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:

More British investment coming to Bangladesh

- British businesses are increasingly optimistic about Bangladesh's investment climate and are planning to expand their footprint in the country in the coming years, said Baroness Rosie Winterton of Doncaster, the UK trade envoy for Bangladesh. According to official data, UK-Bangladesh bilateral trade in the fiscal year 2024-25 totalled GBP 3.9 Bn, of which Bangladesh's exports stood at GBP 3.4 Bn and the UK's exports to Bangladesh at around GBP 500 Mn.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/more-british-investment-coming-bangladesh-4009306

Bhutan wants to upgrade PTA with Bangladesh to FTA

- Bhutan is looking to transform its existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Bangladesh, signed in December 2020, into a full-fledged Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to utilise the untapped business potential between the two countries, Bhutanese Ambassador Dasho Karma Hamu Dorjee said yesterday.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bhutan-wants-upgrade-pta-bangladesh-fta-4009291

Sector & Industries:

RMG | Chinese, Indian firms eye BD to invest in RMG sector

- A growing wave of Chinese and Indian companies is eyeing Bangladesh's textile and garment sector as an emerging alternative for relocation, driven by steep US tariffs and rising production costs. Industry insiders say global buyers, particularly from the United States, have been scouting for new sourcing hubs for years due to the US-China trade war.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/chinese-indian-firms-eye-bd-to-invest-in-rmg-sector-1760377675

BANK | Strong growth in farm loan as disbursement hits BDT 26.72 Bn

- Disbursement of agricultural loans rose notably in August of the current fiscal year, reflecting higher demand for seasonal credit amid ongoing efforts to boost rural productivity. According to the latest data from Bangladesh Bank (BB), farm-loan disbursement stood at BDT 48.26 Bn during July-August of the fiscal year (FY) 2025-26, marking a 24.7% year-on-year rise from BDT 38.70 Bn disbursed in the same period of the FY2024-25.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/strong-growth-in-farm-loan-as-disbursement-hits-tk-2672b-1760378141

BANK | Conventional banks race to fill Islamic banking void

- Conventional banks go jockeying to seize switching clientele through unconventional Islamic-banking operations as a vast market emerges as spinoffs from merger of five financially weakened shariah-based lenders, sources say. The readied merger of the five unconventional banks under reform recipes pursued by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) prompt the clients of Islamic banking to look for alternative but compliant lenders for their deposits.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/conventional-banks-race-to-fill-islamic-banking-void-1760377560

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FUEL & POWER | Private firms can now sell renewable power directly to customers

- Private investors can now set up renewable energy-based power plants, choose their customers, negotiate prices and use the national grid to deliver electricity -- removing the state-run Power Development Board (PDB) as the sole buyer and seller from the process, according to a new policy.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/private-firms-can-now-sell-renewable-power-directly-customers-4009276

BANK | LC openings surge to USD 6.3 Bn in September, reversing eight-month slump

- The value of Letters of Credit (LCs) opened in Bangladesh stood at USD 6.3 Bn 6.3 in September, marking a 17.29% increase from August, according to Bangladesh Bank's Monthly Economic Indicators report. The report shows that in August 2025, importers opened LCs worth USD 5.38 Bn. With September's rise, import activity has increased after eight months, though it remains below January 2025's figure of USD 6.84 Bn.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/lc-openings-surge-63b-september-reversing-eight-month-slump-1259961

BANK | Govt assurance raises hopes of general shareholders in Islamic bank merger

- A government announcement concerning shareholders of the five troubled Islamic banks being merged has raised hopes among general shareholders. "The matter of protecting investors' interests is being carefully examined in the merger process," reads an official statement issued by the Ministry of Finance on Monday.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/govt-assurance-raises-hopes-of-general-shareholders-in-islamic-bank-merger-1760372271

BANK, MFS | Bank-to-MFS and MFS-to-MFS money transfers via NPSB to start from 1 Nov

- Money can now be sent directly from banks to mobile financial service (MFS) wallets — such as bKash, Nagad, and Rocket — as well as from one MFS wallet to another, through the National Payment Switch Bangladesh (NPSB) platform starting from 1 November. The Bangladesh Bank announced the move in a circular issued by its Payment Systems Department today (13 October).

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-allows-money-transfers-banks-bkash-nagad-npsb-nov-fee-tk15-thousand-1259791

BANK | BB slashes loan provisioning rates to boost agricultural, CMSME lending

- The central bank has issued a directive reducing the required loan provisioning rates for banks handling specific credit lines in the agricultural and CMSME (Cottage, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) sectors, aiming to encourage greater participation by banks in disbursing these credits. The Bangladesh Bank in a circular issued today (13 October) instructed all banks to maintain provision at the rate of 1% against all unclassified standard; and Special Mention Account (SMA); Short Term Agricultural Credits and Cottage; Micro and Small (CMS) enterprise credits under CMSME sector till 31 December 2026. Earlier, banks were required to maintain provisions at the rate of 1% and 5% of outstanding loans against standard and SMA, respectively.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-slashes-loan-provisioning-rates-boost-agricultural-cmsme-lending-1259821

BANK, NBFI | 5 key changes in new deposit law for bank, NBFI depositors

- The advisory council of the interim government has approved amendments to the Deposit Protection Ordinance, introducing sweeping changes that will affect millions of depositors, now, over 160 Mn, in banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs).

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/5-key-changes-new-deposit-law-bank-nbfi-depositors-4008741

Stocks:

JMISMDL | JMI Hospital Requisite injects fresh funds into Apollo-partnered hospital

- JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing has approved a further investment of BDT 115 Mn in its newly inaugurated subsidiary - JMI Specialized Hospital. The leading medical device manufacturer and flagship company of JMI Group will purchase machinery and provide working capital to the hospital.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/jmi-hospital-requisite-injects-fresh-funds-into-apollo-partnered-hospital-1760372250

MONNOCERA | Monno Ceramic sponsor director to transfer BDT 200 Mn shares

- Afroza Khanam, a sponsor director of Monno Ceramic Industries, will transfer shares worth more than BDT 200 Mn to her husband. According to disclosures posted on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website today, Khanam intends to transfer a combined 2.6 Mn shares of the company to her husband, Moynul Islam, a general shareholder, by way of gift outside the trading system of the exchange.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/monno-ceramic-sponsor-director-transfer-tk-20cr-shares-4008846

BDLAMPS | BD Lamps' losses narrow on higher revenue

- In its disclosure to the stock exchange, the company said profit declined due to higher finance costs and a sharp increase in customs duties—from 10% to 28%—which contributed to the net loss. In the July-September quarter of FY25, the company reported a net loss of BDT 12.5 Mn, lower than BDT 58.8 Mn in the same period a year earlier. The improvement was primarily driven by a 15.7% increase in revenue.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bd-lamps-losses-narrow-higher-revenue-1259891

BDPAINTS | BD Paints invests BDT 1 Bn in new Gazipur factory, eyes BDT 2.50 Bn in annual revenue

- BD Paints Limited is set to begin commercial operations at its newly built factory in Gazipur on 18 October, marking a major milestone in its expansion strategy aimed at boosting production capacity and strengthening its market position. The new facility, built on 914 decimals of land, has a daily production capacity of 110.60 tonnes of paints and 15,000 pieces of plastic containers.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bd-paints-invests-tk100cr-new-gazipur-factory-eyes-tk250cr-annual-revenue-1259906

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Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 59.65	(USD 11.78)	-16.49%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 63.48	(USD 10.91)	-14.67%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,148.87	USD 1,540.39	59.05%
DSEX	5,227.75	11.31	0.22%
S&P 500	6,654.72	747.78	12.66%
FTSE 100	9,442.87	1,321.86	16.28%
BSE SENSEX	82,327.05	4,127.12	5.28%
KSE-100	158,443.42	43,184.42	37.47%
CSEALL	22,321.08	6,376.47	39.99%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 121.85 BDT

1 GBP = 162.56 BDT

1 Euro = 141.01 BDT

1 INR = 1.37 BDT

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