

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:**ADP spending rises in Sept**

- Bangladesh's development expenditure under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) rose 6% year-on-year in September after the planning ministry laid emphasis on accelerating its implementation. According to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), ADP spending reached BDT 64.43 Bn last month, up from BDT 60.72 Bn in the same period of the last fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/adp-spending-rises-sept-4014261>

Strike ends as CPA puts tariff hike on hold

- Transport owners and workers at the Chattogram Port withdrew their strike on Sunday afternoon as the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) agreed not to realise the recently hiked charges for the time being. Transport association leaders said the CPA's security department had issued an office order on October 13, setting the new entry fee at BDT 200 plus a 15% VAT, bringing the total amount to BDT 230 per heavy vehicle, up from the previous BDT 57.50.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/strike-ends-as-cpa-puts-tariff-hike-on-hold-1760897422>

Korea eyes trade pact with Bangladesh amid investment hurdles

- South Korea is pushing for early conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Bangladesh, as both countries seek to elevate a five-decade-long relationship to a new level of trade and investment cooperation. The envoy highlighted infrastructure development as another pillar of cooperation. "Korea aspires to become a vital partner in Bangladesh's infrastructure development, just as we have done in the RMG sector," he said. Since 1973, 144 Korean companies have joined in 257 infrastructure projects in Bangladesh worth a cumulative USD 8.82 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/korea-eyes-trade-pact-with-bangladesh-amid-investment-hurdles-1760897588>

Gross forex reserves cross USD 32 Bn after 32 months

The gross reserves crossed USD 32 Bn by the end of last week after a break of 32 months, thanks to higher remittance earnings and export growth. The last time reserves reached this level was in January 2023, when they stood at USD 32.22 Bn, according to Bangladesh Bank data. The country's total imports rose by 9.8% year-on-year in the July-August period of the current fiscal year, significantly higher than the 1.8% growth recorded in the same period a year ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gross-forex-reserves-cross-32b-after-32-months-4014146>

Govt plans to unify all investment promotion bodies by February

- The government has planned to complete the unification of all investment promotion agencies (IPA) in the country into a single entity by February next year. "A governing board for the new entity has already begun to take shape," Nahian Rahman Rochi, executive member and head of business development at Bida, told The Business Standard today (19 October). Rochi said the move is part of a broader effort to attract more domestic and foreign investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-plans-unify-all-investment-promotion-bodies-february-1264716>

Call for venture capital boost to power startup growth

- Bankers, regulators and entrepreneurs push for equity-based financing as BD Venture eyes market entry and BB prepares a JV with banks. They stressed that the country must now move beyond its dependence on high-interest bank loans and embrace venture capital to unlock the next wave of innovation and entrepreneurship.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/call-for-venture-capital-boost-to-power-startup-growth-1760897786>

Bangladesh, Kuwait plan stronger political, economic, defence cooperation

- Bangladesh and Kuwait today (19 October) agreed to strengthen cooperation in political, economic, defence, labour, development and cultural fields. The two sides, during their first-ever 'political consultations', reviewed defence cooperation, noting Bangladesh's contributions under Operation Kuwait Punargathan. They agreed to enhance collaboration in training, disaster response and cybersecurity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/foreign-policy/bangladesh-kuwait-plan-stronger-political-economic-defence-cooperation-1264621>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Banks must inform borrowers 30 days before loan write-offs**

- Commercial banks have to inform the borrowers at least 30 days before their loans being written off, a latest central-bank instruction says on a policy update. Bangladesh Bank, the country's central bank, issued the directive so that loan defaulters can avert the post-BLW (Bad/Loss-Write Off) consequences through taking measures to repay loans, sources at the BB said Sunday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-must-inform-borrowers-30-days-before-loan-write-offs-1760897475>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS | EDOTCO installs country's first fibre-reinforced polymer telecom tower

- EDOTCO Bangladesh, the country's leading digital infrastructure company, has deployed Bangladesh's first next-generation fibre-reinforced polymer (FRP) tower in Gopalganj, marking a significant advancement in the nation's telecom infrastructure. Designed to be lighter, more durable, and more sustainable than conventional steel, the FRP structure enables faster rollout and improved long-term performance across diverse operating conditions.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/edotco-installs-countrys-first-fibre-reinforced-polymer-telecom-tower-1264541>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS | Grameenphone, Teletalk and EDOTCO ink tower-sharing pact to widen coverage

- Grameenphone, state-owned Teletalk and tower company EDOTCO Bangladesh have signed a tripartite infrastructure-sharing agreement to expand mobile coverage and improve service quality across the country. Under the collaboration, EDOTCO will provide tower infrastructure to both operators, enabling faster roll-out, better operational efficiency and enhanced network accessibility for millions of users by reducing duplication and accelerating site deployment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/grameenphone-teletalk-and-edotco-ink-tower-sharing-pact-widen-coverage-1264321>

Stocks:**BSRMLTD, BSRMSTEEL | BSRM posts record profit in FY25 on higher sales, lower input costs**

- Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills (BSRM) has secured a record profit in FY25 in a challenging business environment, driven by higher sales and lower input costs. It earned a consolidated profit of BDT 6.14 Bn in the year, a 42% year-on-year increase from the year before, according to a stock exchange filing on Sunday. Revenue jumped almost 16% year-on-year to BDT 96.64 Bn in FY25. BSRM Steels, a concern of Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills, also reported a 36% year-on-year growth in profit to BDT 5.17 Bn in FY25 while sales revenue jumped 25%. Riding on higher profit, the board declared a 50% cash dividend for the year, up from the 32% cash dividend paid the year before.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsrm-posts-record-profit-in-fy25-on-higher-sales-lower-input-costs-1760895809>

BSRMLTD, BSRMSTEEL | BSRM to pump BDT 4 Bn into fastener plant to make bolts, nuts

- BSRM Group, a leading steelmaker of the country, is expanding into a new line of industrial products with plans to build a state-of-the-art fastener manufacturing plant to produce high-quality bolts and nuts – components that are now mostly imported. The new facility will be established under BSRM Wires Limited at Mirsharai upazila in Chattogram, where the company already operates a wire products factory employing around 500 workers. As part of the expansion, BSRM Limited and BSRM Steel – two of the group's key concerns – will each invest BDT 2 Bn in BSRM Wires Limited through share subscriptions, bringing the total fresh investment to BDT 4 Bn, the group announced in a statement today (19 October).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsrm-build-bolts-nuts-manufacturing-plant-1264026>

NHFIL | National Housing Finance posts 24% profit growth in Jan-Sep

- National Housing Finance PLC, a listed non-bank financial institution (NBFI), has reported a 24% growth in its profit in the first nine months of 2025. During the January to September period, its net profit surged to BDT 131.3 Mn with an earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 1.02, according to a stock exchange filing today (19 October) on the Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchange.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/national-housing-finance-posts-24-profit-growth-jan-sep-1264686>

INDEXAGRO | Index Agro cuts dividend to 17% despite higher revenue

- Despite nearly 3% growth in revenue, Index Agro Industries – a producer of poultry feed, fish feed, and day-old chicks (broiler and layer) – has reduced its dividend payout to shareholders for FY2024-25. The board of Index Agro Industries has recommended a 12% cash and 5% stock dividend, totaling 17% dividend for its shareholders for FY25. It paid a 25% cash dividend to its shareholders in FY24. Meanwhile, its net profit remained almost flat with 0.73% growth to BDT 261 Mn with an earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 5.52, which was BDT 259.1 Mn and EPS of BDT 5.48 in the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/index-agro-cuts-dividend-17-despite-higher-revenue-1264661>

ICB | Why fresh funds are so urgent

- The largest investment bank, which is highly dependent on the secondary market for revenue generation, has already shown signs of recovery, securing a 90% year-on-year growth in capital gains to BDT 2.02 Bn in the nine months through March this year. However, the rise in dividend income during the period was not significant. Despite the improved capital gains, the ICB incurred a loss of BDT 2.79 Bn in the nine months to March, primarily because of interest payments amounting to BDT 6.98 Bn during the period.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/why-fresh-funds-are-so-urgent>

MONNOAGML | Profit plunges 43%, Monno Agro recommends 5% cash dividend

- Monno Agro & General Machinery, a listed firm under the engineering sector, has reported that its net profit after tax plunged by 43% in the 2024-25 fiscal year. Following the profit decline, the company cut its dividend payout, declaring a 5% cash dividend payable only to general shareholders. Previously, in FY24, Monno Agro, a subsidiary of Monno Group of Industries, had paid a 22% stock dividend to its shareholders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/profit-plunges-43-monno-agro-recommends-5-cash-dividend-1264726>

ANLIMAYARN | Anlima Yarn declares no dividend for FY25 amid widening losses

- Anlima Yarn Dyeing Limited has announced that it will not pay any dividend for the fiscal year ending 30 June 2025, as the company continues to struggle with mounting losses and liquidity challenges. The company reported an earnings per share (EPS) of negative BDT 2.99 for FY25, compared to a loss of BDT 1.80 in the previous year, reflecting a deepening financial strain. In September 2024, the company was downgraded to the "Z" category for failing to pay dividends for two consecutive years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/anlima-yarn-declares-no-dividend-fy25-amid-widening-losses-1264671>

BDAUTOCA | Bangladesh Autocars shuts down CNG conversion unit amid falling revenue

- Bangladesh Autocars Limited has announced the closure of its CNG conversion business under Unit 3, citing a continuous decline in revenue and profitability. Fixed assets of the unit, valued at BDT 9.61 Mn at written-down value, will be partially transferred to Unit 2 (CNG Sales Unit), with the remaining assets to be disposed of.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bangladesh-autocars-shuts-down-cng-conversion-unit-amid-falling-revenue-1264656>

EXCHANGE | Yields on T-bills fall as banks park idle funds

- Yields on treasury bills (T-bills) declined further on Sunday as banks continued to channel their surplus liquidity into government securities, amid sluggish private-sector credit growth in the run-up to the national elections. The cut-off yield, commonly known as interest rate, on the 91-day T-bills fell to 9.44%, down from 9.51% in the previous auction. The yield on 182-day T-bills dropped to 9.63% from 9.71%, while the 364-day T-bills saw a decline to 9.54% from 9.60%, according to the auction results.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/yields-on-t-bills-fall-as-banks-park-idle-funds-1760897886>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 57.37	(USD 14.06)	-19.68%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 61.15	(USD 13.24)	-17.80%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,255.23	USD 1,646.75	63.13%
DSEX	5,044.34	-172.10	-3.30%
S&P 500	6,664.01	757.07	12.82%
FTSE 100	9,354.57	1,233.56	15.19%
BSE SENSEX	83,952.19	5,752.26	7.36%
KSE-100	163,806.22	48,547.22	42.12%
CSEALL	22,633.80	6,689.19	41.95%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.00 BDT****1 GBP = 163.92 BDT****1 Euro = 142.33 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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