

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:**Over 80% businesses find current tax rates 'unfair'**

- 82% of businesses consider the current tax rate "unfair" and a major obstacle to growth, according to a survey conducted by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The survey found that 79% of participating businesses identified lack of accountability among tax officials as a major problem, while 72% cited corruption in tax administration as their primary obstacle.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/over-80pc-businesses-find-current-tax-rates-unfair-1756230969>

NBR suspends manual VAT audits to curb graft: NBR chief

- National Board of Revenue (NBR) has announced that manual selection of Value Added Tax (VAT) returns for auditing will remain suspended indefinitely, if necessary, to prevent any scope for corruption in file selection. "The scrutiny would stay halted until the NBR develops an automated, risk-based audit system for VAT files," NBR Chairman said on Tuesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-suspends-manual-vat-audits-to-curb-graft-nbr-chief-1756231153>

BB releases 100 Mn new notes, but scarcity persists

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has released more than 100 Mn new banknotes since June 1 this year, but those are hardly seen in the market. The central bank began issuing notes of BDT 1,000, 50, and 20 denominations in early June, followed by BDT 100 on August 12. So far, 36.2 Mn pieces of BDT 20, 39.2 Mn of BDT 50, 25 Mn of BDT 1,000, and 0.1 million of BDT 100 notes have been released.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-releases-100m-new-notes-but-scarcity-persists-1756231307>

ADP shortfalls expose inept handling in health ministry

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare needs reform, as officials say its decade-long underperformance - the worst among government agencies - has left Bangladesh's health services increasingly vulnerable, with only 21% of development projects implemented in the fiscal year 2024-25. Analysts say that although the government has increased budget allocations year-on-year, the health ministry, one of the country's key stakeholders, has repeatedly failed to execute its projects effectively.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/adp-shortfalls-expose-inept-handling-in-health-ministry-1756231532>

Dhaka, Seoul move for newer ties, strategic partnership

- Bangladesh and South Korea pledge to take their longstanding friendship to new highs as they agree to explore formal strategic partnership besides cooperation in newer areas after high-level talks in Seoul.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/dhaka-seoul-move-for-newer-ties-strategic-partnership-1756231566>

Bida, Bepza secure nearly USD 1 Bn investment proposals in 6 months

- Bangladesh has received investment proposals worth just over USD 1 Bn from both domestic and foreign companies during December 2024 to May 2025. The proposals were submitted to the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), and Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-receives-nearly-1b-investment-proposals-5-months-2025-bida-1221271>

Bhola Eco-Development Economic Zone secures Beza licence to boost southern industrial growth

- Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) has granted a pre-qualification licence to the Bhola Eco-Development Economic Zone in Bhola district, opening new opportunities for industrial growth in the country's southern region. The zone will initially be developed on 102.46 acres in Bhola Sadar Upazila, with plans to expand to 158 acres in phases, said a press release.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bhola-eco-development-economic-zone-secures-beza-licence-boost-southern-industrial-growth>

Bangladesh-Malaysia chamber eyes semiconductor, halal market partnerships

- Bangladesh cannot afford to remain on the sidelines of the semiconductor ecosystem, which is projected to exceed USD 3 Tn globally by 2030, says BMCCI president Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) is moving to tap into opportunities in the global semiconductor and halal markets through new partnerships signed with Malaysian institutions earlier this month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bmcci-eyes-semiconductor-halal-markets-through-malaysia-partnerships-1221386>

Apparel sub-contractors now to get a pie of export incentives

- The government has decided to extend special cash incentives to RMG exporters who will subcontract factories for ready-made garment (RMG) production, a benefit currently available only to exporters operating their own factories, according to finance ministry officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/apparel-sub-contractors-now-get-pie-export-incentives-1221556>

Sector & Industries:**SERVICE | Forbes Asia spotlights Pathao in '100 to Watch'**

- Pathao has been named to Forbes Asia's "100 to Watch 2025," a list that spotlights the most promising and dynamic companies shaping the future of the Asia-Pacific region. This recognition comes at a special moment for us, as we prepare to celebrate our 10-year anniversary this October, says the company in a press release.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/forbes-asia-spotlights-pathao-in-100-to-watch-1756233077>

TRADE | Ban import of oxygen, argon: CCCI

- Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) has urged the government to impose a ban on the import of oxygen and argon in order to safeguard the interests of the local sector. The leading trade body, based in Chittagong, has recently requested the commerce ministry to take necessary steps on the issue, sources said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ban-import-of-oxygen-argon-ccci-1756231970>

BANK | Steps to be taken to clear export proceeds by crisis-hit banks: Governor

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur has assured that crisis-ridden banks will be directed to pay exporters their due share from export proceeds, with a plan for a permanent solution to follow.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/crisis-hit-banks-settle-exporters-dues-export-proceeds-assures-bb-governor-1221096>

BANK | Bangladesh Bank net profits up 52% in FY25

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) made a record by bagging net profits of around BDT 230 Bn in FY25 - a 52% increase from the previous fiscal year. The frequent rise in the policy rate and commercial banks' growing dependence on the central bank's liquidity-feeding instruments helped the regulator enjoy an increase of around BDT 80 Bn in net profits in a single financial year, according to central bankers and money market analysts.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-bank-net-profits-up-52pc-in-fy25-1756231199>

BANK | Islamic banks' deposit, market share see downtrends

- The country's Islamic banks, despite having considerable rise in investments and assets, experienced a slowdown in deposit growth and a shrinking market share of investments over the months. According to latest Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, the volume of investment in the country's Islamic banking system grew by 12.52% to reach BDT 5.67 Tn in May 2025 from BDT 5.04 Tn in May 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/islamic-banks-deposit-market-share-see-downtrends-1756231832>

Stocks:**ICB | ICB seeks 5-year extension for BDT 9 Bn special fund**

- Considering the current capital market situation, the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has urged the government to extend the BDT 9 Bn special fund by another five years, until 2032. Urging the extension, ICB – the state-owned institution mandated to develop the capital market and manage the special fund – has written to the finance ministry, according to officials involved with the fund.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-seeks-5-year-extension-tk900cr-special-fund-1221541>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank declares no dividend; profit drops 83% in 2024

- The Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd has decided not to pay any dividend to its shareholders for the year 2024 at a board meeting held yesterday (26 August). According to the disclosure published on its website, the bank reported a consolidated net profit of BDT 1.08 Bn in 2024, which was 83% lower than the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/islami-bank-declares-no-dividend-profit-drops-83-2024-1221546>

PHOENIXFIN | Phoenix Finance to sell half of Motijheel property amid deepening losses

- Phoenix Finance and Investments Ltd has decided to sell 50% ownership of its commercial property, Phoenix Bhaban, located at Dilkusha in Dhaka's Motijheel, as part of efforts to tackle its prolonged financial crisis. By the end of 2024, its loss per share stood at BDT 48.73.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/phoenix-finance-sell-half-motijheel-property-amid-deepening-losses-1220676>

EXCHANGE | Yield rates on two BGTBs fall further

- The yields on two types of long-term treasury bonds fell further on Tuesday as banks opted to invest their excess liquidity in the risk-free instruments. The cut-off yield, generally known as interest rate, on the 15-Year Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs) declined to 10.28% on the day from the previous rate of 10.48% while that of 20-Year BGTBs decreased to 10.30% from 10.55%, according to the auction results.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/yield-rates-on-two-bgtbs-fall-further-1756231887>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 63.25	(USD 8.18)	-11.45%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 67.24	(USD 7.15)	-9.61%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,384.15	USD 775.67	29.74%
DSEX	5,448.83	232.39	4.45%
S&P 500	6,465.94	559.00	9.46%
FTSE 100	9,265.80	1,144.79	14.10%
BSE SENSEX	80,786.54	2,586.61	3.31%
KSE-100	148,435.06	33,176.06	28.78%
CSEALL	20,613.39	4,668.78	29.28%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.97 BDT****1 GBP = 164.21 BDT****1 Euro = 141.86 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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