

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 export strategy targets 18 markets**

- The government is formulating an integrated strategy to diversify Bangladesh's export products and markets, with a focus on reducing dependence on RMG and expanding exports of services and skill-based products.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/trade-commerce/315779/new-export-strategy-targets-18-markets>

Bangladesh steps up FTA push on multiple fronts

- Bangladesh is moving on several trade fronts as negotiations for a free trade agreement with the European Union might begin in October. Moreover, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership has formed a working group on Bangladesh's accession, and the first round of FTA talks with Malaysia is due in Dhaka next month.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/trade-commerce/315781/bangladesh-steps-up-fta-push-on-multiple-fronts>

16 projects seek BDT 178.68 Bn ECNEC approval

- A total of 16 development projects, including nine new ones, are set to be placed before the executive committee of the National Economic Council. Of the proposed amount, BDT 118.42 Bn will come from the government, BDT 55.74 Bn from foreign loans and grants, and BDT 4.03 Bn from implementing agencies' own funds.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/315812/16-projects-seek-tk-17868cr-ecnec-approval>

Companies are dodging price shock by cutting costs

- Amid fuel and energy shocks that have raised overall business costs by around 30% in recent years, local conglomerates say they are absorbing the higher costs rather than raising product prices.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/companies-are-dodging-price-shock-cutting-costs-4285476>

Govt restores monthly VAT filing

- The government is restoring monthly VAT return filing, reversing the quarterly system introduced under the Finance Act 2026. Under the proposed amendment, businesses will again have to submit VAT returns within 15 days after the end of each tax period, instead of once every three tax periods.

<https://tob.news/govt-restores-monthly-vat-filing/>

EU airs concern over treatment of European equipment

- The European Union (EU) has expressed concern over possible discrimination affecting European fire-safety-equipment suppliers in Bangladesh's RMG sector. In a letter, the EU Ambassador noted that fire detection and alarm systems compliant with European standards (EN 54 and VdS) faced delays and scrutiny, while systems under US frameworks (UL/NFPA 72) appeared to move faster through approvals.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/eu-airs-concern-over-treatment-of-european-equipment-1790619723>

Financial sector safeguard project up for govt approval

- A financial-sector project for promoting technology-enabled banking to check NPL buildup and fiscal scams is up for government seal of approval. Checking digital heist and cyberattack into financial institutions is one of core objectives of the comprehensive project.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/financial-sector-safeguard-project-up-for-govt-approval-1790619028>

Chevron seeks further exemptions from labour law

- US energy company Chevron Bangladesh has sought further exemptions from provisions of the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 on workers' basic rights, including working hours and leave, drawing criticism from labour rights experts who say the request should be rejected.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/315798/chevron-seeks-further-exemptions-from-labour-law>

Sector and Industries:**BANK | Two more banks eye Standard Chartered Bangladesh's retail business**

- Pubali Bank and Mutual Trust Bank (MTB) have begun preliminary talks with Standard Chartered Bangladesh (SCB) about taking over the foreign lender's retail business. BRAC Bank and City Bank had earlier confirmed their interest and held initial discussions with SCB.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/two-more-banks-eye-standard-chartered-bangladeshs-retail-business-4285311>

BANK | Trade, commerce occupy top slots in NPL buildups

- Bank loans between BDT 400 Mn and BDT 500 Mn recorded the highest classified-loan ratio among the specified loan-size categories, with trade and commerce bearing the largest default liabilities. The classified-loan ratio for this category under nearly 700 such accounts stood at 46.4% as of June last.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/trade-commerce-occupy-top-slots-in-npl-buildups-1790619207>

BANK | BB allows interest-free Islamic credit cards with strict fee limits

- The Bangladesh Bank has allowed Islamic banks to offer charge-based, interest-free credit cards under a new framework that bans fees linked to a customer's outstanding balance, credit limit, payment delay or deferral period.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/315780/bb-allows-interest-free-islamic-credit-cards-with-strict-fee-limits>

ENERGY | No LPG shortage in Bangladesh, operators assure energy minister

- LPG operators assured Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Minister that there is no shortage of LPG in the market. According to National Board of Revenue (NBR), Bangladesh imported 157,760 tonnes of LPG in August and 118,742 tonnes between 1 and 22 September.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/energy/no-lpg-shortage-bangladesh-operators-assure-energy-minister-1556731>

ENERGY | Qatar extends force majeure notices on LNG supply to Edison, Asian clients including Bangladesh

- QatarEnergy has extended force majeure notices and will not be able to deliver LNG cargoes to Italian utility Edison or some Asian clients as the Strait of Hormuz remains closed. Clients in Asia, including in Bangladesh and Pakistan, were also informed that force majeure notices had been extended until November.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/worldbiz/asia/qatar-extends-force-majeure-notices-ing-supply-edison-asian-clients-including>

TOBACCO | Cigarettes get cheaper in real terms despite price hikes: PPRC

- Bangladesh's inflation-adjusted, or real, cigarette prices have declined across most price tiers despite nominal price hikes introduced in the FY2026-27 budget, according to an analysis presented by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/cigarettes-get-cheaper-real-terms-despite-price-hikes-pprc-1556851>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | BSEC orders digital overhaul to protect investors' funds**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) ordered the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to ensure unified back-office software so that real-time data of all brokerage houses can be tracked and they cannot embezzle funds of general investors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsec-orders-digital-overhaul-protect-investors-funds-4285221>

LHB | Lafarge Holcim outlines bio-drying project for Sylhet waste segregation

- Lafarge Holcim Bangladesh (LHB) has outlined a plan to launch a bio-drying project to reduce moisture in municipal solid waste to ensure effective plastic waste segregation.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/lafarge-holcim-outlines-bio-drying-project-for-sylhet-waste-segregation-1790614807>

PHOENIXFIN | Phoenix Finance to sell 2.0 Mn fund units after 263% price surge

- Phoenix Finance and Investments Ltd, sponsor of Phoenix Finance 1st Mutual Fund, plans to sell 2.0 Mn units of the closed-end fund after its unit price surged 263% in recent months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/phoenix-finance-sell-20-lakh-fund-units-after-263-price-surge-1556761>

NBL | Mohammad Abu Jafar new National Bank MD

- Mohammad Abu Jafar, a veteran banker with 36 years of professional experience in the banking industry, joined National Bank as its new managing director on Sunday. Abu Jafar served the Premier Bank as managing director & chief executive officer before taking over the responsibility of National Bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mohammad-abu-jafar-new-national-bank-md-1790614876>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 93.82	USD 36.39	63.36%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 106.88	USD 46.03	75.65%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,137.52	(USD 203.48)	-4.69%
DSEX	5,525.86	660.52	13.58%
S&P 500	7,683.69	784.87	11.38%
FTSE 100	10,684.88	753.50	7.59%
BSE SENSEX	72,771.72	-12,021.86	-14.18%
KSE-100	170,425.60	-3,628.70	-2.08%
CSEALL	20,943.79	-1,680.52	-7.43%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 123.12 BDT****1 GBP = 163.17 BDT****1 Euro = 140.01 BDT****1 INR = 1.28 BDT**

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

Analyst Certification: Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

Disclaimer: Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

Compensation of Analysts: The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

General Risk Factors: BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed, CFA	Research Analyst	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Analyst	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

Kumaresh Saha	CEO (Acting)	kumaresh@bracepl.com
---------------	--------------	--

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (88)-02-222282446-47

Fax: + (88)-02-222282452

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com