

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:**Forex reserves stand at USD 32.18 Bn**

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves stood at USD 32.18 Bn on Monday. However, as per the International Monetary Fund (IMF) methodology under the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves stood at USD 27.38 Bn, according to the latest data of the Bangladesh Bank (BB), reports BSS.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/forex-reserves-stand-at-3218b-1761589819>

Snail-paced G2G economic zones show uneven progress

- A decade after introducing the government-to-government (G2G) economic zone model to attract foreign investment in Bangladesh through bilateral partnerships, the overall progress now looks uneven.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/snail-paced-g2g-economic-zones-show-uneven-progress-4020656>

Exporters can soon swap retained forex for taka credit to meet urgent cash needs

- The central bank is set to introduce a currency swap facility allowing exporters to temporarily exchange foreign currency from their Exporters' Retention Quota (ERQ) accounts for local currency to meet urgent cash needs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/exporters-can-soon-swap-retained-forex-taka-credit-meet-urgent-cash-needs-1270921>

Turnover tax and high interest rates threaten business competitiveness: Experts

- The country's current tax and financial policies are eroding competitiveness, discouraging diversification, and punishing compliant businesses, experts have warned.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/turnover-tax-and-high-interest-rates-threaten-business-competitiveness-experts-1270881>

Accession requires opening services sector

- Bangladesh's coveted membership in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), world's largest trade bloc, presupposes challenging sweeping liberalisation of trade in services as a predominant condition.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/accession-requires-opening-services-sector-1761589232>

Worry overshadows Asycuda replacement move

- A government move to phase out from the tested customs digital-platform Asycuda to adopt an advanced system has raised more concerns than corroboration from stakeholders in foreign trade and national revenue.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/worry-overshadows-asyCUDA-replacement-move-1761589161>

Economic governance needs to undergo major changes

- Speakers at the Economic Reform Summit 2025 have called for deep structural changes in Bangladesh's economic governance, stressing deregulation, restoration of central bank independence, and a shift from bureaucratic dominance to private sector-led reform.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/economic-governance-needs-to-undergo-major-changes-1761589613>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Govt pressure led to closure of interoperable payment platform in 2020: Cenbank official**

- Bangladesh Bank had launched a single Interoperable Payment System in 2020 to enable seamless transactions between banks, mobile financial services (MFS), and payment service providers (PSP). However, the bank was forced to shut it down following government pressure, said Mohammad Rashed, additional director of the Payment Systems Department at Bangladesh Bank, adding that the central bank has recently reintroduced the same system after five years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/govt-pressure-led-closure-interoperable-payment-platform-2020-cenbank-official>

BANK | Banks can now write off bad loans immediately to keep balance sheet strong. But at what cost?

- A leading private bank in the country, currently burdened with a 14% non-performing loan (NPL) ratio, expects to bring it down to just 6% within 30 days after the central bank permitted immediate write-offs of bad loans. The lender, which has maintained 100% provisioning against its classified loans, plans to act swiftly under the new rule.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-can-now-write-bad-loans-immediately-keep-balance-sheet-strong-what-cost>

FUEL & POWER | BD to import 1.42 Mn tonnes of refined petroleum in H1

- The government will import up to 1.42 Mn tonnes (mt) of refined petroleum products between January and June next year from global suppliers via a competitive bidding process.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-to-import-142m-tonnes-of-refined-petroleum-in-h1-1761589769>

JUTE | Pakistan expresses interest in importing jute from Bangladesh

- Pakistan has expressed interest in importing jute from Bangladesh today, following the resumption of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting in Dhaka after a two-decade hiatus.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pakistan-expresses-interest-importing-jute-bangladesh-4020186>

RMG | RMG owners fear deliberate attempts to incite labour unrest during national election

- The garment industry owners fear deliberate attempts to incite labour unrest and sabotage within the country's export-focused ready-made garment (RMG) sector in the lead-up to the national election.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-owners-fear-deliberate-attempts-incite-labour-unrest-during-national-election>

TRADE | Bangladesh offered use of Karachi port, jute duty cut

- Pakistan has offered Bangladesh the use of its Karachi port for conducting foreign trade with countries such as China, Gulf, and Central Asian nations, officials said on Monday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bangladesh-offered-use-of-karachi-port-jute-duty-cut-1761589676>

Stocks:**ROBI | Robi's Q3 profit jumps 28% on cost cuts, forex gains**

- Despite tough market competition, Robi Axiata secured a 28% year-on-year surge in profit to BDT 2.42 Bn in the third quarter through September this year, supported by higher revenue.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/robis-q3-profit-jumps-28pc-on-cost-cuts-forex-gains-1761587601>

RECKITT BEN | Reckitt Benckiser returns to growth on higher sales, cost cuts

- Reckitt Benckiser gained 21% year-on-year profit growth to BDT 246 Mn in the third quarter through September this year, owing to higher sales and lower finance costs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/reckitt-benckiser-returns-to-growth-on-higher-sales-cost-cuts-1761587700>

BSC | BSC's new ship commences maiden voyage

- One of the two newly purchased bulk carriers by Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) commenced its maiden commercial voyage yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bscs-new-ship-commences-maiden-voyage-4020671>

RENATA | Renata's FY25 profit slumps 38% on higher input, finance costs

- Renata has posted a 38.6% lower profit to BDT 2.22 Bn for FY25 compared to the previous year, despite handsome revenue growth, as the cost of raw materials, labour, and finance increased.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/renatas-fy25-profit-slumps-38pc-on-higher-input-finance-costs-1761587659>

UPGDCL | United Power's profit hits new high, yet investors react to restrained dividend

- United Power Generation & Distribution Company has posted an impressive 48% year-on-year growth in profit to BDT 11.98 Bn in FY25 - the highest annual profit since its listing.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/united-powers-profit-hits-new-high-yet-investors-react-to-restrained-dividend-1761587633>

BANKASIA | Bank Asia's nine-month profit tops 2024 total

- Bank Asia posted a 71% year-on-year surge in profit for the first nine months of the 2025 financial year, driven by higher investment income.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bank-asias-nine-month-profit-tops-2024-total-4020141>

PREMIERBAN | Premier Bank posts BDT 5.41 Bn loss in Q3

- The bank posted a consolidated loss of 5.41 Bn for the quarter, compared with a profit of BDT 0.54 Bn in the same period a year earlier.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/premier-bank-posts-tk-541cr-loss-q3-4020236>

ALARABANK | Al-Arafah Bank MD removed over irregularities

- The managing director of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC, Farman R Chowdhury, has been removed from his position over irregularities in the bank's agent-banking operations.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/al-arafah-bank-md-removed-over-irregularities-1761589457>

FAREASTLIF | Ex-Fareast Ins boss confesses acquiring huge illegal wealth

- Former Chairman of Fareast Islami Life Insurance Limited Md. Nazrul Islam during a five-day remand has confessed acquiring of huge illegal wealth and laundering money abroad by himself and his family members.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/ex-fareast-ins-boss-confesses-acquiring-huge-illegal-wealth-1761589789>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.24	(USD 10.19)	-14.27%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 65.58	(USD 8.81)	-11.84%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,982.77	USD 1,374.29	52.69%
DSEX	5,086.86	-129.59	-2.48%
S&P 500	6,875.16	968.22	16.39%
FTSE 100	9,653.82	1,532.81	18.87%
BSE SENSEX	84,778.84	6,578.91	8.41%
KSE-100	162,163.81	46,904.81	40.70%
CSEALL	22,788.79	6,844.18	42.92%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.35 BDT****1 GBP = 163.34 BDT****1 Euro = 142.60 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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