

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:**Govt to scrap tariffs on 4,500 US products**

- Bangladesh has agreed to eliminate customs duties, supplementary duties, and regulatory duties on approximately 4,500 products from the United States as part of the newly signed reciprocal trade agreement, marking one of the most significant tariff reduction measures in recent years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/govt-scrap-tariffs-4500-us-products-4104101>

Bangladesh commits to USD 18.5 Bn US farm, energy imports

- Bangladesh will buy USD 3.5 Bn worth of US agricultural products and USD 15 Bn of energy under a broader reciprocal trade agreement with Washington, signed on Monday. The energy imports will take place over 15 years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-commits-185b-us-farm-energy-imports-4103221>

US meat, dairy and biotech to enter on easier terms

- Under the reciprocal trade agreement, American dairy, meat and poultry producers will get sweeping access to Bangladesh's market. It also widens the door to agricultural biotechnology products without requiring labelling for genetically modified organisms.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-meat-dairy-and-biotech-enter-easier-terms-4104096>

Ctg port launches 'CPA Sky' to bring all port, customs services under single digital platform

- Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) launched the Port Single Window system, branded CPA Sky, aiming to integrate 100% of services involving the port, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and customs, covering cargo handling, delivery, documentation and payments.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-port-launches-cpa-sky-bring-all-port-customs-services-under-single-digital-platform>

BB buys USD 171 Mn through dollar auction

- Bangladesh Bank on Tuesday purchased USD 171 Mn from 11 commercial banks through multiple auction methods.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-buys-171m-through-dollar-auction>

Forex market remains largely stable amid high dollar inflow

- BDT remained broadly stable against the US dollar as improved foreign exchange liquidity and a surplus in the balance of payments offset pressure from higher imports. The interbank exchange rate moved from BDT 121.80 per dollar at the end of September to BDT 122.58 on November 20 amid a pickup in fuel and fertiliser imports. It later appreciated to BDT 122.22 by the end of November as liquidity improved. On a year-on-year basis, the BDT recorded a 1.90% nominal depreciation in November.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/291035/forex-market-remains-largely-stable-amid-high-dollar-inflow>

WB clears USD 370 Mn to clean Dhaka rivers, improve waste management

- The World Bank (WB) has approved USD 370 Mn in financing to improve sanitation and solid waste management services to reduce water pollution and restore rivers and canals in and around Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wb-clears-370m-clean-dhaka-rivers-improve-waste-management-4103676>

Trade deficit widens to USD 11.55 Bn in first half of FY26

- Trade deficit grew over 18% in H1FY26, driven by rising imports and declining export earnings. During the period, import bills rose 5% YoY to USD 33.67 Bn, driven partly by pre-Ramadan purchasing. Industry insiders expect the deficit to widen further in coming months as imports continue to rise while exports show no clear upward trend.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/trade-deficit-widens-1155b-first-half-fy26-4103216>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Banks' CRAR plummets to record 1.56 per cent**

- Bangladesh's banking sector has reached its weakest capital position on record, with the Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio falling to 1.56% in September 2025, far below the regulatory minimum of 10%. 21 out of 61 banks failed to meet the minimum, while of them 15 reported negative CRARs, meaning their losses have wiped out core capital. Bankers said such institutions have little capacity to cope with further loan defaults and resemble hollow structures rather than viable banks.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/291249/banks-crar-plummets-to-record-156-per-cent>

BANK | Banks incur losses worth BDT 241.35 Bn in Jan-Sept

- Bangladesh's banking sector posted a massive loss in 9M 2025 as long-suppressed bad assets surfaced, provisioning needs surged and prolonged macroeconomic stress eroded earnings. Banks recorded a combined net loss of BDT 241.35 Bn in 9M2025, a sharp reversal from a net profit of BDT 126.56 Bn in 9M2024. Provisioning gaps widened as required loan-loss provisions rose to BDT 4.73 Tn by end-September, but banks had set aside only BDT 1.29 Tn.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/290831/banks-incur-losses-worth-tk-24135cr-in-jan-sept>

INSURANCE | BD to scrap 50% mandatory reinsurance with Sadharan Bima under US trade deal

- Bangladesh has agreed to abolish the long-standing requirement for non-life insurers to reinsure at least 50% of their business with state-owned Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC) as part of trade deal. US insurers and global reinsurance firms are expected to be among the primary beneficiaries, while domestic insurers will gain greater flexibility in selecting reinsurance partners based on pricing, capacity and risk diversification. However, the reform is likely to significantly erode SBC's dominant position.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-scrap-50-mandatory-reinsurance-sadharan-bima-under-us-trade-deal-1358566>

TELECOM | BTRC issues revised guidelines for GSO satellite operators

- The regulator has issued a revised set of "Regulatory and Licensing Guidelines for Geosynchronous Orbit (GSO) Satellite Operator", replacing the 2022 one. The updated guidelines place stronger emphasis on orbital slot coordination, frequency assignment and compliance with obligations under the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The new guidelines introduce a phased gross revenue-sharing regime - set at 0% for the first two years, rising to 1% for the third to fifth years, with higher rates thereafter. Contributions to the social obligation fund have been more clearly structured, with defined rates and timelines.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/btrc-issues-revised-guidelines-for-gso-satellite-operators-1771086129>

BANK | Govt to consider compensation for shareholders of merged Islamic banks: Finance adviser

- The government will consider compensating shareholders affected by the merger of five Islamic banks, though the process will be complex and require careful, step-by-step calculations, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/govt-consider-compensation-shareholders-merged-islamic-banks-finance-adviser-1357461>

RMG | Bangladesh apparel prices drop nearly 4% in EU amid weak demand, rival push

- Bangladesh's largest export market, the European Union (EU), saw the price of exported apparel unit drop by 3.84% in 2025 compared to 2024, amid sluggish European demand and aggressive competition from major exporters like China and India. Bangladesh's apparel exports to the EU rose to EUR 19.41 Bn from EUR 18.32 Bn in 2024 – a 6% growth, but unit prices fell 3.84% as volumes outpaced value growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladesh-apparel-prices-drop-nearly-4-eu-amid-weak-demand-rival-push-1361856>

AUTOMOBILES | PRAN-RFL to invest BDT 5.0 Bn in motorcycles, electric scooters

- PRAN-RFL Group has announced plans to invest BDT 5.0 Bn over the next three years to expand into motorcycle manufacturing and electric scooter production. PRAN-RFL has also taken over the marketing of TVS motorcycles in Bangladesh. The company plans to invest BDT 4.0 Bn in phases to manufacture TVS motorcycles. Initial production capacity is projected at 5,000 units per month, which will later be doubled.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/290881/pran-rfl-to-invest-tk-500cr-in-motorcycles-electric-scooters>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | Election stirs stock revival hopes, but history says otherwise**

- Elections rarely spark dramatic rallies in Bangladesh's stock market. The trend has been consistent at least in the last six parliamentary elections. Yet stakeholders hope this time will be different.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/election-stirs-stock-revival-hopes-history-says-otherwise-4103211>

LHB| LafargeHolcim unveils salinity-resistant cement 'Holcim Coastal Guard' for coastal areas

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh PLC (LHB) has launched a new salinity- and sulphate-resistant cement, Holcim Coastal Guard, designed to address the growing environmental challenges in the country's coastal areas.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lafargeholcim-unveils-salinity-resistant-cement-holcim-coastal-guard-coastal-areas-4105941>

STANDBANKL | Standard Bank rebranded as 'Standard Islami Bank'

- Bangladesh Bank has officially announced the renaming of Standard Bank PLC to 'Standard Islami Bank PLC' effective February 10, 2026.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/standard-bank-rebranded-as-standard-islami-bank>

IFIC | IFIC Bank, Swisscontact to develop export-oriented vegetable sector

- IFIC Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Switzerland-based international organisation Swisscontact for a project aimed at elevating the international standards of Bangladesh's export-oriented vegetable sector and strengthening safe food export capabilities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/ific-bank-swisscontact-develop-export-oriented-vegetable-sector-4104056>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 62.89	USD 5.46	9.51%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 67.75	USD 6.90	11.34%
Gold Spot*	USD 5,046.30	USD 705.30	16.25%
DSEX	5,399.94	534.60	10.99%
S&P 500	6,836.17	-62.65	-0.91%
FTSE 100	10,446.35	514.97	5.19%
BSE SENSEX	82,626.76	-2,166.82	-2.56%
KSE-100	179,603.73	5,549.43	3.19%
CSEALL	23,709.84	1,085.53	4.80%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.31 BDT****1 GBP = 167.00 BDT****1 Euro = 144.99 BDT****1 INR = 1.35 BDT**

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