Important News Snippets

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

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.

Macro:

January–March economic growth slows to 2.22%

- Bangladesh's economic growth in the 3rd quarter (January-March) of FY26 has plunged severely to 2.22%, down from 4.53% estimated in the same period in the previous fiscal year.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/january-march-economic-growth-slows-to-222pc

Remittance inflow surges 27.6% to USD 1.94 Bn in first 19 days of July

- Bangladeshi expatriates living in different countries across the world remitted USD 1.94 Bn in the first 19 days of July, recording a robust 27.6% growth compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, according to the latest data of Bangladesh Bank.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/remittance-inflow-surges-276-per-cent-to-194-billion-in-first-19-days-of-july

UK investment arm unveils five-year strategy for BD

- British International Investment (BII)'s new strategy prioritises investment in financial services, manufacturing, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), digital infrastructure and renewable energy, while seeking to attract greater volumes of private capital into high-growth sectors.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/uk-investment-arm-unveils-five-year-strategy-for-bd-1784571266

Govt vows banking, tax reforms if LDC exit delayed

- Bangladesh has committed to overhauling its banking sector, expanding the tax base, simplifying business regulations and boosting export competitiveness if granted three more years to prepare for graduation from the UN's Least Developed Country (LDC) category, according to a draft government action plan.

https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-vows-banking-tax-reforms-if-ldc-exit-delayed-4228736

Abu Dhabi-based Equiline eyes USD 2.0 Bn investment in BD

- Abu Dhabi-based investment and project-financing company Equiline Finance has proposed an initial investment of more than USD 2.0 Bn in Bangladesh, targeting government-backed infrastructure and development projects across a broad range of sectors.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/abu-dhabi-based-equiline-eyes-20b-investment-in-bd

Billions being spent in annuity sans identifying real recipients

- The government has allocated BDT 145.0 Bn under the Annual Development Programme for FY27 to provide Family Card to 4.1 Mn families, with each beneficiary family set to receive BDT 2,500 per month.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/billions-being-spent-in-annuity-sans-identifying-real-recipients

Supermarket outlets double in just one year

- The number of supermarket chain outlets more than doubled to over 1,500 in 2025 from more than 750 a year earlier. The number of small modern retail stores also increased to 1,500 from 1,000 during the same period, according to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Exporter Guide Annual reports for 2025 and 2026.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/supermarket-outlets-double-just-one-year-4228661

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Houthis announce Saudi naval blockade, threatening new front in US-Iran war

- Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Monday they would impose a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia, opening a potential new front against the United States in its war with Iran and raising the threat to global energy supplies and trade beyond the Gulf.

https://www.thedailystar.net/news/world/us-israel-war-iran/news/houthis-announce-saudi-naval-blockade-threatening-new-front-us-iran-war-4228851

Sector and Industries:

BANK | Mortgage valuation disputes stall recovery of BDT 850 Bn in default loans

- More than 2,150 writ petitions challenging banks' takeover or auction of mortgaged properties in loan default cases have remained pending with the High Court since early 2021, involving more than BDT 850 Bn.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/mortgage-valuation-disputes-stall-recovery-tk85000cr-default-loans-1492866

INSURANCE | 73% of BDT 106.11 Bn claims unpaid till March; non-life settlements at just 11%

- Insurers had received claims worth BDT 106.11 Bn across the life and non-life segments by the end of March 2026. Of that, BDT 77.79 Bn, or 73.31%, remained unsettled.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/73-tk10611cr-claims-unpaid-till-march-non-life-settlements-just-11-1493451

CONSTRUCTION | Construction sector loses steam

- According to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), ministries and divisions implemented projects worth BDT 1,007.64 Bn during July-May, accounting for 48% of the revised ADP allocation.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/construction-sector-loses-steam-4228541

ENERGY | High customs duties dwarf rooftop solar ambitions

- Bangladesh's push towards clean energy is facing fresh headwinds as importers of rooftop solar equipment claim they are being denied the fiscal incentives announced in the national budget, with customs officials continuing to impose higher duties through inflated assessable values.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/high-customs-duties-dwarf-rooftop-solar-ambitions-1784565264

Stocks:

EXCHANGE | Brokerage firms boost provisions against negative equity to BDT 36.7 Bn

- Provisioning against negative equity surged by 36% over the past 18 months to BDT 36.68 Bn as of May 30, up from BDT 27.0 Bn in October 2024, as brokerage houses and merchant banks are complying with regulatory directives to build stronger financial buffers against potential losses.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/brokerage-firms-boost-provisions-against-negative-equity-to-tk-367b-1784566929

GP | GP auditor flags BDT 125.80 Bn BTRC tax demand as ‘unresolved risk’

- The auditor of Grameenphone Ltd has issued an emphasis of matter in its report on the telecom operator’s interim financial statements for the six months ended June 30, 2026, drawing attention to an unresolved BDT 125.80 Bn demand notice from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/telecom/306949/gp-auditor-flags-tk-12580b-btrc-tax-demand-as-unresolved-risk

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Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 82.98	USD 25.55	44.49%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 88.71	USD 27.86	45.78%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,037.97	(USD 303.03)	-6.98%
DSEX	5,857.62	992.29	20.40%
S&P 500	7,443.28	544.46	7.89%
FTSE 100	10,524.76	593.38	5.97%
BSE SENSEX	77,708.52	-7,085.06	-8.36%
KSE-100	176,127.70	2,073.40	1.19%
CSEALL	21,208.10	-1,416.21	-6.26%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 123.36 BDT

1 GBP = 165.65 BDT

1 Euro = 140.80 BDT

1 INR = 1.28 BDT

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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited
Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foysal Ahmed, CFA	Research Analyst	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Analyst	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

Kumaresh Saha	CEO (Acting)	kumaresh@bracepl.com

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited
www.bracepl.com
Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142
Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212
Phone: + (88)-02-222282446-47
Fax: + (88)-02-222282452
E-Mail: research@bracepl.com