating with stock investors as the company posted loss although it gave investors forecasts of higher revenue.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/appollo-ispats-shock-loss-july-december-1704697>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$56.39	+0.30	+0.53%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$66.62	+0.17	+0.26%
Gold Spot*	\$1,345.38	+4.44	+0.33%
DSEX	5735.92	+11.40	+0.20%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,891.32	+8.07	+0.03%
FTSE 100	7,179.17	-40.30	-0.56%
Nikkei 225	21,452.25	+149.60	+0.70%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 84.01*

GBP 1 = BDT 109.73*

EUR 1 = BDT 95.32*

INR 1 = BDT 1.18*

**Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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