

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:**Govt, WB sign four deals to secure USD 350 Mn loans**

- The Bangladesh government and the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) have signed four agreements to secure a USD 350 Mn loan guarantee to facilitate LNG imports. Backed by a Finance Division sovereign guarantee, the deal enables Petrobangla to access affordable financing from a consortium of eight local and foreign banks to ensure energy security from 2026.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-wb-sign-four-deals-to-secure-350m-loans-1766514031>

Bangladesh received USD 2.46 Bn remittance in 22 days of December

- Bangladesh received USD 15.46 Bn inward remittance so far in the current fiscal year FY 2025-26. Blessings on the remittance, the gross forex reserves of Bangladesh increased to USD 32.72 Bn on Monday (December 18). As per the IMF standard BPM6, the forex reserves stood USD 28.03 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-received-246-billion-remittance-in-22-days-of-december>

Higher taxing of billionaires likely to narrow inequality

- The government is planning to increase the tax burden on high-net-worth individuals as part of a long-term strategy to address widening income inequality in Bangladesh. The plan includes revisiting tax rates for the wealthy and improving enforcement to ensure tax justice, following reports that the country's Gini coefficient has risen to 54 points.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/higher-taxing-of-billionaires-likely-to-narrow-inequality-1766513829>

External debt falls USD 1.45 Bn in three months

- The country's total outstanding external debt stood at USD 112.12 Bn at the end of September this year. This marks a decrease of USD 1.45 Bn from the previous quarter, when external debt amounted to USD 113.57 Bn at the end of June.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/external-debt-falls-145b-three-months-1317461>

Revised budget targets record-low deficit

- The revised budget for the current fiscal year could see the deficit fall to a record low of 3.3% of GDP due mainly to ambitious revenue collection targets and cuts in development spending.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/revised-budget-targets-record-low-deficit-4064851>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Islamic banks register deposit, remittance growth in Oct '25**

- In October 2025, Islamic banks saw deposits grow 7.97% to BDT 4.67 Tn and remittances surge to USD 690 Mn, signaling a recovery in depositor confidence. Total sector assets reached BDT 9.64 Tn and investments rose to BDT 5.77 Tn, despite a slight dip in export receipts and import payments during the month.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/islamic-banks-register-deposit-remittance-growth-in-oct-25-1766514086>

FUEL & POWER | Govt to expand Eastern Refinery with BDT 354.65 Bn

- The government has finally approved the long-pending modernisation and expansion project of Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL), the country's only fuel oil refinery, opting to implement it with state financing after shelving an earlier joint venture plan with S Alam Group. Once completed, the project will triple ERL's crude oil refining capacity, allowing the refinery to process up to 4.5 Mn tonnes of crude oil annually, up from the current capacity of 1.5 Mn tonnes.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-expand-eastern-refinery-tk-35465cr-4064826>

Stocks:**BEXGSUKUK | Investors fear losses, shy away from converting Beximco sukuk**

- In a stock exchange filing on Tuesday, the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), the trustee of the debt securities, said only 18 unit holders with bonds of BDT 28,903 had applied for converting sukuk into Beximco shares this year. The trustee said applicants had a total holding of 640 sukuk bonds, of which 350 were converted into 420 ordinary shares of Beximco at BDT 82.58 each.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/investors-fear-losses-shy-away-from-converting-beximco-sukuk-1766511817>

POWERGRID | Hidden liabilities threaten to cripple Power Grid, outweigh assets

- Power Grid Bangladesh faces a financial crisis with liabilities totaling BDT 674.70 Bn, which auditors warn may exceed its actual asset value of BDT 801.98 Bn if uncharged depreciation and hidden debts are accounted for. The company's books show BDT 11.15 Bn in receivables and BDT 14.10 Bn in unverified land, while it carries a heavy burden of BDT 79.33 Bn in interest payable on term loans and reported a loss of BDT 2.30 per share in FY25.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/hidden-liabilities-threaten-to-cripple-power-grid-outweigh-assets-1766511720>

NBL | National Bank's bad loans climb to 75%

- Nearly three out of every four taka lent by National Bank has now gone unpaid, according to the central bank, after stay orders that had long protected several large borrowers were lifted in recent months. As of September this year, defaulted loans at the once-reputed private lender stood at BDT 320.39 Bn, accounting for 75.46% of its total lending, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/national-banks-bad-loans-climb-75-4064866>

EXCHANGE | Yields on long-term treasury bonds rise further

- The cut-off yield, generally known as the interest rate, on the 15-year Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs) rose to 10.89% on the day from 10.74%, while the yield on the 20-year BGTBs reached 10.90% from 10.82%, according to the auction results.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/yields-on-long-term-treasury-bonds-rise-further-1766509639>

EXCHANGE | BSEC's new rules put 31 closed-end mutual funds at risk of liquidation, conversion

- New BSEC rules have put 31 out of 34 listed closed-end mutual funds at risk of liquidation or conversion into open-end funds if their trading price remains 25% below their Net Asset Value (NAV) for six months. Only three funds – Prime Finance First Mutual Fund, CAPM BDBL Mutual Fund 01, and Reliance One – were in relatively stronger positions.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsecs-new-rules-put-31-closed-end-mutual-funds-risk-liquidation-conversion-1317556>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 58.38	(USD 13.05)	-18.27%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 62.38	(USD 12.01)	-16.14%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,507.03	USD 1,898.55	72.78%
DSEX	4,860.63	-355.82	-6.82%
S&P 500	6,909.78	1,002.84	16.98%
FTSE 100	9,889.22	1,768.21	21.77%
BSE SENSEX	85,524.84	7,324.91	9.37%
KSE-100	171,073.73	55,814.73	48.43%
CSEALL	21,927.00	5,982.39	37.52%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.11 BDT****1 GBP = 165.23 BDT****1 Euro = 144.18 BDT****1 INR = 1.36 BDT**

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