

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.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) unveils H2 Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) today

- The central bank is set to unveil its second half-yearly (H2) monetary policy statement (MPS) today (Wednesday) with a likely goal of achieving sustainable economic growth, putting a curb on inflation. Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Fazle Kabir will announce the MPS for the January-June period of this fiscal year (FY), 2018-19, at 11:30 am on the day.
- The BB has formulated the growth-supportive monetary policy, giving top priority to job creation, ensuring greater flow of credit to the productive sectors according to the officials.
- The MPS is likely to focus more on the flow of quality credit through strengthening the monitoring and supervision works on the part of the central bank and all the scheduled banks.
- The central bank is likely to maintain its cautious stance on inflation following the rising trend in core inflation in 2018.
- The policy rates, including CRR (cash reserve requirement), Repo and Reverse Repo, may remain unchanged for H2 of FY 19.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-unveils-h2-mps-today-1548784466>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-guard-against-inflation-first-half-1694866>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/63243/bb-declares-mps-today-pvt-sector-credit-main-concern>
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2019/01/30/bangladesh-bank-to-unveil-monetary-policy-for-h2-on-wednesday>

Advance-deposit ratio now within regulatory limits

- The average advance-deposit ratio (ADR) of private banks came down within the regulatory limit in September last year after going past the ceiling in April, thanks to adequate liquidity.
- The ratio came down to 84.38 % in September from 86.23 % in April, according to Bangladesh Bank data. Currently, banks are required to maintain an ADR of 85 %, meaning they can lend BDT 85 against a deposit of BDT 100.
- In January last year, the BB slashed the ADR by 1.5 %age points to 83.5 % in a bid to tighten banks' capacity to lend. The ratio for Shariah-based banks was cut to 89 % from 90 %.
- Bankers have recently urged the central bank to give them more time to adjust to the new ADR or withdraw it as the liquidity pressure started to deepen after the election.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/advance-deposit-ratio-now-within-regulatory-limits-1694860>

Call on GP's Significant Market Power (SMP) status today

- The telecom regulator will sit today to take a call on whether Grameenphone will be declared the Significant Market Power (SMP) operator, a move that can shake up the country's mobile telephony landscape. The SMP is a regulation that imposes restrictions on an operator once it corners 40 % of the subscribers, revenues and spectrum.
- Grameenphone has 46.33 % share of the active customer base. For the last few years, the operator's revenue share has been more than 50 %.
- Within the next couple of weeks Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission will decide what restrictions will be placed on the SMP operator. The new regulation -- which is already available in India, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia -- states if an operator is found to wage anti-market activities the BTRC can step in to break the monopoly or oligopoly through it.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/call-gps-smp-status-today-1694857>
<http://www.newagebd.net/article/63245/gp-urges-btrc-not-to-impose-any-smp-condition-that-hurts-fresh-investment>

Omani firm starts supplying Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

- Oman Trading International (OTI), an Omani firm, started supplying liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Bangladesh from Monday, which will help meet the growing demand for gas in the country.

- A vessel carrying around 136,000 cubic metres of lean LNG reached Bangladesh's maiden operational floating LNG terminal at Moheshkhali island in the Bay of Bengal on Monday evening.
- The Omani firm is the second supplier of LNG in Bangladesh after Qatar's RasGas that has been supplying LNG since April 2018.
- Petrobangla could also start utilising the full capacity of the floating LNG terminal of the US-based Excelerate Energy by re-gasifying around 500,000 Mcf/d equivalent of LNG for consumers since January 25, 2019 riding on the arrival of OTI's LNG cargo.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/omani-firm-starts-supplying-lng-1548784675>

LG and Samsung to begin manufacturing in Bangladesh soon

- The South Korean electronics giant LG, Samsung will soon start manufacture of electronic goods in Bangladesh which will reduce trade gap between Dhaka and Seoul.
- This was revealed on Tuesday while South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Hu Kang-il paying a courtesy call on Foreign Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka on Tuesday
- The envoy also mentioned that joint venture of South Korea's leading conglomerate SK group will set up an LPG terminal in Bangladesh to facilitate generation of power amid crisis of availability of natural gas.
- Foreign Minister also expressed gratitude for Korea's development assistance in infrastructure and industrial development of Bangladesh as well as creating job opportunities for Bangladesh nationals in Korea.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2019/01/30/lg-and-samsung-to-begin-manufacturing-in-bangladesh-soon>

Ecneec approves 150MW power plant project, eight others

- The government approved on Tuesday a 150-megawatt oil-fired power plant at the northern township of Syedpur to improve electricity supply there. Construction of the simple-cycle facility will cost BDT 10.01 billion. The Bangladesh Power Development Board will implement the project by June 2021.
- The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) endorsed the project and eight others involving a combined cost of BDT 164.33 billion.
- The ECNEC also okayed two power-distribution projects involving BDT 22.15-billion for Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions to bring 0.415 million fresh customers under the coverage.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ecneec-approves-150mw-power-plant-project-eight-others-1548785249>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ecneec-okays-9-projects-worth-BDT-16433cr-1694845>

Rupali Bank starts disbursing home loan to government employees

- Rupali Bank Limited has started disbursing home loan to government employees at 5.0 % interest rate.
- Rupali Bank is the first bank to have started this scheme. Rupali Bank through Elephant Road branch gave the final approval of home loan to Al Mamun, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ministry on Sunday.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/rupali-bank-starts-disbursing-home-loan-to-govt-employees-1548781370>

High Court orders to arrest Jamuna Bank MD if he fails to appear in court

- MD of Jamuna Bank was summoned by the bench on Tuesday for not complying with its 2017 directive regarding non-payment of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) money of BDT 5.1 million of an onion trader.
- A High Court division bench on Tuesday has instructed the police to arrest Shafiqul Alam, managing director of Jamuna Bank Ltd, if he fails to show up in court on February 12.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/2019/01/29/hc-orders-to-arrest-jamuna-bank-md-if-he-fails-to-appear-in-court>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$53.27	-0.04	-0.08%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$61.26	-0.06	-0.10%
Gold Spot*	\$1,312.92	+1.13	-0.16%
DSEX	5924.53	+20.31	+0.34%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	24,579.96	+51.74	+0.21%
FTSE 100	6,833.93	+86.83	+1.29%
Nikkei 225	20,555.13	-109.51	-0.53%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 83.80*

GBP 1 = BDT 109.73*

EUR 1 = BDT 95.85*

INR 1 = BDT 1.18*

**Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited**Research**

Khandakar Safwan Saad, CFA	Head of Research	safwan@bracepl.com	01730 357 779
Ayaz Mahmud, CFA	Deputy Head of Research	ayaz.mahmud@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
S. M. Samiuzzaman	Research Analyst	sm.samiuzzaman@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Farah Tasnim Huque	Research Associate	farah.tasnim@bracepl.com	01730 727 913
Kazi Raquib-UI Huq	Research Associate	raquib.huq@bracepl.com	01730 727 931
Ahmed Zaki Khan	Research Associate	zaki.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805211
Sadman Sakib	Research Associate	sadman.sakib@bracepl.com	01730 727 939

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	Head of International Trade & Sales	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
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