

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 research@bracepl.com

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:

Higher NPLs reduce banks' capital adequacy to lowest in South Asia

• Higher classified loans have dragged the capital adequacy of Bangladesh's banking sector to the lowest level among neighboring South Asian countries. The capital-to-risk-weighted-asset ratio (CRAR) fell drastically to 3.08% in 2024, driven largely by weak capital positions in state-owned commercial banks (SoCBs), specialized development banks (SDBs), and Islamic private commercial banks (PCBs), according to the Financial Stability Report (FSR) 2024 released Monday by the Bangladesh Bank (BB).

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/higher-npls-reduce-banks-capital-adequacy-to-lowest-in-south-asia-1755626566

Macro:

Overvalued Taka likely to cut export, remittance earnings

Local-currency taka again gets overvalued against the US dollar, as per July ratings, after remaining undervalued in two consecutive months, stoking concerns about Bangladesh's trade competitiveness on the volatile global market. The real effective exchange rate (REER), a key indicator for gauging foreign-exchange-market equilibrium, stood at 101.14 in July 2025. It was 98.61 in June and 99.27 in May, according to Bangladesh Bank data released Tuesday.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/overvalued-taka-likely-to-cut-export-remittance-earnings-1755626509

Bangladesh to launch marine survey in Bay

Bangladesh is set to launch a month-long marine survey in the Bay of Bengal to assess fishery resources and ecosystem health, aiming to support sustainable management and conservation efforts.

https://www.the daily star.net/business/news/bangladesh-launch-marine-survey-bay-3966171

NBR seeks direct access to taxpayers' bank info linked to online returns

■ The National Board of Revenue (NBR) wants to have real-time access to taxpayers' bank information – including account balances, interest income, and any taxes deducted at source by banks – directly linked to their online tax returns.

https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbr-seeks-direct-access-taxpayers-bank-info-linked-online-returns-1216101

Exchange rate hike pushes MRT 1 foreign loan cost up by BDT 390 Bn

• The cost of Bangladesh's inaugural underground metro rail project, MRT Line-1, is facing a staggering increase, with the foreign loan component projected to almost double due to the significant depreciation of the Taka against the US dollar since 2019.

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/exchange-rate-hike-pushes-mrt-1-foreign-loan-cost-tk39000cr-1216111



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Bangladesh's financial sector critically vulnerable to cyberattacks

• Bangladesh's rapidly digitising financial sector is critically vulnerable to sophisticated cyber threats and requires an immediate, strategic overhaul to secure its future. At the event, Md Mahbubur Rahman Alam, a professor at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), outlined a troubling landscape where technological advancement is outpacing security preparedness.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-financial-sector-critically-vulnerable-cyberattacks-experts-3966251

Sector & Industries:

BANK | Capital shortfall narrows by BDT 620 Bn as BB offers deferral

■ Four more banks slipped into a capital shortfall in the January-March quarter, but the overall shortfall in the sector dropped by nearly BDT 620 Bn within three months – a development that may appear like a miraculous turnaround of Bangladesh's fragile banking industry.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/capital-shortfall-narrows-tk62000cr-bb-offers-deferral-1216076

BANK | Govt to drop wilful defaulter tag

• The government has moved to amend several sections of the Bank Company Act, including the removal of the provision on "wilful defaulters" that was introduced for the first time in 2023, and reducing the size of bank boards. Bangladesh Bank officials said the rule of wilful defaulter not only creates additional workload but also leaves room for corruption due to subjective interpretation.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-drop-wilful-defaulter-tag-3966556

FUEL & POWER | Govt to buy 3 LNG cargoes from spot market

• The government has approved the purchase of three cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market at a total cost of BDT 14.42 Bn, with the average price set at about USD 11 per Mn British thermal unit (MMBtu).

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-buy-3-lng-cargoes-spot-market-3966526

RMG | H1 2025 RMG exports to EU up 17.87%

Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) exports to the European Union (EU) during the first half (H1) of 2025 witnessed 17.87% growth, earning EUR 10.29 Bn. In the same period last year, RMG exports to the EU fetched EUR 8.73 Bn, according to the Eurostat data released on Monday.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/h1-2025-rmg-exports-to-eu-up-1787pc-1755626626

Stocks:

EXCHANGE | BSEC scraps 2001 MF Rules, clears draft of new regulations

• The stock market regulator has decided to repeal the existing rules governing mutual fund operations in Bangladesh and adopt new regulations designed to enhance accountability, strengthen governance, and provide greater protection for investors. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) approved the decision at its meeting held on Tuesday.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-scraps-2001-mf-rules-clears-draft-of-new-regulations-1755624621



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SALVOCHEM | Salvo Chemical declares 2.5% dividend for FY25

Salvo Chemical Industries Ltd has declared a 2.5% cash dividend for the financial year ended 30 June 2025, according to a price-sensitive disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/salvo-chemical-declares-25-dividend-fy25-1216011

TITASGAS | Titas disconnects illegal gas connections in Dhaka, Gazipur, N'ganj

• The Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company conducted drives in Dhaka city and Gazipur and Narayanganj districts yesterday (Monday) for disconnecting illegal connections and realized fines amounting to about BDT 5,90,000, reports BSS.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/titas-disconnects-illegal-gas-connections-in-dhaka-gazipur-nganj-1755625331

PREMIERBAN | Central bank reconstitutes Premier Bank board

• The Bangladesh Bank on Tuesday reconstituted the board of Premier Bank, a leading private commercial bank. The six members of the board are Dr Arifur Rahman, sponsor director of the bank; Md Forkan Hossain, former executive director of the Bangladesh Bank; Syed Faridul Islam, former additional managing director of United Commercial Bank; Md Sajjad Hossain, former deputy director at Bank Asia.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/central-bank-reconstitutes-premier-bank-board-1755626695

RUNNERAUTO | Runner Automobiles bond makes debut trading on DSE ATB today

• Runner Auto Sustainability Bond will begin trading on the Alternative Trading Board (ATB) of the Dhaka Stock Exchange today (Wednesday) under the 'P' category, more than two years after it raise funds from the capital market. Runner Automobiles, a listed company, raised BDT 2.65 Bn through issuing the country's first-ever Sustainability Bond with a tenure of 7 years in July 2023 to finance its eco-friendly three-wheeler business by setting up a rooftop solar power system.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/runner-automobiles-bond-makes-debut-trading-on-dse-atb-today-1755624672





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Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 62.44	(USD 8.99)	-12.59%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 65.90	(USD 8.49)	-11.41%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,316.63	USD 708.15	27.15%
DSEX	5,410.90	194.45	3.73%
S&P 500	6,411.37	504.43	8.54%
FTSE 100	9,189.22	1,068.21	13.15%
BSE SENSEX	81,644.39	3,444.46	4.40%
KSE-100	149,770.75	34,511.75	29.94%
CSEALL	20,571.07	4,626.46	29.02%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 121.50 BDT

1 GBP = 163.68 BDT

1 Euro = 141.34 BDT

1 INR = 1.39 BDT



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