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:

US imposes new tariffs on 60 countries, 10% on Bangladesh

- The United States has imposed a 10% tariff on imports from Bangladesh, saying the country has not done enough to prevent imports of raw materials produced using forced labour. Ministry of Foreign Affairs said several major apparel-exporting competitors, including China, Vietnam and Thailand, would face the higher 12.5% tariff.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-imposes-new-tariffs-60-countries-10-bangladesh-4231441

Bangladesh getting 3yr time extension for LDC graduation

- Bangladesh is set to get three-year extension for graduation from the least-developed country (LDC) status as the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is going to recommend the much-needed breather.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-getting-3yr-time-extension-for-ldc-graduation

REER rise weighs on export competitiveness

- Real effective exchange rate (REER) in Bangladesh rose to a seven-month high of 103.10 by June count, up 0.67% from 102.41 in May, with its domino effect on the country's external trade.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/reer-rise-weighs-on-export-competitiveness

Trade deficit widens to USD 23.98 Bn as exports fall

- A double-digit drop in capital machinery imports and falling export revenues have driven Bangladesh's trade deficit up by nearly 24% to USD 23.98 Bn in FY26, leaving a historic USD 35.5 Bn remittance surge to single-handedly cushion the external economy from severe distress.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/trade-deficit-widens-24-exports-fall-and-capital-imports-slump-1496436

BIDA converts USD 400 Mn of USD 1.5 Bn investment pipeline

- China's Hengli Group, through its subsidiary Lead Bangladesh Textile Technology Co Ltd, is investing USD 35 Mn at the Bangladesh Special Economic Zone (BSEZ) to establish an advanced textile manufacturing facility.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-converts-400m-15bn-investment-pipeline-1496186

Bangladesh ramps up anti-money laundering reforms before global review

- Authorities aim to complete national risk assessments in five key areas by December before an Asia Pacific Group team reviews Bangladesh's preparedness in August.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-ramps-anti-money-laundering-reforms-global-review-1496341

BD seeks US LPG, DFC backing

- Bangladesh has stepped up diplomatic efforts to secure long-term LPG supplies from USA and gain access to financing from the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), as the two countries seek to deepen cooperation in energy, infrastructure and investment, sources said.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-seeks-us-lpg-dfc-backing-1785000617

Sector and Industries:

BANK | BB plans cap on borrowing, loan recovery boost

- Bangladesh Bank officials said the maximum borrowing limit across the banking sector could be fixed at BDT 10.0 Bn and requiring companies seeking loans exceeding BDT 10.0 Bn to raise funds through bond issuance instead of bank borrowing.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/307623/bb-plans-cap-on-borrowing-loan-recovery-boost

BANK | Why offshore borrowing is not taking off

- Bankers say two policy changes – recent changes to the interest rate cap on trade financing, along with the reimposition of tax on interest paid on offshore loans – have made foreign lenders more cautious, narrowed financing options for importers, and increased import costs.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/why-offshore-borrowing-not-taking-1497111

BANK | Real returns on fresh bank deposits fall to near zero

- Depositors are earning virtually no real return on their new savings as inflation has remained broadly in line with deposit interest rates, prompting the central bank to warn of continued pressure on households' purchasing power.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/real-returns-on-fresh-bank-deposits-fall-to-near-zero

BANK | Classified loan accounts double as retail defaults surge

- The number of classified loan accounts in the banking sector more than doubled in a year, reaching a staggering 4.583 Mn in March 2026, and the most dramatic surge was seen in retail loan accounts.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/classified-loan-accounts-double-retail-defaults-surge-4232251

PAYMENT | Fintech VALT enters Bangladesh with hospitality platform

- British fintech company VALT has launched operations in Bangladesh, marking its entry into the country's digital payments market with a focus on the hospitality sector. VALT was a wholly owned subsidiary of UK-based VALT Holdings Limited and provides payment solutions and point-of-sale services to the hospitality industry in UK.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/307616/fintech-valt-enters-bangladesh-with-hospitality-platform

CHEMICALS | Stronger chemical industry needed to cut import dependence

- Bangladesh's major export sectors rely heavily on chemicals, but the country still imports most of its chemical needs despite having a domestic market estimated at $6 to $8 billion that is growing by 10 to 15 percent annually.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/stronger-chemical-industry-needed-cut-import-dependence-4232296

TELECOM | BTRC fines four mobile operators over illegal VoIP-linked SIMs

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has fined four mobile operators a combined BDT 82.1 Mn after identifying 8,380 SIM cards allegedly used in illegal Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) operations, citing failures to implement mandatory self-regulation and telecom fraud management measures.

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/btrc-fines-four-mobile-operators-over-illegal-voip-linked-sims-1497856

TOBACCO | BDT 40 Bn vanishes into cigarette supply chain: Who pockets the extra money?

- A market investigation found that virtually every cigarette brand is being sold above its printed MRP, because cigarette companies sell to distributors at or virtually at the MRP itself, leaving no margin for retail sellers.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tk4000cr-vanishes-cigarette-supply-chain-who-pockets-extra-money-1497071

PHARMA | NBR seeks 5yr pharma output data to verify VAT compliance

- Government's revenue authority has moved to scrutinise production data of pharmaceuticals under an effort to crosscheck actual outputs with VAT returns submitted by the companies and strengthen revenue compliance.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/nbr-seeks-5yr-pharma-output-data-to-verify-vat-compliance

PHARMA | Drug-resistant bugs spreading fast in ICUs

- Difficult-to-treat drug-resistant bacteria are spreading rapidly in Bangladesh's intensive care units (ICUs), while stronger measures can sharply reduce infections, according to studies by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

https://www.thedailystar.net/news/crime-justice/news/drug-resistant-bugs-spreading-fast-icus-4232461

RMG | Sluggish RMG exports unlikely to rebound in coming months

- The country's sluggish garment exports are unlikely to recover in the coming months as the war in the Gulf drives up energy costs, feeds inflation in key Western markets and leaves retailers with more unsold stock, according to exporters and major international buyers. Apparel makers say buyers remain cautious and are avoiding large orders, even though uncertainty over US tariffs has eased.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/sluggish-rmg-exports-unlikely-rebound-coming-months-4232256

Stocks:

REGULATOR | BSEC plans to inspect 100 brokerage firms to curb major irregularities

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is planning to conduct phased inspections of around 100 brokerage firms as part of its efforts to prevent major irregularities and strengthen investor protection amid rising trading activity in the capital market.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-plans-inspect-100-brokerage-firms-curb-major-irregularities-1497871

EXCHANGE | New BO accounts surge as equity market regains momentum

- The number of new beneficiary owner (BO) accounts rose sharply by 34,877 new BO accounts in H1 2026, signalling renewed investor confidence as the recovering stock market attracted fresh participants after years of subdued activity. The total number of BO accounts stood at 1,675,252 at the end of June, up from 1,640,375 on December 30 last year.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/new-bo-accounts-surge-as-equity-market-regains-momentum-1784998112

BATBC | BAT Bangladesh Q2 profit doubles on sales growth, lower operating costs

- British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh reported strong earnings growth in Q2'26, with net profit more than doubling on higher sales and lower operating expenses despite continued pressure on cigarette volumes.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/bat-bangladesh-q2-profit-doubles-on-sales-growth-lower-operating-costs

SINGERBD | Singer swings to Q2 profit as lower finance costs offset weak demand

- Singer Bangladesh returned to profitability in Q2'26, buoyed by higher sales and lower finance costs, although weak consumer demand continued to weigh on its overall business performance.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/singer-swings-to-q2-profit-as-lower-finance-costs-offset-weak-demand

PUBALIBANK | Pubali Bank to buy troubled Bengal Group's 26-storey Swissôtel building for BDT 8.0 Bn

- The property was originally being developed by Bengal Hotels & Resorts, a concern of Bengal Group, as Swissôtel Dhaka, a five-star hotel project.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/pubali-bank-buy-troubled-bengal-groups-26-storey-swissotel-building-tk800cr-1495481

BANKASIA | Bank Asia's profit falls 16% in H1 2026

- Bank Asia PLC's consolidated EPS fell 16% year-on-year to BDT 1.77 in H1'2026, from BDT 2.11 a year earlier, mainly due to higher interest expenses and lower investment and fee-based income.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bank-asias-profit-falls-16-h1-2026-1497841

TRUSTBANK | Trust Bank's Q2 profit falls 13.3pc

- Trust Bank PLC reported a 13.3% YoY decline in consolidated profit for Q2'26. Consolidated EPS declined to BDT 0.93 for the quarter, compared with BDT 1.07 in the corresponding period of 2025.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/trust-banks-q2-profit-falls-133pc-1784998419

BRACBANK | BRAC Bank's branch network adds BDT 50 Bn in CASA deposits

- BRAC Bank's Branch Distribution Network recorded BDT 50.0 Bn growth in current and savings account deposits during the first six months of 2026.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/brac-banks-branch-network-adds-tk5000cr-casa-deposits-1497691

SBACBANK | SBAC Bank deposits cross BDT 120 Bn in June

- SBAC Bank PLC's deposits rose to over BDT 120 Bn at the end of June 2026, up by around BDT 13.0 Bn, or 12%, in 6M2026.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/sbac-bank-deposits-cross-tk12000cr-june-1497731

ROBI | Robi, Rockstreamer launch Binge+ streaming platform

- Rockstreamer Pvt. Ltd. and Robi Axiata PLC have partnered to launch Binge+, an over-the-top content aggregation platform for Robi and Airtel subscribers in Bangladesh.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/robi-rockstreamer-launch-binge-streaming-platform-1497786

HEIDELBCEM | Heidelberg Materials slips into loss in H1 on margin squeeze

- Heidelberg Materials Bangladesh PLC has reported a significant financial downturn for the first half of 2026, swinging into a net loss due to shrinking profit margins and a decline in sales volume.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/heidelberg-materials-slips-loss-h1-margin-squeeze-1497881

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 89.31	USD 31.88	55.51%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 96.78	USD 35.93	59.05%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,070.80	(USD 270.20)	-6.22%
DSEX	5,804.30	938.96	19.30%
S&P 500	7,411.98	513.16	7.44%
FTSE 100	10,736.23	804.85	8.10%
BSE SENSEX	76,059.77	-8,733.81	-10.30%
KSE-100	171,400.60	-2,653.70	-1.52%
CSEALL	21,172.74	-1,451.57	-6.42%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 123.47 BDT

1 GBP = 164.51 BDT

1 Euro = 140.45 BDT

1 INR = 1.27 BDT

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