

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:**Now ship liners line up to adjust charges upward**

- After the enhancement of tariffs and various charges by the Chittagong seaport authority, berth operators and container-depot owners come up now the ship liners for upward cost adjustments, foreshadowing domino effect on Bangladesh's foreign trade, sources say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/now-ship-liners-line-up-to-adjust-charges-upward-1758131330>

TDS nagging burden on businesses' back

- Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) turns a nagging burden for most businesses as it drives up the cost of doing business and further fuels inflation, a latest research reveals. The source-tax-impact study by the Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) shows that the National Board of Revenue (NBR) collects TDS under 111 sub-heads across various industries and businesses.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tds-nagging-burden-on-businesses-back-1758131373>

VAT automation stuck in foreign grip as local expertise lags

- The country's Value Added Tax (VAT) automation has remained monopolised by Vietnamese firm FPT, as the online platform was developed on software for which there is no local expertise. The contract with FPT, signed in 2015 at a value of USD 33.6 Mn, is the largest turnkey IT contract in Bangladesh's history. The Integrated VAT Administration System (IVAS) project was supposed to be completed within 12 months, followed by a five-year maintenance service.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/vat-automation-stuck-in-foreign-grip-as-local-expertise-lags-1758131586>

Yunus hopes bilateral relations to reach new height

- Bangladesh and China on Wednesday celebrated the golden jubilee of their diplomatic ties, pledging to deepen cooperation in peace, development, and mutual prosperity. The occasion also coincided with the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, marked by a commemorative program in Dhaka attended by Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen, Finance Adviser Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed, cultural affairs Adviser Mostafa Sarwar Faruqui, senior officials, and dignitaries.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/yunus-hopes-bilateral-relations-to-reach-new-height-1758131699>

ECNEC okays 13 projects worth BDT 83.33 Bn

- The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Wednesday approved 13 projects worth BDT 83.33 Bn aimed at strengthening energy exploration, upgrading infrastructure, and supporting social development across the country. To strengthen the state-owned energy exploration company Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX), ECNEC approved the procurement of a high-capacity drilling rig for the fuel exploration project at BDT 5.77 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ecnec-okays-13-projects-worth-tk-8333b-1758131748>

Japan says EPA with BD soon

- Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Saida Shinichi has expressed optimism about signing economic partnership agreement (EPA) with Bangladesh soon. The DCCI President also mentioned that Japanese entrepreneurs already invested USD 507.14 Mn in different sectors like fertilizer, construction, textiles, power, gas, and petroleum, though Japan's total global foreign investment was USD 184.02 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/japan-says-epa-with-bd-soon-1758129617>

Govt angling for free trade with EU

- Bangladesh is seeking to sign free trade agreements with the European Union and other major trading partners to retain preferential access after graduating from the least-developed country category in November next year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-angling-free-trade-eu-3988656>

UN asks Bangladesh about LDC graduation progress

- The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP), which reviews the least developed country (LDC) category, has invited Bangladesh to report on the progress of its preparation for graduation from LDC.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/un-asks-bangladesh-about-ldc-graduation-progress-3988066>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Banks' H1 CSR spending drops 51%**

- Corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure of banks fell by nearly 51% in the first half (H1) of 2025 compared to the previous half (July-December 2024), according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data. During the January-June period, banks spent over BDT 1.50 Bn on CSR activities, while the expenditure had stood at nearly BDT 3.07 Bn during the preceding half year, marking a decline of about BDT 1.57 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/banks-h1-csr-spending-drops-51pc-1758131631>

BANK | NBR seizes 2 more bank lockers of Hasina

- The Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Wednesday seized two more bank lockers belonging to Sheikh Hasina at Agrani Bank. The lockers, numbered 751 and 753, are at the principal branch of Agrani Bank PLC, CIC sources say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nbr-seizes-2-more-bank-lockers-of-hasina-1758131832>

BANK | Women employees in banking sector drop sharply in six months. Here's why

- The number of female officers and employees in the country's banking sector has fallen sharply by 1,867 in the first six months of the current year, a sudden reversal of a long-standing upward trend. Bankers say a significant number of employees were either dismissed or resigned voluntarily following the restructuring of several bank boards by the central bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/women-employees-banking-sector-drop-sharply-six-months-heres-why-1239206>

BANK | Nassa can reschedule default loans with 1% down payment; no decision yet on Beximco

- The government has decided to allow Nassa Group to reschedule its BDT 86.76 Bn defaulted loans with a 1% down payment to restart its factories, but the reopening of Beximco's textile units remains uncertain as Janata Bank – owed BDT 230 Bn – refuses to reschedule its default loans without a down payment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/nassa-can-reschedule-default-loans-1-down-payment-no-decision-yet-beximco-1238296>

Stocks:**ACMEPL | BSEC to seek actions against ACME Pesticides over placement share scam**

- The securities regulator has decided to forward its investigation report to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to take measures against top brasses of ACME Pesticides allegedly for receiving the company's placement shares without paying money. ACME Pesticides, in its IPO (initial public offering) prospectus, claimed to have raised BDT 1.2 Bn, issuing placement shares to some companies and individuals, including much talked-about revenue official Matiur Rahman. It also said that BDT 800 Mn out of BDT 1.2 Bn had been invested by the issuer in land development, building infrastructure, as working capital, etc.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-to-seek-actions-against-acme-pesticides-over-placement-share-scam-1758129492>

SHEPHERD | Shepherd Industries to sell land to repay loans

- The land, measuring 10 kathas, 8 chhataks, and 46 square feet, had been purchased for BDT 32.9 Mn. The transaction is expected to generate a profit of BDT 37.1 Mn, which will positively impact its gross profit and earnings per share (EPS).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/shepherd-industries-sell-land-repay-loans-1239086>

GENEXIL | BSEC fines Genex Infosys board BDT 92.7 Mn over Sonali Paper share manipulation

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has imposed BDT 92.7 Mn fines on the board of the listed company Genex Infosys Limited for their involvement in the share manipulation of Sonali Paper & Board Mills Ltd, another listed firm in the paper and printing sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-fines-genex-infosys-board-tk927cr-over-sonali-paper-share-manipulation-1239056>

EXCHANGE | BSEC summons six audit firms over financial reporting irregularities

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), the country's capital market regulator, has summoned six audit firms and their auditors for failing to report serious financial irregularities and legal violations in the financial statements of four listed companies. The firms in question are: A Hoque & Co, Ahmad & Akhtar Chartered Accountants, Mahfel Huq & Co, Ata Khan & Co, Shiraz Khan Basak & Co, and Islam Quazi Shafique & Co.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-summons-six-audit-firms-over-financial-reporting-irregularities-1239076>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	63.79	(USD 7.64)	-10.70%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	67.74	(USD 6.65)	-8.94%
Gold Spot*	3,664.74	USD 1,056.26	40.49%
DSEX	5,492.34	275.90	5.29%
S&P 500	6,600.35	693.41	11.74%
FTSE 100	9,208.37	1,087.36	13.39%
BSE SENSEX	82,693.71	4,493.78	5.75%
KSE-100	156,177.81	40,918.81	35.50%
CSEALL	20,775.42	4,830.81	30.30%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.75 BDT****1 GBP = 165.94 BDT****1 Euro = 143.92 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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