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:

New govt pay scale may cost BDT 700 Bn more yearly

- An initial estimate by the National Pay Commission (NPC) suggests the new government pay scale would require around BDT 700 Bn more annually, including a hike in pensions, gratuities and medical allowances.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-govt-pay-scale-may-cost-tk-700b-more-yearly-1761503695

Capital-machinery import rebounding from slump

- Capital-machinery import rebounds into positive trajectory from a slump, indicating some acceleration in the economy after months of sluggishness Bangladesh had witnessed following disruptions.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/capital-machinery-import-rebounding-from-slump-1761503803

Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway project cost to rise by BDT 10 Bn

- The cost of the Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway (DAEE) project are set to increase by at least BDT 10 Bn due to changes in design, utility shifting, and integration of ramps with other infrastructures, including the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) and the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) airport station.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/dhaka-ashulia-elevated-expressway-project-cost-to-rise-by-tk-10b-1761503883

Sector & Industries:

BANK | Credit card spending climbs 35% in Aug amid digital shift

- Credit card usage in Bangladesh has surged sharply over the past year, reflecting stronger consumer confidence and an uptick in retail activity in the domestic market.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/credit-card-spending-climbs-35pc-in-aug-amid-digital-shift-1761502059

TRADE | US wheat costing more due to binding agreement

- The price gap between American and Russian wheat currently ranges between USD 75 and USD 80 per tonne. Bangladesh has been purchasing American wheat at USD 308 per tonne, while Russian wheat is sold in international markets at USD 226 to USD 230 per tonne.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-wheat-costing-more-due-binding-agreement-4019846

TELECOMMUNICATION | In 5 months, Starlink gets 1,800 subscriptions in Bangladesh

- Starlink, the satellite internet service operated by Elon Musk's SpaceX, now has around 1,800 active devices in use across Bangladesh within five months of beginning operations, according to data from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/5-months-starlink-gets-1800-subscriptions-bangladesh-4019851

FUEL & POWER | Govt to appoint int'l legal consultant

- The government plans to appoint an international legal consultant to resolve existing and future disputes involving liquefied natural gas (LNG) contracts. The consultant will also provide legal advice on finalising terminal use agreements (TUAs), LNG sales and purchase agreements (SPAs), and implementation agreements (IAs) between state-run Petrobangla or the government and relevant parties.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-to-appoint-intl-legal-consultant-1761504102

MFS | bKash posts BDT 5.04 Bn profit in nine months, revenue soars

- BKash Limited, the country's leading mobile financial services (MFS) provider, has reported a net profit of BDT 5.04 Bn for the first nine months of the current year. This represents a 131% increase in profit compared to the same period last year.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bkash-posts-tk504-crore-profit-nine-months-revenue-soars-1270011

Stocks:

GP | Grameenphone Q3 profit dips slightly despite higher revenue

- Despite higher revenue, Grameenphone's profit dropped slightly by 0.52% year-on-year to BDT 7.51 Bn in July-September this year, due to higher energy costs and operating expenses. The leading telecom operator's revenue stood at BDT 40.10 Bn for July-September this year, registering a 1.4% growth over the same quarter last year, according to its financial statements published on Sunday.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/grameenphone-q3-profit-dips-slightly-despite-higher-revenue-1761501905

APEXFOOT | Apex Footwear's profit dips despite robust revenue growth in Q1

- Apex Footwear, one of the country's largest footwear exporters, has reported an 11.66% dip in net profit for the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year 2025-26, despite achieving a 14.43% growth in revenue. The primary factors contributing to the profit decline were soaring finance costs and increased tax expenses.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/apex-footwears-profit-dips-despite-robust-revenue-growth-q1-1269991

WALTONHIL | Walton installs country's largest floating solar power plant in Gazipur

- Aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the country's superbrand and tech giant Walton has prioritised green and renewable energy initiatives to promote sustainable industrial growth. As part of this effort, Walton has installed the country's largest floating solar power plant — with a capacity of one megawatt — at its headquarters in Chandra, Gazipur, marking a significant step towards a greener future in the industrial sector.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/walton-installs-countrys-largest-floating-solar-power-plant-gazipur-1269976

ESQUIRENIT | Esquire Knit declares 10% cash dividend for general shareholders

- Esquire Knit Composite PLC, a textile firm listed on the stock exchanges, has recommended a 10% cash dividend only for its general shareholders for the fiscal year 2024-25. The company reported a consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of Tk0.44 for FY25, slightly up from Tk0.41 during the same period of the previous fiscal year (FY24).

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/esquire-knit-declares-10-cash-dividend-general-shareholders-1269966

KOHINOOR | Kohinoor Chemical recommends 75% dividend for FY25

- Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh), a listed firm under the pharmaceuticals and chemicals sector, has recommended a 75% dividend — comprising 65% cash and 10% stock — for its shareholders for the fiscal year 2024-25. In a disclosure through the stock exchanges yesterday, the firm reported a 24% growth in its profit in FY25 compared to the previous fiscal year.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/kohinoor-chemical-recommends-75-dividend-fy25-1270046

GP | GP CEO gets bail in case filed by former employee

- Grameenphone Chief Executive Officer Yasir Azman and two senior officials appeared before a Dhaka court on Sunday and secured bail in a criminal case filed by a former employee who has accused them of fraud, criminal breach of trust and non-payment of dues pending for more than a decade.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/gp-ceo-gets-bail-in-case-filed-by-former-employee-1761504339

UNIONBANK | Union Bank's audacious BDT 4.50 Bn book cooking

- The private commercial Union Bank, previously controlled by the loan scammer S Alam Group, has reported a loss of BDT 2.92 Bn for 2023 following the rectification of its previously audited balance sheet, which had shown an artificial profit of BDT 1.62 Bn for that year.

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/corruption/union-banks-audacious-tk450cr-book-cooking-1270081

EXCHANGE | Tick size cut to keep ‘penny stocks’ tradable

- With some stocks trading around BDT 1 per share, the prime bourse has reduced the smallest allowable price deviation in each transaction for such securities to BDT 0.01 from the existing BDT 0.10. The decision will come into effect on October 29, according to a stock exchange filing on Sunday, aimed at ensuring smoother price discovery and improved market efficiency.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/tick-size-cut-to-keep-penny-stocks-tradable-1761501941

EXCHANGE | BSEC forms 9-member Shariah advisory council

- The securities regulator has formed a nine-member Shariah advisory council to facilitate the issuance of Shariah-compliant securities and promote the development of an Islamic capital market.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-forms-9-member-shariah-advisory-council-1761502021

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.69	(USD 9.74)	-13.64%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 66.17	(USD 8.22)	-11.05%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,074.46	USD 1,465.98	56.20%
DSEX	5,126.98	-89.46	-1.72%
S&P 500	6,791.69	884.75	14.98%
FTSE 100	9,645.62	1,524.61	18.77%
BSE SENSEX	84,211.88	6,011.95	7.69%
KSE-100	163,304.12	48,045.12	41.68%
CSEALL	22,812.52	6,867.91	43.07%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.33 BDT

1 GBP = 163.03 BDT

1 Euro = 142.30 BDT

1 INR = 1.39 BDT

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

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