

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:**Ctg port to have 4 terminal projects under PPP model**

- Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is set to implement, upgrade, and operate four major terminal projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, officials say, aiming to elevate the port to international standards and enhance its capacity for future growth.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ctg-port-to-have-4-terminal-projects-under-ppp-model-1756317663>

Govt in talks with Aramco to sign MoU

- The interim government is currently in talks with Saudi oil giant Aramco to ink a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to ensure cooperation in the energy sector. State-run Petrobangla has already prepared a draft of the MoU, which is currently being vetted by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. As per government officials, Aramco has shown interest in supplying LNG to Bangladesh as part of its expanding global export operations.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-in-talks-with-aramco-to-sign-mou-1756317837>

More than a dozen major projects overspend lifespan, needing cure

- 13 large development projects with an aggregate cost of BDT 924.76 Bn have spent over five years against their approved lifespans, warranting a government review soon for remedies. Official statistics show only one-third financial progress has been made in the projects although their entire sanctioned tenures have expired. Out of the total estimated cost, ministries and divisions managed to spend BDT 308.29 Bn, which accounts for only 33.34% of the funds, according to the document of the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/more-than-a-dozen-major-projects-overspend-lifespan-needing-cure-756317946>

Formal job market shows signs of rebound after year-long slowdown

- Bangladesh's formal job market is beginning to rebound after a year of stagnation, with a noticeable increase in job postings in July and August. Experts, however, caution that this recovery may not be enough to meet the overwhelming demand for new jobs, and structural issues, such as the growing dominance of large corporations, continue to pose a threat to long-term employment growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/formal-job-market-shows-signs-rebound-after-year-long-slowdown-1222346>

Sector & Industries:**MFS | Nagad now destined to be privatised**

- The much-hyped Nagad is destined to be privatised as part of government plan to bring more competition in the mobile financial services (MFS) sector. Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur disclosed Wednesday the decision made by the post-uprising government, after years of contentions surrounding the state-sector MFS outfit.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nagad-now-destined-to-be-privatised-1756317594>

ENGINEERING | Semiconductor industry creating jobs for BD graduates

- The Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) says the country's semiconductor sector is emerging as a major source of jobs for the rising number of Computer Science and Electrical & Electronics Engineering graduates, reports UNB. By 2030, the sector is expected to reach USD 1.3 Tn and will require 1 Mn skilled professionals worldwide by that time.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/more-than-a-dozen-major-projects-overspend-lifespan-needing-cure-1756317946>

TEXTILE | BGMEA opposes providing REX facility to BGBA

- The country's apparel makers have urged the government not to provide the existing Registered Exporter (REX) facility to Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association (BGBA) as such buying houses are not directly involved in production and exporting activities, sources said. According to them, if the REX facility is given to the BGBA, it would not only create a conflict of interest but also cause an unnecessary threat to the country's export sector.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bgmea-opposes-providing-rex-facility-to-bgba-1756318065>

BANK | 31 banks lost BDT 36 Bn in stock rout last year

- Thirty-one banks suffered combined losses of BDT 36 Bn from their stock market investments last year, largely because of poor decisions, misuse of funds and a sluggish market. State-owned banks were hit the hardest, while private commercial banks also reported losses despite being known for better governance in their core banking operations.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/31-banks-lost-tk-3600cr-stock-rout-last-year-3972386>

MISCELLANEOUS | Anti-dumping duty on Chinese plastics if proof found: secretary

- Bangladesh will not hesitate to impose anti-dumping duties if China is found to be selling plastics in the country at a lower price than the normal value, Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman said in response to complaints from local businesses yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/anti-dumping-duty-chinese-plastics-if-proof-found-secretary-3972296>

Stocks:**ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank posts profit despite regulatory clampdown, surging NPLs**

- Islami Bank reported a profit of BDT 1.09 Bn for 2024 even after a 68% year-on-year increase in provision in the year for non-performing loans (NPLs) under a strict regulatory measure by the central bank. The lender had to reveal its actual status regarding the amount of loans that had turned sour to follow the newly-enforced stringent NPL policy. Hence, its NPLs increased to BDT 328.17 Bn in December last year from only BDT 71.24 Bn six months ago. The default loans again surged to BDT 476.18 Bn by March this year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/islami-bank-posts-profit-despite-regulatory-clampdown-surging-npls-1756315651>

BEXIMCO | Regulator to probe use of BEXIMCO bond proceeds

- The securities regulator has formed probe committees to inquire into the utilisation of funds raised by BEXIMCO through bonds in 2021 and 2024. The company raised BDT 30 Bn in 2021, issuing Beximco Green Sukuk bonds. The bond proceeds were meant for solar projects -- Teesta Solar and Korotoa Solar -- to produce electricity from renewable energy and transmit it to the national grid. In 2024, the conglomerate collected funds worth BDT 15 Bn through IFIC Guaranteed Sreepur Township Zero Coupon Bond to invest in real estate.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/regulator-to-probe-use-of-beximco-bond-proceeds-1756315677>

KBPPWBIL | Khan Brothers turns to local sales amid ongoing export suspension

- Khan Brothers PP Woven Bags Industries, a publicly listed company, has decided to begin direct sales of its products in the local market, in addition to its current sub-contract work. According to a stock exchange disclosure published yesterday, the company's export operations have been on hold since 2022, with all revenue generated solely from sub-contracting. The company's shares closed at BDT 117.80 each on the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/khan-brothers-turns-local-sales-amid-ongoing-export-suspension-1221966>

DUTCHBANGL | Dutch-Bangla Bank to buy BDT 10.16 Bn building for new head office

- Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC (DBBL) is set to purchase a 21-storey commercial building in Motijheel for BDT 10.16 Bn to establish its permanent head office, marking one of the largest real estate acquisitions by a private commercial bank in recent years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dutch-bangla-bank-buy-tk1016cr-building-new-head-office-1221611>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 63.70	(USD 7.73)	-10.82%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 67.58	(USD 6.81)	-9.15%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,391.36	USD 782.88	30.01%
DSEX	5,443.31	226.87	4.35%
S&P 500	6,481.40	574.46	9.73%
FTSE 100	9,255.50	1,134.49	13.97%
BSE SENSEX	80,786.54	2,586.61	3.31%
KSE-100	147,494.03	32,235.03	27.97%
CSEALL	20,753.21	4,808.60	30.16%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.74 BDT****1 GBP = 164.54 BDT****1 Euro = 141.85 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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