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:

Bangladesh closer to joining world's largest free-trade bloc as RCEP working group approved

- Bangladesh has moved a step closer to joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), with trade ministers of the bloc approving the formation of an ad hoc working group to accelerate the accession process for Bangladesh and three other applicants.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-moves-closer-joining-worlds-largest-free-trade-bloc-rcep-working-group-approved

Govt eyes up to USD 1.0 Bn from sovereign bond debut

- The government is considering issuing a sovereign bond of up to USD 1.0 Bn to the international capital market to diversify its funding sources. American investment bank JP Morgan and Hong Kong-based consultancy firm Bridgeworks International will be commissioned to facilitate the bond issue and provide technical support.

https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-eyes-1b-sovereign-bond-debut-4283851

ADB plans USD 100 Mn housing loan scheme for 60,000 households

- The Asian Development Bank has agreed in principle to provide a USD 100 Mn loan for low- and middle-income households in Bangladesh to build, expand or repair their homes.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/315499/adb-plans-100m-housing-loan-scheme-for-60000-households

NBR moves to restore monthly VAT returns

- The National Board of Revenue is moving to restore the previous system of monthly VAT return submission as VAT collection declined drastically in the first two months, July and August, of the current financial year 2026-27.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/315497/nbr-moves-to-restore-monthly-vat-returns

Sector and Industries:

BANK | Five digital banks get initial nod from Bangladesh Bank

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) today issued letters of intent (LoIs) to five proposed digital banks, allowing them to begin preparations for launching fully online banking operations. The five entities are DK Digital Bank Ltd, backed by Bhutan's DK Bank; bKash Digital Bank, promoted by the mobile financial service provider bKash; Nova Digital Bank, a venture of Banglalink; Boost Digital Bank, promoted by Robi Axiata; and Kori Digital Bank founded by Habibullah N Karim, who is also the CEO of Technohaven.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/five-digital-banks-get-initial-nod-bangladesh-bank-4282006

BANK | VEON eyes USD 1 Bn Bangladesh investment through digital finance

- Global digital operator VEON has committed an initial USD 250 Mn anchor investment towards its ambition of mobilising USD 1 Bn in foreign direct investment for Bangladesh, with a joint venture with Square Group set to establish a digital bank as part of the broader investment plan.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/315488/veon-eyes-1b-bangladesh-investment-thru-digital-finance

BANK | Easing money market: Deposit rates fall faster than loan rates

- Banks are cutting deposit rates faster than lending rates as falling government securities yields and weak private-sector credit demand reshape Bangladesh's money market, squeezing returns for savers while borrowing costs remain relatively sticky.

https://tob.news/easing-money-market-deposit-rates-fall-faster-than-loan-rates/

BANK | BB directs KPI framework for bank CEOs, spurs regulatory overreach concerns

- Under the new Key Performance Indicators (KPI) framework, Bangladesh Bank will assess the performance of MDs and CEOs every six months against targets covering solvency, asset quality, governance, customer conduct, and profitability.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-directs-kpi-framework-bank-ceos-spurs-regulatory-overreach-concerns-1553876

BANK | Banks' suspended interest balance BDT 1.22 Tn

- Bangladesh's banking sector saw its interest suspense balance surge as a growing volume of loans turned non-performing, leaving banks unable to recognise accrued interest as income.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/315501/banks-suspended-interest-balance-tk-1.22-lakh-crore

BANK | Banks born of political favour now drowning in bad debt

- Three of the nine banks that entered the market in 2013 after receiving licences from the then Awami League government are now weighed down by non-performing loans (NPLs), according to Bangladesh Bank data and audited financial statements.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-born-political-favour-now-drowning-bad-debt-4283581

ENERGY | LNG subsidy hits BDT 103 Bn in first three months of FY27

- The government has released BDT 103 Bn in subsidies for LNG imports in 3MFY27, as Bangladesh has increasingly relied on costly spot-market cargoes after disruptions to long-term supplies amid the Iran-US war and its regional fallout. The amount is equivalent to 70.5% of the subsidy spent on LNG imports during FY26.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/energy/lng-subsidy-hits-tk10300cr-first-three-months-fy27-1554111

NBFI | BB raises refund cap for depositors of 4 failing NBFIs to BDT 5.0 Mn from BDT 1.0 Mn

- The Bangladesh Bank has prepared a scheme to repay individual depositors of four NBFIs that are set to be liquidated. Under the scheme, individual depositors will initially receive up to BDT 5.0 Mn of their principal amount. To receive any amount above BDT 5.0 Mn, a prescribed portion of the additional amount will be withheld.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bb-raises-refund-cap-depositors-4-failing-nbfis-tk50-lakh-tk10-lakh-1553156

TELECOM | Banglalink to connect users with Starlink on 4 October

- Banglalink has received approval from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to introduce Starlink Direct-to-Cell connectivity, which will allow users to connect through satellites in areas beyond the reach of traditional mobile networks. Initially, Banglalink users will be able to access SMS, data messaging and WhatsApp calls through the satellite connection.

https://tob.news/banglalink-to-connect-users-with-starlink-on-4-october/

CONSUMER | Handset industry under pressure on multiple fronts

- Bangladesh's local mobile handset industry is under fresh pressure from rising prices of memory components, adding to longstanding problems such as grey-market competition, weak factory utilisation and uncertainty over regulatory enforcement.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/handset-industry-under-pressure-multiple-fronts-4283596

ENERGY | Phulbari coalmining under profit sharing with landowners

- A comprehensive package deal is outlined for coal extraction from the long-stalled Phulbari coalmine in Dinajpur through open-pit mining method under a profit-sharing arrangement with the landowners.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/phulbari-coalmining-under-profit-sharing-with-landowners

Stocks:

EXCHANGE | Foreign investors return to Dhaka stocks as reforms, MSCI move lift confidence

- Foreign investors are showing renewed interest in Bangladesh's stock market in September, with their purchases exceeding sales and signalling a tentative shift in sentiment after years of sustained withdrawals from the country's capital market.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/foreign-investors-return-dhaka-stocks-reforms-msci-move-lift-confidence-1554566

EXCHANGE | Foreign funds keep draining as Bangladesh faces fallout of global tensions

- Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have continued to pull out funds from Bangladesh's equity market as they have been moving assets to developed markets amid persistent macroeconomic challenges stemming from geopolitical tensions. Net foreign portfolio investment in Bangladesh fell to a negative USD 223 Mn in FY26, compared with an outflow of USD 138 Mn a year earlier, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/foreign-funds-keep-draining-as-bangladesh-faces-fallout-of-global-tensions-1790435365

EXCHANGE | Rancon Motor Bikes takes first step towards stock-market listing

- Rancon Motor Bikes, the manufacturer and authorised distributor of Japanese brand Suzuki motorcycles in Bangladesh, has taken the first formal step towards a stock-market listing by appointing a corporate adviser and an issue manager.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/bangladesh/rancon-motor-bikes-takes-first-step-towards-stock-market-listing

PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank secures EUR 20 Mn OeEB loan to expand MSME financing

- Prime Bank PLC has recently signed a EUR 20 Mn Term Loan Agreement with OeEB, the Development Bank of Austria, to expand access to finance for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Bangladesh. Under the agreement, the financing will be on-lent to eligible MSMEs to support their business growth, expansion, investment and working capital needs.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/prime-bank-secures-20m-oeeb-loan-to-expand-msme-financing-1790440658

APEXFOOT | Apex Footwear to raise BDT 5.0 Bn via preference shares to pay off loans, declares 30% dividend

- Apex Footwear has decided to raise up to BDT 5.0 Bn by issuing redeemable preference shares to refinance its existing loans and reduce debt burdens. The board recommended 15% cash and 15% stock dividend. EPS increased to BDT 7.91 for FY2025-26, up from BDT 6.90 in the previous financial year.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/apex-footwear-raise-tk500cr-preference-shares-pay-loans-declares-30-dividend-1554661

BRACBANK | Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzaque joins BRAC Bank Board as Independent Director

- BRAC Bank Board has welcomed Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzaque as an Independent Director. Dr Razzaque currently serves as Chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), a Dhaka-based think tank. He is also a Director at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI).

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/dr-mohammad-abdur-razzaque-joins-brac-bank-board-as-independent-director

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Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 92.41	USD 34.98	60.91%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 104.32	USD 43.47	71.44%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,284.81	(USD 56.19)	-1.29%
DSEX	5,578.33	712.99	14.65%
S&P 500	7,743.41	844.59	12.24%
FTSE 100	10,695.25	763.87	7.69%
BSE SENSEX	73,895.74	-10,897.84	-12.85%
KSE-100	170,765.22	-3,289.08	-1.89%
CSEALL	21,037.35	-1,586.96	-7.01%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 123.10 BDT

1 GBP = 162.96 BDT

1 Euro = 140.25 BDT

1 INR = 1.28 BDT

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