

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.

Japanese investment in Bangladesh increasing steadily: Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI)

- Investment by Japanese companies in Bangladesh has been increasing steadily at a rate of 16-17% for last few years with the majority of investors showing growing interest for expansion of business.
- The President of Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) said they expect that the next government would focus on improving the business environment for Japanese investors to tap the potential.
- Citing a survey conducted by Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) in 2017, the JBCCI president said 70% of Japanese companies showed interest for expansion of business in next one year and around 60% in next two to three years.
- About 270 Japanese companies are now in Bangladesh. The number of companies is increasing very steadily even though Holey Artisan incident in 2016.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/japanese-investment-in-bd-increasing-steadily-jbcc-1542562961>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/cheap-labour-continues-draw-japanese-investment-1662526>

Services export sees 55.52% growth in first quarter (Q1)

- The export earnings from the country's service sector stood at USD 1.40 billion, marking a robust 55.52% growth during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year (FY) over the corresponding period of the last FY.
- The sector fetched USD 906.3 million in July-September period of FY 2017-18, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released on Sunday.
- Out of the total USD 1.40 billion earnings, USD 1.38 billion came from export of services like manufacturing services on physical inputs, maintenance and repair services, transportation, travel, telecommunication and information services, and government goods and services.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/services-export-sees-5552pc-growth-in-q1-1542558538>
<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/services-exports-rise-over-50pc-1662502>

Sharp fall in consumer loans

- Consumer borrowing growth has seen a sharp fall in June thanks to the tightening of the belts by the lenders when a cash crunch hit the sector in January this year.
- Consumer loan outstanding slid by 12.41% in six months to BDT 607.0 billion in June this year.
- However, the outstanding grew 24.48% in the previous six months to BDT 693.0 billion in December last year.
- The interest for consumer loan has seen a rise by 1%-1.5% points since the second quarter of the year because of the cash crisis, said head of retail banking at the City Bank. The crisis has pushed banks to invest less in consumer loans, causing a slowdown in the growth, he added.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/sharp-fall-consumer-loans-1662523>

Higher return fuels sales of savings tools

- Sales of savings instruments continued its uptrend in the first quarter of the fiscal year thanks to their higher yield in comparison to banks' deposit products.
- Between the months of July and September, net sales of the government savings tools stood at BDT 134.1 billion, up 5.65% from a year earlier, according to data from the Directorate of National Savings.
- As a result, many of the lenders' deposit bases are eroding, said the chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh, a platform of private banks' managing directors.
- Some banks are now offering interest rates as high as 7% to 9% on their several fixed deposit products -- going

against the decision taken by the sponsors of private banks to keep the interest rate on deposits at 6%, he said.

- The interest rate of the national savings instrument ranges from 11.04% to 11.76%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/higher-return-fuels-sales-savings-tools-1662517>

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) issues telcos' Quality of Service (QoS) regulations

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has finally published a set of Quality of Service (QoS) regulations for the country's telecom service providers.
- Under the new regulations, the mobile operators will have to keep their call drop rate at less than 2.0%. Besides, their average call set up success rate will have to be minimum 97%.
- The average call setup time of cellular and fixed telephony services will have to be less than 7.0 seconds.
- As per the regulations, the broadband service providers will have to maintain a minimum download speed of 5.0 Megabits per second (Mbps), while maintaining a minimum upload speed of 1.0 Mbps.
- The download speed of 4G services will have to be minimum 7.0 Mbps, while the speed will have to be minimum 2.0 Mbps for 3G services.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/btrc-issues-telcos-qos-regulations-1542562684>

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/56434/telcos-could-face-up-to-BDT-100cr-fine-for-service-quality-slips>

Most cement companies post rise in July-September EPS

- The earnings of most of the listed cement companies rose in July-September quarter 2018 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.
- Of the seven cement companies listed with Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), four made healthy earnings per share (EPS) compared to that in the same period last year. Two reported negative earnings while one remained unchanged.
- According to the un-audited financial statements for the July-September quarter, 2018, the EPS of Premier Cement, Meghna Cement, Heidelberg Cement and Confidence Cement rose up to 149%.
- Lafarge-Holcim Bangladesh posted negative earnings per share in the July-September quarter of 2018 while loss incurred by Aramit Cement increased in July-September, 2018.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/most-cement-cos-post-rise-in-july-sept-eps-1542557664>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change	% Change
Crude Oil (WTI)*	\$56.46	0.00	0.00%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	\$66.76	+0.14	+0.21%
Gold Spot*	\$1,223.36	+10.00	+0.82%
DSEX	5244.63	-0.96	-0.02%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	25,413.22	+123.95	+0.49%
FTSE 100	7,013.88	-24.13	-0.34%
Nikkei 225	21,680.34	-123.28	-0.57%

Exchange Rates

USD 1 = BDT 83.80*

GBP 1 = BDT 107.55*

EUR 1 = BDT 95.56*

INR 1 = BDT 1.16*

**Currencies and Commodities are taken from Bloomberg.*

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