BRAC EPL STOCK BROKERAGE LTD

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:

Bhutan begins first trial transit of goods via Bangladesh on 22-24 Nov

- Bhutan will carry out its first trial run under the traffic-in-transit agreement signed with Bangladesh, as a 15-tonne consignment is set to move from Chattogram Port to Burimari land port and onward to Bhutan through Indian territory during Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's Bangladesh visit.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bhutan-begins-first-trial-transit-goods-bangladesh-22-24-nov-1291366

BD-Bhutan accords on two major fronts signed during PM Tobgay tour

- Bangladesh and Bhutan Saturday took fresh steps to deepen bilateral cooperation as the two countries signed accords on health collaboration and cross-border digital connectivity meant to integrate the eastern Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh commerce secretary Mahbubur Rahman, Bhutan's Foreign Affairs and External Trade Minister Lyonpo DN Dhungyel and Industry, Commerce and Employment Minister Lyonpo Namgyal Dorji were present at the high-profile meeting.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-bhutan-accords-on-two-major-fronts-signed-during-pm-tobgay-tour-1763833463

CCTF seeks increased allocation to expand climate-risk activities

- The Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF), a state body entrusted with implementing cross-ministerial climate initiatives through financing from the fund, had initially received BDT 1.0 Bn under the climate change risk management fund. This allocation was aimed at supporting climate-resilience projects across vulnerable regions of the country. During the current fiscal year, the trustee board of the BCCTF has already approved five major climate-related projects with a combined estimated cost of BDT 429.1 Mn.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/cctf-seeks-increased-allocation-to-expand-climate-risk-activities-1763833506

Weak enforcement, market distortions weaken tobacco tax system

- Experts on Saturday said Bangladesh's tobacco tax system is failing to curb consumption not because taxes are low on paper, but because enforcement gaps, market distortions and an outdated multi-tiered structure continue to undermine policy effectiveness.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/weak-enforcement-market-distortions-weaken-tobacco-tax-system-1763833674

BD-China BRI engagement poised to drive sustainable shared growth

- The Chinese business community in Bangladesh say cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is poised for transition as the coming decade of Bangladesh-China BRI cooperation is likely to centre on diversifying industry, improving manufacturing competitiveness and broadening Bangladesh's exports to China, reports BSS. According to the Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh (CEAB) President Han Kun, the next stage of BRI engagement will centre on sustainability, shared financing and broader participation from private actors - moving beyond the perception that BRI is solely a China-funded framework.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bd-china-bri-engagement-poised-to-drive-sustainable-shared-growth-1763829132

Stocks:

ABBANK | AB Bank's 'hidden' bad loans push NPLs to 84%

▪ According to the bank's latest quarterly statement for the period ending in September, AB Bank had BDT 359.82 Bn in outstanding loans. Of this, BDT 301.38 Bn cannot be recovered on time and has been officially categorised as non-performing loans (NPLs). The bank had BDT 101.15 Bn in bad loans as of September 2024, amounting to 31% of its lending portfolio. Officials say the jump indicates that BDT 200.23 Bn in previously undisclosed bad loans have surfaced within a year.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/ab-banks-hidden-bad-loans-push-npls-84-4041106

ICB | ICB in freefall: BDT 50.00 Bn portfolio wiped out, loans choking the Institution

▪ A record BDT 12.14 Bn loss in FY25. Another BDT 1.51 Bn has already gone in the first quarter of FY26. And behind it all, a portfolio so battered that BDT 50.00 Bn in value has simply evaporated. Also, the borrowing was so aggressive that it exceeded the Bangladesh Bank's single-party exposure limit. Sonali Bank, for instance, had to seek the return of BDT 3.75 Bn that breached the cap.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/icb-freefall-tk5000cr-portfolio-wiped-out-loans-choking-institution-1292226

EXCHANGE | Ground ready for new listings but conflicting rules stand in the way

▪ Many well-reputed conglomerates, including City Group, are willing to proceed with listing on the bourses, but they face roadblocks, says its executive director Reza Uddin Ahmed in talks with The FE.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ground-ready-for-new-listings-but-conflicting-rules-stand-in-the-way-1763828801

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 58.06	(USD 13.37)	-18.72%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 62.56	(USD 11.83)	-15.90%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,065.14	USD 1,456.66	55.84%
DSEX	4,869.01	-347.43	-6.66%
S&P 500	6,602.99	696.05	11.78%
FTSE 100	9,539.71	1,418.70	17.47%
BSE SENSEX	85,231.92	7,031.99	8.99%
KSE-100	162,102.92	46,843.92	40.64%
CSEALL	22,982.72	7,038.11	44.14%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.32 BDT

1 GBP = 160.24 BDT

1 Euro = 140.85 BDT

1 INR = 1.36 BDT

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