

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.

International:**UK keeps duty-free access for Bangladeshi goods**

- The UK government has updated its trade preference scheme—the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS)—that will enable Bangladesh to continue to benefit from zero tariffs on products like garments and electronics. Upgrades include simplified rules of origin, enabling more goods from countries like Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines to enter the UK tariff-free—even when using components from across Asia and Africa, said a statement from the UK's Department for Business and Trade (DBT).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/uk-keeps-duty-free-access-bangladeshi-goods-3941371>

Macro:**Govt plans to include private sector in US tariff talks**

- The government is considering bringing private sector representatives on board for upcoming tariff negotiations with the United States, as Bangladesh prepares to respond to the proposed tariff schedules by Sunday or Monday next week. The US Trade Representative (USTR), which leads trade talks for Washington, has already sent Bangladesh three detailed tariff schedules.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-plans-include-private-sector-us-tariff-talks-3941301>

External debt up 6.0% YoY to USD 104.76 Bn in March

- Bangladesh's overall external debt rose by around 6.0% to USD 104.76 Bn in March 2025, which was around USD 6.0 Bn higher from the corresponding period a year ago when the volume was USD 98.93 Bn, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/external-debt-up-60pc-yoy-to-10476b-in-march-1752687868>

Bangladesh holds inter-ministerial meeting on proposed US Trade Deal

- The Ministry of Commerce held an inter-ministerial meeting today (16 July) to finalise Bangladesh's position on the proposed trade agreement with the United States. Following the meeting, chaired by Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin, Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman told The Business Standard that since many aspects of import and export are linked to different ministries and governed by their respective laws, the ministry sought input from them before finalising Bangladesh's stance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-holds-inter-ministerial-meeting-proposed-us-trade-deal-1189541>

Share of non-RMG export earnings virtually unchanged in a decade

- Contribution of non-RMG sectors to the country's overall export earnings remained almost static during last one decade, indicating insufficient efforts toward diversification of the products-basket and largely reliant on textile and garments. Non-RMG (readymade garment) items like leather and leather goods, footwear, jute goods, agricultural products, frozen and live fish, engineering products together contributed about 15.91% of the total export receipts in the last fiscal year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/share-of-non-rmg-export-earnings-virtually-unchanged-in-a-decade-1752687935>

2.5-yr project sees 70% progress in 11 years

- A government project launched more than a decade ago to establish a technical school and college in 100 upazilas each has not finished yet, despite being scheduled for completion within two years and a half. Approved in early 2014 with an estimated cost of BDT 9.24 Bn, it has achieved only 70% progress.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/25-yr-project-sees-70pc-progress-in-11-years-1752688093>

NBR misses revenue target for 13th year

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has fallen short of its revenue collection target for the 13th consecutive year, with experts opining that the existing framework for tax collection is inadequate. The tax authority's overall receipts were BDT 3.71 Tn in fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), falling short of its revised target by BDT 926.26 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-misses-revenue-target-13th-year-3941321>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | 10 banks rated sustainable in BB's 2024 evaluation**

- Ten private commercial banks and two financial institutions have been rated as sustainable financial institutions in the Bangladesh Bank's Sustainability Finance Report 2024. The top-rated banks this year are BRAC Bank, City Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Eastern Bank, Jamuna Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, NCC Bank, Prime Bank, Pubali Bank, and Shahjalal Islami Bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/10-banks-rated-sustainable-bbs-2024-evaluation-3941456>

BANK | S&P Global retains BD banking sector in high-risk category

- S&P Global Ratings, one of the world's three major credit rating agencies, has retained Bangladesh's banking sector in one of its highest risk categories in its midyear Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (BICRA). In its latest report released on July 16, the global agency rated Bangladesh's banking system at 9.0 on a scale of 1.0 to 10, where 1.0 denotes the lowest risk and 10 the highest. This places the country's banking industry among the riskiest in Asia and the Pacific region - a position shared with only three other Asia-Pacific economies: Mongolia, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/sp-global-retains-bd-banking-sector-in-high-risk-category-1752687728>

BANK | NPA to introduce 'Islamic Version' of pension scheme to expand coverage

- Bangladesh's National Pension Authority (NPA) is set to introduce an "Islamic version" of its universal pension scheme to increase its acceptance and uptake among the devout Muslims. This initiative aims to launch Islamic versions for all four existing schemes: Probash, Progoti, Shurokkha, and Somota, reports UNB. To facilitate this, an international consultant has already been appointed with funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/npa-to-introduce-islamic-version-of-pension-scheme-to-expand-coverage-1752686672>

FUEL & POWER | LNG tender reissued after spot price snag

- In a renewed bid to meet its growing energy needs, state-run Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) has reissued a tender to procure two LNG cargoes for delivery later this August, after the earlier tender was scrapped due to unexpectedly high price offers. Each cargo, containing 3.36 Mn British thermal units (MMBtu), is scheduled to be delivered during August 21-22 and August 28-29 to Moheshkhali Island in the Bay of Bengal, with discharge at either of the country's two floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) located there.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/lng-tender-reissued-after-spot-price-snap-1752688184>

BANK | May deposit growth falls below 8% again

- Despite growing public confidence in the banking sector and a record influx of nearly USD 3 Bn in remittances in a single month, Bangladesh's deposit growth in May hit its lowest level this year, raising fresh concerns about the state of the economy. According to Bangladesh Bank data, total deposits in the country's banking sector stood at BDT 18.32 Tn at the end of May, representing a 7.73% increase from the same month last year. Deposits were at BDT 17 Tn in May 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/may-deposit-growth-falls-below-8-again-1190046>

Stocks:**RENATA | Renata's Rajendrapur factory receives EU certification**

- Renata PLC's Rajendrapur general facility has received the European Union Good Manufacturing Practice (EU GMP) certification following a comprehensive audit by European authorities. The certification allows the company to export capsules and tablets to European countries from this facility, strengthening its position as a leading pharmaceutical manufacturer in South Asia, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/renatas-rajendrapur-factory-receives-eu-certification-3941026>

AFTABAUTO | Aftab Auto-linked firms face asset auction over BDT 5 Bn loan default

- Banks are set to auction assets of Navana Batteries Ltd, a subsidiary of publicly listed Aftab Automobiles, and Navana Real Estate Ltd, in which Aftab Auto holds a 20% stake, to recover BDT 5.13 Bn in defaulted loans. The auction comes amid intensified efforts by banks – Southeast and NCC – to recover non-performing loans from defaulters, especially within corporate groups with long-standing banking relationships, according to sources within the banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aftab-auto-linked-firms-face-asset-auction-over-tk500cr-loan-default-1189911>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 66.79	(USD 4.64)	-6.50%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 68.84	(USD 5.55)	-7.46%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,339.16	USD 730.68	28.01%
DSEX	5,116.90	-99.55	-1.91%
S&P 500	6,263.70	356.76	6.04%
FTSE 100	8,926.55	805.54	9.92%
BSE SENSEX	82,634.48	4,434.55	5.67%
KSE-100	136,379.97	21,120.97	18.32%
CSEALL	18,884.96	2,940.35	18.44%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 121.28 BDT

1 GBP = 162.37 BDT

1 Euro = 140.90 BDT

1 INR = 1.41 BDT

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