

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:**Economy to grow at 5% in 2026**

- The General Economics Division (GED) has projected a delicate balance between a recovering growth trajectory and persistent structural hurdles, saying the economy could grow at 5.0% in the current calendar year. The report highlights a "fragile but resilient" recovery as the country navigates a complex democratic transition and prepares for its graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category. According to GED, Bangladesh's overall inflation rate edged up further in December, driven mainly by a faster rise in food prices.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/economy-to-grow-at-5pc-in-2026-1769364292>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/faster-food-price-growth-pushes-inflation-higher-december-planning-commission-report-1342961>

BB seeks removal of sales contract cap on imports to rein in commodity prices

- In a letter sent to the ministry, the central bank called for the removal of the cap to facilitate larger bulk imports of daily necessities such as rice, lentils, chickpeas, dates, onions, garlic, ginger and soybean oil.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-seeks-removal-sales-contract-cap-imports-rein-commodity-prices-1342906>

Govt mulls gradual withdrawal of excise duty: NBR chief

- The government plans to gradually phase out the long-standing excise duty in the country, citing the need to balance revenue considerations. The NBR chief said that the government had taken a step in this direction by withdrawing excise duty on bank deposits up to BDT 300,000 last year, adding that a complete removal at once is not feasible due to potential revenue shortfalls. NBR sources estimate that the duty generates around BDT 60.0 Bn annually.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-hints-further-extension-individual-tax-return-deadline-1343231>

Govt to accept foreign loans only for critical projects: Planning Adviser

- Planning Adviser told that the government is moving away from financing large-scale development projects through foreign loans and stressed the need for avoiding a 'debt trap'. The adviser also warned against attractive but unnecessary projects offered by multilateral lenders like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-accept-foreign-loans-only-critical-projects-planning-adviser-1343461>

Sector & Industries:**ENERGY | Bangladesh pays extra USD 500 Mn annually: probe finding**

- Bangladesh pays extra 4.0-5.0 US cents per unit to India's Adani conglomerate which costs it USD 400-500 Mn annually for 'unfair' power-purchase agreement (PPA), an official probe reveals. And the country could lose an aggregate sum of USD 10 Bn as a consequence over the 25-year contract entered into with 1,496-megawatt Adani power plant across the border, the national committee on finding suspected anomalies in the power deals estimates.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-pays-extra-500m-annually-probe-finding-1769364407>

TEXTILE | RMG buying houses term move to scrap bonded facilities for yarn imports 'self-destructive'

- Garment buying house entrepreneurs have warned that the commerce ministry's proposal to withdraw bonded warehouse facilities on the import of yarn of 10 to 30 counts could harm the country's readymade garment (RMG) sector and unsettle international buyers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-buying-houses-oppose-proposal-scrap-bonded-facilities-yarn-imports-1343561>

Stocks:**MARICO | Marico posts record quarterly revenue, declares 475% interim dividend**

- Marico Bangladesh has secured double-digit revenue growth year-on-year to BDT 5.33 Bn in the third quarter through December 2025, the highest quarterly revenue since its listing in the secondary market. The India-based personal care products manufacturer, whose financial year runs from April to March, reported 32% year-on-year revenue growth in October-December last year

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/marico-posts-record-quarterly-revenue-declares-475pc-interim-dividend-1769360574>

BSRMLTD, BSRMSTEEL | Mixed earnings for BSRM Group amid sluggish steel demand

- Steel maker BSRM Steels secured a 5.5% year-on-year increase in profit to BDT 955.05 Mn in the second quarter of FY26, whereas Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills reported an 11.1% year-on-year decline in earnings to BDT 787.1 Mn in the same quarter. According to their half-yearly financial statements, both BSRM Limited and BSRM Steels Limited recorded higher topline performance in the first half of the fiscal year, but net profit growth remained modest due to rising raw material prices.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mixed-earnings-for-bsrm-group-amid-sluggish-steel-demand-1769360611>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsrms-two-listed-firms-see-33-revenue-growth-1343676>

WALTONHIL | Walton eyes portfolio expansion, higher profits through merger

- Walton Hi-Tech Industries is going to merge with Walton Digi-Tech Industries, a non-listed technology product manufacturer, aiming to expand its business portfolio, reduce operational costs, and improve efficiency. The merger will add numerous high-tech products to Walton's portfolio, including laptops, computers, mobile phones, printed circuit boards (PCBs), and electric bikes.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/walton-eyes-portfolio-expansion-higher-profits-through-merger-1769360669>

KAY&QUE | BSEC rejects Kay & Que's 6% stock dividend proposal

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has rejected a 6% stock dividend proposal announced by Kay & Que (Bangladesh) for FY25. According to its annual disclosure, the company reported 1,316% growth in its FY25 EPS, reaching BDT 9.49 from BDT 0.67 in the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-rejects-kay-ques-6-stock-dividend-proposal-1343681>

MALEKSPIN, RAHIMTEXT | Mixed fortunes for New Asia group's listed textiles in H1 FY26

- New Asia Group's listed textile concerns reported contrasting results for H1 FY26, with Malek Spinning Mills seeing a 19% profit decline due to rising costs while Rahim Textile Mills posted a 271% surge following a strategic shift to knit garments.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mixed-fortunes-new-asia-groups-listed-textiles-h1-fy26-1342756>

CONFIDCEM | Confidence Cement unveils expansion strategy at grand launch event

- Confidence Cement Dhaka Limited has formally launched a new phase of nationwide expansion with the inauguration of operations at its newly established manufacturing plant in Palash, Narsingdi. The plant has a production capacity of 1.8 Mn metric tonnes.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/confidence-cement-unveils-expansion-strategy-grand-launch-event-1343306>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.14	USD 3.71	6.46%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 65.93	USD 5.08	8.35%
Gold Spot*	USD 5,070.00	USD 729.00	16.79%
DSEX	5,072.14	206.81	4.25%
S&P 500	6,915.61	16.79	0.24%
FTSE 100	10,143.44	212.06	2.14%
BSE SENSEX	81,537.70	-3,255.88	-3.84%
KSE-100	189,166.83	15,112.53	8.68%
CSEALL	23,956.51	1,332.20	5.89%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 121.34 BDT

1 GBP = 165.80 BDT

1 Euro = 143.95 BDT

1 INR = 1.33 BDT

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