

USD110m WB aid for sustainable enterprises: The World Bank will provide USD110 million assistance for Bangladesh to implement the Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP) which will help some 20,000 microenterprises adopt environmentally-friendly practices. The project covers manufacturing and agribusiness sectors, including leather, mini textiles, light engineering, plastic, food processing, metal products, livestock, horticulture, aquaculture and poultry, said a World Bank official. The loan agreement to this end will be signed tomorrow between the Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the World Bank at the ERD in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/110m-wb-aid-for-sustainable-enterprises-1526382722>

Commercial courts will be set up to attract FDI: The Law Commission-Bangladesh has taken a move to establish commercial courts aiming to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) for resolving disputes on trade, commerce and banking promptly. This was disclosed at a meeting between high-ups of Bangladesh Bank (BB) and Law Commission-Bangladesh, held at the central bank headquarters in the city Monday with BB Governor Fazole Kabir in the chair. The Commission has also prepared a draft amendment on the existing Arbitration Act, 2001 with fixing timeframe for dispute resolution within one year and fixation of fee.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/commercial-courts-will-be-set-up-to-attract-fdi-1526384080>

Taka weakens against dollar, substantially: The Bangladesh Taka (BDT) has fallen considerably against the US dollar as the demand for the greenback grew to meet import payment requirements. The local currency weakened by 50 poisha in a single day in the inter-bank foreign exchange (forex) market on Tuesday, according to traders. The US dollar was quoted at BDT 83.60 each in the inter-bank forex market on the day against BDT 83.10 of the previous working day, they said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/taka-weakens-against-dollar-substantially-1526410717>

LankaBangla Finance to issue bond worth BDT 3.0 billion: The board of directors of LankaBangla Finance has approved the issuance of subordinated bond of BDT 3.0 billion, said an official disclosure on Tuesday. The non-bank financial institution is going to issue the subordinated bond to improve the capital base (Tier-II) of the company. The issuance of the bond of LankaBangla Finance is, however, still subject to compliance with the relevant laws and regulatory approval like Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/lankabangla-finance-to-issue-bond-worth-BDT-30-billion-1526364919>

A new ray of hope for SMEs: The Chinese consortium will work to create an SME-based board in the Dhaka Stock Exchange so that small entrepreneurs get the opportunity to raise fund from the capital market. "It will help to boost the SMEs as well as the capital market," said Wang Jianjun, president and chief executive officer of Shenzhen Stock Exchange (SZSE). The consortium of SZSE and Shanghai Stock Exchange will emphasise innovation and product diversification so that investors can get a variety of options to put their money in.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/new-ray-hope-smes-1577026>

DSE loses BDT 11,852cr in 10 days: DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, fell for an unprecedented tenth consecutive day in spite of a psychological boost provided by the official entry of the Shanghai Stock Exchange and Shenzhen Stock Exchange. As of yesterday, the slide, which is the longest yet since the launch of the index in January 2013, knocked off 265 points and wiped out BDT 11,852 crore, or 2.92 percent, in market value. Before this, DSEX declined for nine days straight in June 2014.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/dse-loses-BDT-11852cr-10-days-1577020>

Current account deficit records steep rise on higher imports: The country's current account deficit widened, reaching a record high in the first nine months of the current fiscal year (FY) as imports grew faster than exports. Central bank statistics, released on Tuesday, showed that the current account deficit hit USD7.08 billion in July-March period of the fiscal 2018. The amount of deficit is the highest in the country's history, which was only USD1.37 billion in the same period of the past fiscal year. The increasing gap in both the merchandise and service trades of the country is pushing the current account deficit higher.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/current-account-deficit-records-steep-rise-on-higher-imports-1526442709>

Index Summary

	15/05/18	14/05/18	Point Change	% Change
DSEX	5,548.89	5,557.58	(8.68)	-0.16%
DS30	2,072.13	2,075.87	(3.74)	-0.18%
DSES	1,300.70	1,300.93	(0.23)	-0.02%

Market Activities

	15/05/18	14/05/18	% Change
Mkt. Turnover (BDT mn)	3,552.93	3,308.18	7.40%
Mkt. Turnover (USD mn)	44.09	41.05	7.40%
Total No of Trade	91,788	86,057	6.66%
Trade Volume (mn)	97.29	93.20	4.38%

Market Valuation

	15/05/18	14/05/18	% Change
Mkt. Capitalization (BDT bn)	3,928.15	3,934.31	-0.16%
Mkt. Capitalization (USD bn)	48.75	48.82	-0.16%
Trailing Market P/E*	17.13	17.10	0.20%
Annualized Market P/E**	18.30	17.64	3.79%
Market P/BV	2.14	2.15	-0.18%
Dividend Yield	3.49%	3.49%	0.18%

Credit-deposit mismatch worsens liquidity crisis: Mismatch between deposit and credit growth is causing the ongoing liquidity crisis to linger on, found a survey of the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM). Excess liquidity in the market also came down for this mismatch, revealed a report, "Treasury Operations of Banks 2017", containing the survey. Professor Nehal Ahmed of BIBM presented the findings at a programme at the institute yesterday. Data shows that private sector credit growth was 18.1 percent in December last year while deposit growth was hovering around 10 to 11 percent. In 2015, credit growth was 12.7 percent against the deposit growth of 12.6 percent.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/credit-deposit-mismatch-worsens-liquidity-crisis-1577023>

edotco to sell 30pc stake: Tower business company edotco Bangladesh is all set to sell 30 percent stake to local business group Getco as part of efforts to be eligible to get a tower sharing licence. The company is selling shares to comply with the tower sharing guideline, according to which the applicant of a tower sharing licence cannot keep a mobile operator as its shareholder and foreign ownership in the firm cannot exceed 70 percent. In edotco Bangladesh, Robi owns 19.99 percent stakes while the rest 80.01 percent belongs to edotco Group, a Malaysian telecom tower management company and a concern of Robi's parent company Axiata Group.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/edotco-sell-30pc-stake-1577014>

Govt to allow inspection of DIFE in EPZs: The government has decided to bring factories in the country's Export Processing Zones within the purview of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments under the labour law. Against the backdrop of continuous pressure from the International Labour Organisation and the sustainability compact partners, the government has taken the move to allow labour inspection in conformity with the labour law in factories located in the EPZs.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/41286/govt-to-allow-inspection-of-dife-in-epzs>

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