

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:**Bangladesh economy stabilises, growth remains weak**

- Bangladesh has achieved initial macroeconomic stabilization, with foreign exchange reserves reaching a three-year high of USD 33 Bn and headline inflation easing to approximately 8.3% in November. However, this progress is countered by weak investment and a slowing economy, as experts warn that BDT 6.4 Tn in non-performing loans (NPLs) could trap the country in a low-growth cycle.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-economy-stabilises-growth-remains-weak>

Govt reverses cut in savings returns

- The Bangladesh government has reversed its recent decision to reduce interest rates on national savings instruments, maintaining existing profit rates until June 30 following widespread criticism. This move nullifies the December 30 notification that sought to lower maximum returns to 10.59% and minimum rates to 8.74%, effectively restoring yields such as the 11.80% return on Family Savings Certificates.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-reverses-cut-in-savings-returns-1767547626>

Merchandise exports record 14.25% decline in December

- Bangladesh's merchandise export earnings dropped by 14.25% year-on-year in December 2025, falling to USD 3.96 Bn from USD 4.62 Bn in the same month of the previous year. This marks the fifth consecutive month of negative growth, with the Readymade Garment (RMG) sector specifically recording a 14.23% decline to USD 3.23 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/merchandise-exports-record-1425pc-decline-in-december>

Deadline for NBR bifurcation missed, Jan action in wintry chill

- December deadline is missed and bid for completing all must-dos for bifurcating the revenue board within January has yet to get into right gear. Officials say the final stages of splitting the National Board of Revenue (NBR) into two separate entities have proven to be more complex and time-consuming than initially anticipated. The key pending task is finalising the Rules of Business (RoB) and Allocation of Business (AoB).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/deadline-for-nbr-bifurcation-missed-jan-action-in-wintry-chill-1767548546>

Bangladesh Bank buys another USD 187 Mn to stabilise dollar rate

- With the latest purchase, the central bank has bought a total of USD 3.32 Bn so far in the current fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-bank-buys-another-187m-stabilise-dollar-rate-1326316>

Sector & Industries:**FUEL & POWER | BERC raises 12-kg LPG price by BDT 53 amid unusual price hike**

- Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) on Sunday adjusted upward the price of a standard 12-kilogram (kg) LPG cylinder to BDT 1,306 from BDT 1,253 in the backdrop of an unusual hike in the energy prices at the consumers' levels.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/berc-raises-12-kg-lpg-price-by-tk-53-amid-unusual-price-hike-1767547368>

FUEL & POWER | VAT relief, lower interest rates, easier LC processing agreed to ease LPG crisis

- The government and LPG industry stakeholders agreed on a package of temporary measures to ease the ongoing LPG supply crunch, including VAT relief on imports, cheaper loans and easier access to bank letters of credit. The proposals, however, will require final approval following reviews by the Bangladesh Bank and the National Board of Revenue before they can be implemented, officials said after an emergency meeting.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/vat-relief-lower-interest-rates-easier-lc-processing-agreed-ease-lpg-crisis>

JUTE | Jute spinners demand suspension of raw jute exports amid supply crisis

- The Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association (BJSA) has urged the government to suspend raw jute exports to address a severe domestic supply shortage caused by declining production and illegal hoarding. Industry insiders reported that raw jute prices have surged to BDT 4,700–5,000 per maund, threatening the viability of local mills and the competitiveness of Bangladeshi jute products in international markets.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/jute-spinners-demand-suspension-of-raw-jute-exports-amid-supply-crisis>

BANK | Cenbank launches dashboard to minimise credit risk

- Bangladesh Bank has formally launched a risk-based supervision (RBS) dashboard, marking a major shift towards a more technology-driven and preventive oversight framework for the country's banking sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-bank-rolls-out-risk-based-supervision-rebuild-depositor-confidence>

BANK | FDRs up 5.53pc in Q3'25 amid rising risk aversion

- Banks saw a noticeable shift in deposit behaviour in Q3'25, with more funds flowing into term deposits as rising returns encouraged customers to lock in their savings for longer tenures. Fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) in banks rose to BDT 9.93 Tn, a steady upward trajectory over seven quarters.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/fdrs-up-553pc-in-q325-amid-rising-risk-aversion-1767544618>

BANK | MFIs concerned over proposed microcredit bank law

- The Microcredit Bank Ordinance 2025 could undermine the sector's role in poverty alleviation and financial inclusion, as MFIs are development-oriented, not-for-profit, and focused on serving low-income and marginalised populations, whereas banks are inherently profit-driven, reads a joint statement issued.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mfis-concerned-over-proposed-microcredit-bank-law-4073371>

BANK | Persistently high NPLs on bank balance sheets threaten economic growth: Economists

- Economists warn that Bangladesh's economic growth is under threat from an estimated BDT 6.4 Tn in non-performing loans (NPLs), which are currently trapping the country in a cycle of high inflation and low investment. The NPL ratio for private commercial banks has reportedly surged to 33% from approximately 7% in early 2024 as previously hidden "accounting tricks" are exposed through asset quality reviews.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/persistently-high-npls-bank-balance-sheets-threaten-economic-growth-economists-1326441>

INSURANCE | Uncertainty hit life insurance in 2024, non-life grew

- In 2024, Bangladesh's life insurance sector saw a decline in premium income due to economic uncertainty and high inflation, while non-life insurance managed to grow by roughly 10%. Industry data reveals that life insurance premiums dropped by 0.52% to BDT 113.54 Bn, whereas non-life premiums rose to BDT 55 Bn as businesses sought protection against rising operational risks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/uncertainty-hit-life-insurance-2024-non-life-grew-4073376>

Stocks:**PTL | Paramount Textile to add solar power as new revenue stream**

- Paramount Textile is going to diversify into solar power generation, expecting nearly BDT 3.07 Bn in revenue from solar plants over 20 years from FY28. The new possible revenue stream is more than 25% of revenue in FY25. The company earned BDT12.26 Bn in revenue and secured BDT 1.21 Bn in net profit, with a 9.90% profit margin.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/paramount-textile-to-add-solar-power-as-new-revenue-stream-1767541973>

PRIMEBANK | PRIME BANK SECURES USD 20 MN TERM LOAN FROM INVEST IN VISIONS

- Prime Bank has successfully signed a term loan agreement for USD 20 Mn with Invest In Visions Microfinance Fund, a German-based impact investor. This funding will be strategically deployed for lending to MSME across Bangladesh.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/prime-bank-secures-20m-term-loan-from-invest-in-visions-1767542161>

EXCHANGE | IPO rulebook overhauled as BSEC hopes to attract 'good companies' in 2026

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has implemented the "Public Offer of Equity Securities Rules, 2025," requiring companies to have a minimum paid-up capital of BDT 300 Mn and offload at least 10% of their shares. These reforms, gazetted on December 30, empower stock exchanges to grant preliminary IPO approvals while mandating that issuers utilize raised funds within five years.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/ipo-rulebook-overhauled-as-bsec-hopes-to-attract-good-companies-in-2026>

EXCHANGE | Dhaka Stock Exchange's SME board jumps 5% after easing minimum investment rule

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange's SME board index (DSMEX) surged by 5.43% to close at 924 on January 4 following a regulatory decision to ease investor access. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) lowered the minimum investment threshold for the SME platform to BDT 1 Mn from BDT 3 Mn, triggering an 80% jump in daily turnover to BDT 58.4 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-stock-exchanges-sme-board-jumps-5-after-easing-minimum-investment-rule-1326466>

EXCHANGE | Z-category relegation triggers mass sell-off in 9 stocks

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) downgraded nine companies to the "Z" category on January 4, 2026, causing their share prices to plunge by nearly 10% in a single session. The move affected firms like Best Holding, Gemini Sea Food, and Alif Industries, which were relegated due to non-compliance issues such as failing to hold annual general meetings on time.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/z-category-relegation-triggers-mass-sell-9-stocks-1326476>

EXCHANGE | Risk-free appeal lifts T-bond trading in secondary market

- Secondary market trading in Treasury bonds surged 53% year-on-year to BDT 1.95 Bn in 2025, driven by falling yields and investors' preference for risk-free assets.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/risk-free-appeal-lifts-t-bond-trading-in-secondary-market-1767541896>

Stock and Commodities*

Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 57.28	(USD 0.15)	-0.26%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 60.82	(USD 0.03)	-0.05%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,392.04	USD 51.04	1.18%
DSEX	4,965.24	99.90	2.05%
S&P 500	6,858.47	-40.35	-0.58%
FTSE 100	9,951.14	19.76	0.20%
BSE SENSEX	85,762.01	968.43	1.14%
KSE-100	179,034.94	4,980.64	2.86%
CSEALL	22,864.08	239.77	1.06%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.40 BDT****1 GBP = 164.48 BDT****1 Euro = 143.18 BDT****1 INR = 1.36 BDT**

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