

Muhith unwraps BDT 4.64 trillion budget today: The government unveils the last budget of its present tenure today (Thursday). Finance minister AMA Muhith is set to place the budget before Jatiya Sangsad with a record outlay of over BDT 4.64 trillion. The size of the upcoming budget will be equivalent to 18 % of the country's gross domestic product or GDP, estimated at USD 220 billion. The Awami League government's fiscal blueprint comes months before the national elections and also at a time when both external and internal conditions not that comfortable.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/muhith-unwraps-BDT-464-trillion-budget-today-1528307447>

BB launches term repo for banking system liquidity: The Bangladesh Bank (BB) introduced a term repurchase agreement (repo) facility for the first time on Wednesday to ensure liquidity in the banking system. Under the term repo, the banks are allowed to avail liquidity from the central bank for durations ranging from seven days to a maximum of 28 days. The central bank will conduct the repo and the term repo transactions through auctions, held on all working days for overnight, seven-day, 14-day and 28-day tenors.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-launches-term-repo-for-banking-system-liquidity-1528307550>

eGeneration to provide Microsoft solutions to Dutch Bangla Bank: The eGeneration Limited, a Licensing Solutions Partner (LSP) of Microsoft Bangladesh, has signed an agreement with Dutch Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) to provide Microsoft solutions, according to a statement. Chief Business Development Officer of eGeneration Group Monowar Hossain Khan and Head of IT, DBBL Emdadul Haque signed the deal on behalf of their respective organizations at a program at DBBL's head office at Motijheel in the capital recently.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/egeneration-to-provide-microsoft-solutions-to-dutch-bangla-bank-1528309354>

BKMEA seeks BDT 10.50b fund to pay wages: Knitwear manufactures have sought a fund of BDT 10.50 billion from the government to pay wages and allowances to the workers, officials said. Acting president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Mansoor Ahmed sent a letter to the finance minister recently, seeking the financial support. The government disburses BDT 10 billion in cash incentives to the exporters in the apparel sector in each quarter of a fiscal year (FY).

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bkmea-seeks-BDT-1050b-fund-to-pay-wages-1528310000>

New rate brings down int'l call volume: The average incoming international calls per day through legal channels declined by 11.11 % or 60 lakh minutes in May this year after the government surprisingly increased call termination rate in February this year, said officials. As per the latest report of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, average international call termination through legal channel declined to 4.8 crore minutes per day in May from 5.4 crore minutes per day in February, when the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission introduced the new call termination rate at 2.5 US cents per minute.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/43031/new-rate-brings-down-intl-call-volume>

Unjust excise duty on bank accounts: Monirul Islam, a banker, did a double take when he saw a BDT 2,500 charge on his loan account in December last year. He took the auto loan of BDT 10 lakh in 2016 and did not see that charge before. Confused, he contacted his bank to enquire about the charge. He was told it was excise duty, which was introduced in 2017-18's budget. The deduction annoyed him as it was an additional charge on top of the interest he has been paying for the auto loan. But that was not the end; later, when he checked his salary account he got a kick in the teeth: there was an identical charge on this one too.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/unjust-excise-duty-bank-accounts-1587664>

Index Summary

	06/06/18	05/06/18	Point Change	% Change
DSEX	5,398.76	5,346.80	51.96	0.97%
DS30	1,993.55	1,980.43	13.12	0.66%
DSES	1,245.90	1,243.04	2.85	0.23%

Market Activities

	06/06/18	05/06/18	% Change
Mkt. Turnover (BDT mn)	4,564.30	3,823.00	19.39%
Mkt. Turnover (USD mn)	56.64	47.44	19.39%
Total No of Trade	121,858	108,019	12.81%
Trade Volume (mn)	95.93	77.99	23.00%

Market Valuation

	06/06/18	05/06/18	% Change
Mkt. Capitalization (BDT bn)	3,816.80	3,790.01	0.71%
Mkt. Capitalization (USD bn)	47.37	47.03	0.71%
Trailing Market P/E*	16.58	16.45	0.80%
Annualized Market P/E**	18.06	17.92	0.80%
Market P/BV	2.07	2.06	0.80%
Dividend Yield	3.62%	3.65%	-0.78%

Creating fiscal space to finance development: Bangladesh should be justifiably proud of its development achievements and this progress accelerated over the past decade. Bangladesh crossed the World Bank defined lower middle-income country threshold in 2015 and now aspires to achieve upper middle-income country status by 2031 and higher-income country status by 2041. These are undoubtedly ambitious targets that reflect the prevailing economic optimism in the country. Achieving these goals will require major improvements in policies, institutions and resources. The resource mobilization challenge for the public sector is in particular daunting. Total public expenditure as a percentage of the GDP is around 16 percent, which is low for a country with 160 million people.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2018-19-creating-fiscal-space-finance-development-1587472>

442 textile, RMG units prone to unrest: Some 442 textile and readymade garment (RMG) factories across the country are 'vulnerable' to labour unrest over payment of wages and festival allowances, officials said. Intelligence agencies recorded 168 and 158 incidents of unrest in March and April respectively this year. Such incidents occurred in Savar, Ashulia, Gazipur, Chattogram, Narayanganj, Mymensingh and Khulna areas.

<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/442-textile-rmg-units-prone-to-unrest-1528307616>

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