

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:**ITFC to provide USD 100 Mn loan for fertiliser procurement**

- The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), a member of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, has approved USD 100 Mn in financing for Bangladesh's fertiliser procurement. The Bangladesh government signed the loan agreement with the Jeddah-based trade finance agency on Wednesday. The deal includes a Master Murabaha Financing Agreement and a Syndicated Murabaha Financing Facility, under which ITFC will initially provide USD 100 Mn in funding.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/itfc-to-provide-100m-loan-for-fertiliser-procurement-1757526253>

Govt unveils draft PPR 2025, removing local procurement price cap

- The government has unveiled the draft Public Procurement Rules 2025 (PPR-2025), introducing major updates to several sections of PPR-2008 to align with international standards and improve transparency. The changes include removing the local procurement price cap and introducing a weighted bid evaluation system, updating the limited tender process, and adding a new clause on contract cancellation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-unveils-draft-ppr-2025-removing-local-procurement-price-cap-1233466>

NBR to allow exporters to import duty-free raw materials: Chairman

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has taken a move to introduce duty-free raw material import system for exporters who do not have any bond license. The exporters will have to get a guarantee from any bank saying that the imported raw materials will be exported.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-allow-exporters-import-duty-free-raw-materials-chairman-1233426>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Bangladesh Bank plans merger of five banks linked to S Alam by November**

- Bangladesh Bank has said the process of merging five debt-ridden banks linked to S Alam Group is moving fast and is expected to be completed by mid-November this year. The new entity will operate as a Shariah-based Islamic bank, with the government injecting BDT 200 Bn as fresh capital from the national budget. The merged bank's total initial capital is projected at BDT 350 Bn, a senior finance ministry official said, preferring anonymity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-bank-plans-five-bank-merger-november-1233296>

TEXTILE | Stern action if RMG owners fail to repay loans by Dec: Labour adviser

- Shipping and Labour and Employment Adviser Brig Gen (retd) Dr M Sakhawat Hussain on Wednesday said the government would take stern legal action against garment factory owners who fail to repay the interest-free loans provided to pay workers' pending wages by December. "To address labour unrest caused by unpaid wages, the government provided interest-free loans from the Finance Division and the Labour and Employment Ministry's Central Fund, but the industries have yet to repay them," he said during a meeting at the Secretariat in Dhaka.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/stern-action-if-rmg-owners-fail-to-repay-loans-by-dec-labour-adviser-1757526154>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS | Spectrum price cut may add USD 45 Bn to economy by 2035: study

- Adjusting spectrum prices could unlock up to USD 45 Bn of economic growth for Bangladesh by 2035, according to a new GSMA study, which warns that the current pricing model risks holding back its digital ambitions. The report, The Impact of Spectrum Pricing in Bangladesh, links high spectrum and tax burdens to underinvestment in networks, slower internet speeds, and delayed 5G adoption.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/spectrum-price-cut-may-add-45b-economy-2035-study-3983076>

FUEL & POWER | Commercial oil transportation via Ctg-Dhaka pipeline to start this yr

- CHATTOGRAM, Sep 10: The commercial operation of the fuel oil transportation through the Chattogram-Dhaka oil pipeline will begin this year. The commissioning operation started on August 16, marking the beginning of a new era in oil transportation in the country. Officials from the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) have stated that the commercial operation of the pipeline has been delayed due to discrepancies found during trial runs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/commercial-oil-transportation-via-ctg-dhaka-pipeline-to-start-this-yr-1757526082>

FOOD & ALLIED | Akij Venture opens S Asia's largest packaged drinking water plant

- Akij Venture Group has inaugurated South Asia's largest and most modern packaged drinking water production line in Dhamrai recently. The mega facility, developed under its subsidiary Akij Food & Beverage Ltd., will stand as a proud testament to Bangladesh's growing industrial infrastructure and development.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/akij-venture-opens-s-asias-largest-packaged-drinking-water-plant-1757521879>

Stocks:**RENATA | Renata taps Canadian market with contraceptive pill Miley**

- Renata has entered the Canadian pharmaceutical market with the launch of a birth control pill, aiming to expand its export portfolio and diversify its global presence. The company introduced Desogestrel/Ethinyl Estradiol (0.15 mg/0.03 mg) tablets, a birth control pill that combines two hormones-desogestrel (a progestin) and ethinylestradiol (an estrogen)-to prevent pregnancy when taken properly.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/renata-taps-canadian-market-with-contraceptive-pill-miley-1757521699>

DHAKABANK | Dhaka Bank inks deal with bb for startup refinancing scheme

- Dhaka Bank has signed a participation agreement with the Bangladesh Bank for BDT 5 Bn Startup Fund Refinancing Scheme. Start-ups, which are introducing new products, services, or processes using technology or intellectual property to meet domestic or global demand, demonstrating rapid scalability, and having the capacity to reshape or significantly improve existing markets through disruptive innovations, will be able to avail Startup loans at a 4% interest rate.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dhaka-bank-inks-deal-with-bb-for-startup-refinancing-scheme-1757521554>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank's provision shortfall nears record BDT 700 Bn

- Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC ended last year with a provision shortfall of nearly BDT 700 Bn, audit reports show, exposing cracks in the financial health of the country's largest Shariah-based commercial lender for the first time in its four-decade history. Weak asset quality in loans and investments, along with the bank's failure to set aside adequate funds to cover potential losses from defaults or bad debts, overshadowed its reported BDT1 Bn profit for 2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/islami-banks-provision-shortfall-nears-record-tk-70000cr-3983056>

ICB | ICB to take RACE to court over BDT 2.20 Bn mutual fund irregularities Investment – Bangladesh

- The state-run Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has decided to sue RACE Asset Management, alleging mismanagement of six mutual funds that could result in "losses exceeding BDT 2.2 Bn " for investors. As trustee of those six mutual funds, investment bank ICB served a legal notice to RACE on 24 August, accusing the asset manager of violating trust deeds through BDT 3.45 Bn of investments in four projects.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/corruption/icb-take-race-court-over-tk220cr-mutual-fund-irregularities-investment>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 63.64	(USD 7.79)	-10.91%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 67.46	(USD 6.93)	-9.32%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,635.44	USD 1,026.96	39.37%
DSEX	5,473.15	256.70	4.92%
S&P 500	6,532.04	625.10	10.58%
FTSE 100	9,225.39	1,104.38	13.60%
BSE SENSEX	81,425.15	3,225.22	4.12%
KSE-100	157,020.80	41,761.80	36.23%
CSEALL	20,769.34	4,824.73	30.26%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.79 BDT****1 GBP = 164.75 BDT****1 Euro = 142.48 BDT****1 INR = 1.38 BDT**

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