

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.

Macro:**Move to grant greater BB autonomy faces roadblock**

- Much-envisaged independent functioning of the central bank now hangs in the balance mainly as bureaucrats on the Bangladesh Bank board steer a reverse course from reforms. As part of the ongoing reform recipes to empower the central bankers for proper implementation of the regulations, the banking-regulatory body moved for amending the decades-old Bangladesh Bank Order 1972 under which the central bank functions.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/move-to-grant-greater-bb-autonomy-faces-roadblock-1756663352>

35% taxpayers in 41 zones each skipped filing

- Around 35% of taxpayers in each of the 41 tax zones across the country did not file tax returns in the last fiscal year despite having the taxpayer identification number (TIN).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/35pc-taxpayers-in-41-zones-each-skipped-filing-1756663610>

Restoring Stability in the Balance of Payments

- Bangladesh has been facing a severe downturn in the balance of payments (BOP) since FY2021-22. While commendable progress has been made to reverse the downward trend, there is still a way to go. The underlying causes of the BOP crisis are long-standing and deep-rooted. The immediate triggers were a series of external shocks relating to COVID19, the global inflation of 2021-22, and the Russia-Ukraine War starting on February 24, 2022. The government was initially slow to respond to this crisis and chose to take the hit on the reserves. Policy corrections started since then but most progress was made between May 2024 and June 2025. In a series of steps, the interest rates were deregulated, the exchange rate was unified and made market based, fiscal deficits were lowered, mostly through cutbacks in public development spending, and bank financing of fiscal deficits was curtailed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/restoring-stability-balance-payments-1225461>

Welfare fund fails workers as most eligible firms don't contribute

- Nearly two decades after its establishment, the Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation is still struggling to deliver benefits, with most eligible companies failing to contribute to its fund and workers facing cumbersome procedures to access the money. As of June this year, only 525 of 8,000 eligible enterprises had contributed to the fund. By the end of that month, the foundation held BDT 12.41 Bn, including TBDT 290 Mn deposited in June alone, according to the organisation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/welfare-fund-fails-workers-most-eligible-firms-dont-contribute-1225456>

Sector:**TELECOM | BTRC sets 10 Mbps as minimum 4G speed**

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has approved a revised Quality of Service (QoS) benchmark, setting the minimum 4G download speed at 10 Mbps. The new standard is higher than the 7 Mbps benchmark set in 2018 but lower than the 15 Mbps proposed in a draft QoS benchmark published in January. The revised benchmark also reduces the minimum 4G upload speed to 2 Mbps, half of what was earlier proposed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/btrc-sets-10-mbps-minimum-4g-speed-3975166>

BANK | Fixing capital crisis of local banking sector

- The banking sector in Bangladesh faces a severe capital shortfall of BDT 1.71 Tn, or around USD 15.5 Bn, as of late 2024, with the Capital to Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR) down to 3.08%, far below the regulatory requirement of 12.50%, including buffers. The overall ratio has been dragged down by undercapitalised state-owned banks, posing risks to financial stability and weakening trust in local banks among foreign correspondents.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/fixing-capital-crisis-local-banking-sector-3975496>

BANK | Regulator fixes audit fees for banks

- For the first time, the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), an autonomous regulatory body, yesterday set audit fees for chartered accountants who will audit the financial statements of banks in the current fiscal year of 2025-26. In a notification, the FRC said, for banks with total assets or risk-weighted assets of up to BDT 100 Bn, the total audit fee will be BDT 1.44 Mn, and where total assets or risk-weighted assets exceed BDT 1.50 Tn, the fee will be BDT 7.03 Mn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/regulator-fixes-audit-fees-banks-3975451>

Stocks:**RENATA | Standard Chartered executes USD 29 Mn swap for Renata**

- Standard Chartered Bangladesh has completed a USD 29 Mn interest rate swap (IRS) for Renata PLC, a leading pharmaceutical company. The customised structure will help Renata mitigate interest rate volatility on its five-year term loan, ensuring cost certainty and predictable cash flows.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/standard-chartered-executes-usd-29m-swap-renata-1225066>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank profit drops 81% in first half of 2025

- Islami Bank Bangladesh reported that its consolidated net profit dropped by 81% in the January to June period of 2025 mainly due to higher deposit cost. According to the bank's statement filed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Monday, its consolidated net profit was BDT 674 Mn during the first half of this year, which was significantly lower from BDT 3.57 Bn in the same period previous year. At the end of the June, its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 0.42, which was BDT 2.22 a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/islami-bank-profit-drops-81-first-half-2025-1225491>

EXCHANGE | Investors likely to return empty-handed from NBFI liquidation drive

- Investors are unlikely to recover anything from their stakes in the non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) now heading for liquidation under a Bangladesh Bank initiative. The central bank has recently decided to wind up nine out of 35 NBFIs in what marks the first such large-scale liquidation move in the financial sector, aimed at protecting depositors and restoring stability.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/investors-likely-to-return-empty-handed-from-nbfi-liquidation-drive-1756656149>

EXCHANGE | VIPB Fixed Income Fund posts above 26.2% return in 1st year

- The VIPB Fixed Income Fund, an open-end mutual fund managed by VIPB Asset Management Company, has posted a strong 26.2% return in its first year of operation, setting a new performance benchmark for fixed income mutual funds in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/vipb-fixed-income-fund-posts-262-return-first-year-1225401>

EXCHANGE | Bangladesh now stands at threshold of potential bull market: EBL Securities

- Bangladesh's capital market is on the verge of a potential bull run, backed by improving macroeconomic indicators and growing investor confidence, Mohammad Rehan Kabir, head of Research at EBL Securities said today (31 August). He made the remark at an event titled "Investor Awareness Program" held at EBL Securities head office in Motijheel. In his address, Kabir drew comparisons with regional peers, noting how easing inflation and falling treasury yields in Pakistan and Sri Lanka had sparked strong rallies in their respective markets.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bangladesh-now-stands-threshold-potential-bull-market-eb1-securities-1225391>

EXCHANGE | BSEC to inspect Al-Madina Pharma

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to conduct a comprehensive inspection of Al-Madina Pharmaceuticals, a publicly listed SME company. The inspection will cover the company's factory premises, head office, books of accounts, records, and other relevant documents to safeguard the interests of the capital market and general investors, according to a commission's order. To run the inspection, in exercise of the power conferred on rule 17 of the Securities and Exchange Rules, the commission appointed three members – two from the commission and one from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-inspect-al-madina-pharma-1225381>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 63.75	(USD 7.68)	-10.75%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 67.19	(USD 7.20)	-9.68%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,484.30	USD 875.82	33.58%
DSEX	5,594.39	377.95	7.25%
S&P 500	6,460.26	553.32	9.37%
FTSE 100	9,187.34	1,066.33	13.13%
BSE SENSEX	79,809.65	1,609.72	2.06%
KSE-100	148,617.78	33,358.78	28.94%
CSEALL	20,997.36	5,052.75	31.69%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.42 BDT****1 GBP = 164.23 BDT****1 Euro = 142.20 BDT****1 INR = 1.38 BDT**

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

Analyst Certification: Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

Disclaimer: Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

Compensation of Analysts: The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

General Risk Factors: BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Rakibul Hasan	Research Associate	rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (88)-02-222282446-47

Fax: + (88)-02-222282452

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com