BRAC EPL
STOCK BROKERAGE LTD

Important News Snippets

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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:

BB cuts policy rate by 50 basis points after 2 years

- After nearly two years, the Bangladesh Bank has reduced its policy interest rate (repo rate) by 50 basis points to 9.5%, aiming to stimulate private sector investment despite persistently high inflation.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-cuts-policy-rate-50-basis-points-after-2-years-1502576

BB to unveil monetary policy on quarterly basis

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has decided to issue its Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) on a quarterly basis, replacing the current six-month cycle, in an effort to make monetary policy more responsive to rapidly changing domestic and global economic conditions.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-to-unveil-monetary-policy-on-quarterly-basis-1785605812

Dollar continues to gain against taka

- The US dollar continues to gain against the taka amid increased demand for foreign currency to clear import bills. On July 30, the taka-dollar exchange rate rose to BDT 123.82 per dollar in the interbank market. On the spot market, the dollar was traded at BDT 123.88 each on the same day.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dollar-continues-gain-against-taka-4237716

Importers limiting benefits of customs automation

- Importers and their clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents are found to account for nearly 80% of the total port-clearance time at Bangladesh's prime seaport, significantly limiting the benefits of customs automation.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/importers-limiting-benefits-of-customs-automation-1785605273

UK reaffirms GBP 2.0 Bn trade finance support

- The United Kingdom has reaffirmed its commitment to provide up to GBP 2.0 Bn in financing support through UK Export Finance (UKEF), reinforcing its long-term economic partnership with Bangladesh as the country prepares to graduate from least developed country (LDC) status.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/uk-reaffirms-20b-trade-finance-support-1785605771

Ctg Customs House collected BDT 814.71 Bn in taxes last FY

- The Chattogram Custom House (CCH) has collected a total of BDT 814.71 Bn in revenue against a target of BDT 1.02 Tn in the recently concluded 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a 12.37% jump year-on-year.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/ctg-customs-house-collected-tk-81471b-in-taxes-last-fy-1785602838

Chinese footprint widens in Bangladesh's economic landscape

- China became Bangladesh's second-largest source of net FDI in 2025, accounting for more than 18% of total inflows, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/chinese-footprint-widens-bangladeshs-economic-landscape-4237796

BB launches BDT 20.0 Bn scheme for leather sector

- Bangladesh Bank launched a BDT 20.0 Bn pre-finance scheme to support the development and expansion of the country's leather and leather goods industry, aiming to boost exports, improve environmental compliance, and enhance competitiveness.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/trade-commerce/308227/bb-launches-tk-2000cr-scheme-for-leather-sector

Bangladesh faces higher freight costs amid Mideast conflict

- Bangladesh's export sector is facing sharply higher ocean freight rates, largely driven by an escalating conflict between Iran and the US-Israel coalition that has choked shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, according to industry insiders.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-faces-higher-freight-costs-amid-mideast-conflict-4237791

Development spending falls to 53-year low

- Ministries and agencies spent 67.5% of the revised Annual Development Programme (ADP) allocation in fiscal year 2025-26, the lowest implementation rate since 1974.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/development-spending-falls-53-year-low-4236651

Empty containers pile up at ICDs as import-export gap widens

- A widening imbalance between Bangladesh's container imports and exports is leaving inland container depots (ICDs) overflowing with empty containers, straining storage capacity for export cargo and prompting the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) to renew its push for regulatory changes.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/empty-containers-pile-icds-import-export-gap-widens-1504151

Cold storage owners seek 20% electricity rebate, 30% export incentive

- The Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA) on Saturday urged the government to grant a 20% rebate on electricity bills and increase the cash incentive for potato exports to 30% from the existing 10% to help the sector weather a severe crisis driven by falling potato prices.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/cold-storage-owners-seek-20pc-electricity-rebate-30pc-export-incentive-1785602661

<u>Sector and Industries:</u>

RMG | ME crisis deters potential Western RMG buyers

- The ongoing Middle East crisis is steering potential Western apparel buyers away from Bangladesh over energy security concerns, with an international global supply chain report saying that buyers who were trying to turn their back on China are now reconsidering their decisions.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/apparel/308417/me-crisis-deters-potential-western-rmg-buyers

BANK | CMSME lending rises 12% in Q2, FY '26

- Banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) increased lending to cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) by more than 12% year-on-year in the second quarter of FY2025-26.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/cmsme-lending-rises-12pc-in-q2-fy-26-1785606504

BANK | Bank directors' loans reach BDT 1.65 Tn

- Banks' directors' outstanding loans stood at BDT 1.65 Tn at the end of December 2025, accounting for 11.21% of the country's more than BDT 20Tn in outstanding bank credit, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/308399/bank-directors-loans-reach-tk165-lakh-crore

ENERGY | LNG crisis drives import costs up

- To maintain the country's overall natural gas supply, Petrobangla purchased its latest spot LNG cargoes at USD 22.35 per Mn British thermal units (MMBtu) from Vitol Asia Pte Ltd and USD 21.66 per MMBtu from BP Singapore Pte Ltd for delivery during the August 15-16 and August 2-3 windows, respectively.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/lng-crisis-drives-import-costs-up-1785605712

ENERGY | Petrobangla says no plan to raise gas prices now

- Petrobangla has said the government currently has no plan to increase gas prices, seeking to dispel confusion created by recent media reports about a possible tariff hike.

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/petrobangla-says-no-plan-raise-gas-prices-now-1504106

ENERGY | Load-shedding nears 2,800MW, gas crisis drags on

- Nationwide load-shedding neared 2,800 megawatts on Saturday as Bangladesh struggled to use even half of its installed power generation capacity, while the severe gas crisis that began 11 days ago showed no sign of easing.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/308421/load-shedding-nears-2800mw-gas-crisis-drags-on

BANK | Aug 15 cutoff time to meet its UAE outfit's capital requirement

- Cutoff time is now until August 15 for the centrally capital-deficient Janata Bank to fulfill its UAE outfit's jacked-up minimum-capital requirement or pull back, according to the gulf country's regulatory direction.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/aug-15-cutoff-time-to-meet-its-uae-outfits-capital-requirement

Stocks:

EXCHANGE | BSEC pushes capital market deregulation with power delegation, stronger DSE role

- The latest move came last week when the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) allowed market participants to submit routine applications and documents directly to the executive directors of the relevant departments instead of routing them through the commission chairman.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-pushes-capital-market-deregulation-with-power-delegation-stronger-dse-role-1785602062

PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank starts Bangladesh's first digital trade transactions

- Prime Bank PLC has initiated Bangladesh's first digital trade transactions under a pilot programme of Bangladesh Bank, allowing trade documents to be exchanged electronically through approved international trade channels. The initiative removes reliance on physical document exchange in international trade transactions and is expected to make trade processing faster and more efficient.

https://tob.news/prime-bank-starts-bangladeshs-first-digital-trade-transactions/

ISLAMIBANK | IBBL incurs BDT 10.28 Bn loss in April-June

- Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC slipped into a loss of more than BDT 10.0 Bn in Q2’26 as mounting non-performing investments sharply reduced its investment income and weakened overall profitability. The bank attributed the sharp deterioration in earnings to higher profit paid on deposits, lower investment income resulting from the increase in non-performing investments and reduced income from placements with other banks.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/308228/ibbl-incurs-tk-1028cr-loss-in-april-june

RECKITTBEN | Reckitt Q2 profit jumps 38%

- Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) reported a sharp rise in second-quarter profit and stronger operating cash flow. The company said last year’s second quarter had fewer business days because of two Eid holidays, while first-quarter 2026 sales were affected by the Eid holiday period and the national election.

https://tob.news/reckitt-q2-profit-jumps-38/

MERCANBANK | Mercantile Bank incurs loss in Q2 as interest income plummets

- The bank’s liquidity position saw a significant squeeze, with the consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) dropping by 79% to BDT 0.74 at the end of June.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mercantile-bank-incurs-loss-q2-interest-income-plummets-1504031

MERCANBANK | MA Khan Belal new chairman of Mercantile Bank

- MA Khan Belal has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors of Mercantile Bank PLC at the bank's 490th board meeting held at its head office in Dhaka on Thursday.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ma-khan-belal-new-chairman-of-mercantile-bank-1785602101

PHENIXINS | Phoenix Ins declares 12pc cash dividend

- The company declared 12% cash dividend to the shareholders for the year 2025.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/308414/phoenix-ins-declares-12pc-cash-dividend

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 84.67	USD 27.24	47.43%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 87.93	USD 27.08	44.50%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,046.15	(USD 294.85)	-6.79%
DSEX	5,895.58	1,030.25	21.18%
S&P 500	7,489.72	590.90	8.57%
FTSE 100	10,868.05	936.67	9.43%
BSE SENSEX	78,094.64	-6,698.94	-7.90%
KSE-100	176,284.30	2,230.00	1.28%
CSEALL	21,129.21	-1,495.10	-6.61%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 123.30 BDT

1 GBP = 166.20 BDT

1 Euro = 142.21 BDT

1 INR = 1.29 BDT

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