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:

BB issues framework for import trade in Free Trade Zones

- Bangladesh Bank introduced a structured framework to regulate import trade into Free Trade Zones (FTZs), aiming to facilitate transactions while ensuring prudent risk management by banks.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-bank-issues-framework-import-trade-free-trade-zones-1490216

IMF lowers GDP growth forecast to 3.5% for FY'27

- In a latest in-depth analysis of Bangladesh economy's weak spots, the International Monetary Fund has revised down the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 3.5% this fiscal year, principally for neglecting reforms.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/imf-lowers-gdp-growth-forecast-to-35pc-for-fy27

IMF calls for no cap on lending rate

- The International Monetary Fund has asked the BB to withdraw caps on the lending rate ahead of a proposed USD 4-5 Bn loan programme starting from next calendar year. Finance ministry officials ruled out any immediate price hike for electricity and also informed the IMF officials that the current subsidy regime would continue.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/306626/imf-calls-for-no-cap-on-lending-rate
https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/415448/new-imf-credit-deal-likely-by-december-this-year
https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/415337/imf-discussion-on-new-loan-program-to-continue

Dollar crosses BDT 123 amid high imports

- The banks faced increased demand for foreign currency at the end of June to settle letters of credit for government imports, particularly fuel and fertiliser, as well as external debt payments. Remittance inflows had slowed after the Eid festivals, while Bangladesh Bank has stopped purchasing dollars from the market since June this year as demand for the currency has strengthened.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/306655/dollar-crosses-tk-123-amid-high-imports

Early FTA deal with EU could forestall export plummeting

- A free-trade agreement (FTA) between Bangladesh and the European Union could limit deep garment-export drop due to loss of duty-free facility after the country's LDC graduation, according to a latest research. A Bangladesh-EU FTA could limit the overall export decline to around 16% and garments to 19%.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/early-fta-deal-with-eu-could-forestall-export-plummeting-1784395478

Country's external debt repayments to far outstrip receipts in three years

- According to government projections, Bangladesh is likely to need to repay a staggering amount of USD 4.276 Bn in principal against its total outstanding debts alone during the period up to FY2029. Compounding this burden, the government must simultaneously shell out nearly USD 3.289 Bn in interest payments.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/countrys-external-debt-repayments-to-far-outstrip-receipts-in-three-years-1784395717

NGOs' foreign grant receipts hit 7-year high of USD 838.25 Mn in FY'26

- The volume of foreign grants received by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in Bangladesh hit a seven-year high of USD 838.25 Mn in the last fiscal year (FY) 2025-26.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/ngos-foreign-grant-receipts-hit-7-year-high-of-83825m-in-fy26

Chinese co to invest USD 30 Mn in BEPZA Economic Zone

- Huarun Tex Co. Ltd., a Chinese company, is set to invest USD 30 Mn to establish a textile manufacturing industry in BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA EZ) in Mirsharai, Chattogram.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/chinese-co-to-invest-30m-in-bepza-economic-zone-1784393166

Govt to pilot Prabasi Card next month

- The government is set to launch the Prabasi Card for expatriates on a pilot basis in the second week of next month, with the state-owned Janata Bank issuing the Prabasi Debit Card in the first phase.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/306609/govt-to-pilot-prabasi-card-next-month

Beza's flagship economic zone faces water uncertainty as BDT 105.53 Bn pipeline plan stalls

- Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority is struggling to secure a sustainable water supply for its NSEZ in Chattogram, as uncertainty surrounds to bring water through a 150km pipeline from Meghna River.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bezas-flagship-economic-zone-faces-water-uncertainty-tk10553cr-pipeline-plan-stalls

Oil price jumps over 4% to USD 88.1

- Oil prices climbed more than 4% to their highest in more than a month on Friday. This came after the US and Iran stepped up attacks across the Gulf. Shipping was also threatened by a potential Red Sea closure.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/oil-price-jumps-over-4-881-4226901

Sector and Industries:

RMG | Policy promises lift new investors' confidence amid wave of factory closures

- Nearly 70 new factories have entered the pipeline or begun operations, generating 60,000 new jobs driven by major corporate expansions and a new wave of debt-averse entrepreneurs. Manufacturers credit a series of aggressive government policy interventions and new budget incentives for reviving investor sentiment.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/policy-promises-lift-new-investors-confidence-amid-wave-factory-closures-1491111

RMG | New crop of garment entrepreneurs shun bank loans amid soaring borrowing costs

- A new wave of debt-averse apparel entrepreneurs in Bangladesh are avoiding commercial bank loans to drive business recovery, opting instead to rely heavily on personal savings, family financing, and partnered resources amid soaring borrowing costs.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/new-crop-garment-entrepreneurs-shun-bank-loans-amid-soaring-borrowing-costs-1491276

RMG | Why Bangladesh's garment exports to Europe are falling faster than competitors'

- President of the BKMEA has said international buyers are gradually adjusting their sourcing strategies ahead of Bangladesh's LDC graduation. Managing director of DBL Group said that when demand shifts towards man-made fibre, countries with that infrastructure are naturally in a stronger position.

https://www.tbsnews.net/explainer/why-bangladeshs-garment-exports-europe-are-falling-faster-competitors-1490666

ENERGY | Move to strengthen energy audits across major industries

- The government has taken a move to strengthen energy audits across major industries as part of a broader strategy to curb energy waste, reduce dependence on imported fuels and build a more efficient and financially sustainable power sector.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/move-to-strengthen-energy-audits-across-major-industries-1784396606

ENERGY | Adani power tariff 59% more expensive than three other Indian suppliers to Bangladesh

- An analysis of the Power Division's financial statements and the Bangladesh Power Development Board's annual report shows that electricity imported from Adani cost nearly 59% more than the combined weighted average tariff charged by three other Indian power suppliers. The power development board paid an average of BDT 14.86/kWh for electricity imported from Adani in FY25. In comparison, the combined weighted-average tariff for the other three suppliers was BDT 9.33 per unit.

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/adani-power-tariff-59-more-expensive-three-other-indian-suppliers-bangladesh

BANK | Clients fuming as banks propose extra fees for 14 services

- Commercial banks have proposed introducing extra and some new charges for 14 services, including fees on frequent cash withdrawals, reactivating dormant accounts and higher account maintenance charges.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/clients-fuming-banks-propose-extra-fees-14-services-4226881

BANK | BB absorbs BDT 1.24 Bn in liquidity

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has announced that it absorbed a net BDT 1.24 Bn in liquidity from the banking system through its Open Market Operations (OMO) conducted on Wednesday. The central bank injected a net BDT 1.67 Bn through the Islami Banks Liquidity Facility and BDT 520 Mn through the Capital Market Repo facility.

https://tob.news/bb-absorbs-tk124-23cr-in-liquidity/

BANK | Govt to allow private firms to buy, recover stagnant default loans

- Under the proposed "Distressed Asset Management Act 2026" (Dama), Bangladesh will allow licensed, private asset management companies to purchase NPLs directly from banks and recover them commercially. The move transitions default loans from a prolonged legal and administrative burden into tradable commercial assets.

https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/415304/govt-to-allow-private-firms-to-buy-recover

Stocks:

EXCHANGE | DBA welcomes BSEC move to amend Margin Rules 2025

- DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) has welcomed the securities regulator's initiative to amend the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (Margin) Rules, 2025, describing the move as a positive step towards developing a more balanced, modern and investor-friendly regulatory framework for the capital market.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/dba-welcomes-bsec-move-to-amend-margin-rules-2025

EXCHANGE | BSEC pushes bourses for comprehensive direct listing, de-listing roadmap

- BSEC has asked the DSE and CSE to submit a unified, comprehensive amendment proposal to reform the decade-old listing regulations, instead of passing isolated amendments.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-pushes-bourses-comprehensive-direct-listing-de-listing-roadmap-1491671

EXCHANGE | Should IPO proceeds go toward bank loans? BSEC faces growing demand

- The securities regulator is under renewed pressure to allow companies to repay bank loans with IPO proceeds. At a meeting at the BSEC, issuer companies sought the authority to decide how to utilize IPO proceeds.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/should-ipo-proceeds-go-toward-bank-loans-bsec-faces-growing-demand-1784387767

REGULATOR | BSEC chief vows tougher oversight of brokerage houses, rules out unnecessary roadshows

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) Chairman has said the commission is strengthening regulatory oversight of brokerage houses through regular audits and other reform measures aimed at curbing irregularities and enhancing market integrity.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bsec-chief-vows-tougher-oversight-of-brokerage-houses

REGULATOR | BSEC turns to digital authorisation, AI surveillance to curb broker fraud

- The securities regulator is set to introduce a secure digital authorisation system for investors and tighten oversight of brokerage houses through regular risk-based audits to strengthen investor protection. This involves replacing manual investor signatures with a fully digital authorisation system through a new back-office platform being developed by the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-turns-to-digital-authorisation-ai-surveillance-to-curb-broker-fraud-1784387871

BSRMLTD, BSRMSTEEL | BSRM plans BDT 100 Bn flat steel plant to cut import dependence

- Bangladesh's largest steelmaker, BSRM, plans to invest approximately BDT 100 Bn to establish the country's first integrated hot-rolled flat steel manufacturing plant, a major industrial initiative that could replace imports worth up to BDT 150 Bn annually. The proposed project will have an annual production capacity of 1.5 Mn tonnes of hot-rolled flat steel, mild steel and stainless steel products.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bsrm-plans-tk10000cr-flat-steel-plant-cut-import-dependence-1490536

BANKASIA | BANK ASIA CELEBRATES RECORD NET DEPOSIT GROWTH

- Bank Asia PLC has recorded an impressive milestone by achieving a net deposit growth of Tk 68 Bn (BDT 6,800 crore) during the first half (January-June) of 2026, reflecting strong customer confidence and the bank's continued commitment to sustainable growth.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bank-asia-celebrates-record-net-deposit-growth-1784387841

BENGALBISC | Bengal Biscuits declares 10% cash dividend for FY25

- Bengal Biscuits Limited, listed on the SME board of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, has recommended a 10% cash dividend for all shareholders for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bengal-biscuits-declares-10-cash-dividend-fy25-1491681

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 82.49	USD 25.06	43.64%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 88.10	USD 27.25	44.78%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,017.39	(USD 323.61)	-7.45%
DSEX	5,900.36	1,035.02	21.27%
S&P 500	7,457.69	558.87	8.10%
FTSE 100	10,600.37	668.99	6.74%
BSE SENSEX	78,151.45	-6,642.13	-7.83%
KSE-100	175,802.80	1,748.50	1.00%
CSEALL	21,405.41	-1,218.90	-5.39%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 123.19 BDT

1 GBP = 165.71 BDT

1 Euro = 140.93 BDT

1 INR = 1.28 BDT

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