

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:**BB to issue new BDT 500 banknote tomorrow**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) is set to issue a new BDT 500 banknote from its 'Historical and Archaeological Architecture of Bangladesh' series on Thursday, reports UNB. The new note is being introduced with a contemporary design and enhanced security features.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bb-to-issue-new-tk-500-banknote-tomorrow-1764697993>

EU wants Bangladesh to import more to reduce trade gap

- European businesses and diplomats have urged Bangladesh to increase imports from the European Union (EU) to help narrow the bloc's large trade deficit with the country. The call comes as the issue has gained fresh relevance after Bangladesh committed to reducing its trade gap with the United States under the reciprocal tariff deal.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/eu-wants-bangladesh-import-more-reduce-trade-gap-4049146>

Koica grants USD 96 Mn to boost Bangladesh's future in advanced tech, AI, and sustainable development

- The Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) is set to roll out a new wave of development initiatives in Bangladesh, committing a total of USD 96 Mn to five major projects spanning advanced technology, human resources, and sustainable rural development beginning in 2026. As of 2024, Korea's Official Development Assistance (ODA) ranks sixth in Bangladesh in terms of grants and concessional loans, with Koica's cumulative support reaching approximately USD 232.85 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/koica-grants-96m-boost-bangladeshs-future-advanced-tech-ai-and-sustainable-development>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Polls, MPO allowance hike, new Islamic Bank capital to cost BDT 270 Bn**

- Current crunch time comes as a reminder to ministries and divisions concerned to make realistic fund demand from this year's revised budget to help the government avoid higher bank borrowings and interest payments. The direction comes from finance division while holding consultation with the ministries and divisions separately for revising the budget for the fiscal year 2025-26-deficit one as usual--to make the two ends meet.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/polls-mpo-allowance-hike-new-islamic-bank-capital-to-cost-tk-270b-1764698991>

BANK | Sammilito Islami Bank begins operations

- Marking a major consolidation in the financial sector, Sammilito Islami Bank PLC officially commenced operations on Tuesday following the merger of five Shariah-based banks, reports BSS. Former secretary Mohammad Ayub Miah has taken office as the chairman of the new bank following a meeting with Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur in the afternoon.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/sammilito-islami-bank-begins-operations-1764699086>

BANK | Banks fear profitability squeeze as new operational peril

- Already smarting under loads of bad loans, banks in Bangladesh worry about a new operational peril from profitability squeeze for narrowing interest spread that came to 5.74% in September. According to Bangladesh Bank statistics, the spread between weighted average interest rate (WAIR) on advances and on deposits across all 61-bank industry narrowed by 2.0 basis points to 5.74% last September from previous month's standing.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-fear-profitability-squeeze-as-new-operational-peril-1764699126>

BANK | BB directs banks to submit prize bond transaction and award data

- In a circular issued today (2 December), the central bank's Debt Management Department said banks must receive all necessary documents related to prize bond purchases, sales, and prize claim applications, and then forward them to the relevant regional offices of Bangladesh Bank. The circular further states that scheduled banks will also take over the sale of savings certificates, replacing Bangladesh Bank in this role.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-directs-banks-submit-prize-bond-transaction-and-award-data-1300556>

MFS | PayPal coming soon to connect small entrepreneurs to global markets: BB governor

- Global payment service PayPal wants to begin operating in Bangladesh soon, aiming to connect small entrepreneurs to international markets, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said on Tuesday (2 December). The governor noted that at present, due to the lack of such a platform, many people involved in outsourcing face difficulties in receiving their payments from international markets, and in many cases, they do not receive their payments at all.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/paypal-coming-soon-connect-small-entrepreneurs-global-markets-bb-governor-1300666>

INSURANCE | Regulator to set agent commission at 0% in general insurance

- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has moved to suspend the licences of individual agents in the general insurance sector, directing all non-life insurers to submit suspension proposals by 5 December. Once received, IDRA will issue a circular setting agent commissions at 0% across the sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/regulator-set-agent-commission-0-general-insurance-1300591>

FUEL & POWER | Chevron restarts delayed JBC project

- Chevron Bangladesh has finally moved to revive its long-delayed Jalalabad Compression Project (JBC), breaking nearly two years of uncertainty over one of the country's most-anticipated gas-sector investments. Senior officials say the US energy major has now committed to completing the work within the next two years at an estimated cost of around USD75 Mn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/chevron-restarts-delayed-jbc-project-1764699253>

TELECOMMUNICATION | Smart Technologies opens BDT 1.50 Bn HONOR phone assembly plant in Gazipur

- Smart Technologies (BD) Limited has launched the country's first HONOR smartphone assembly facility at the Kaliakair Hi-Tech Park in Gazipur. Set up with an investment of BDT 1.50 Bn, the plant has started operations by assembling the HONOR X6c, marking the brand's first "Made in Bangladesh" device. The company plans to start full-scale manufacturing after six months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/tech/smart-technologies-opens-tk150cr-honor-phone-assembly-plant-gazipur-1300646>

CITYBANK | Mizanur Rashid appointed as DMD of City Bank

- City Bank recently appointed Mizanur Rashid as deputy managing director (DMD) & chief business officer for its digital banking arm, according to a press release. Mizanur Rashid brings over 30 years of experience across the fintech and consumer packaged goods industries, with a proven track record of driving scale and sustained growth. He previously served as chief commercial officer at bKash Limited, where he played a key role in building the digital payment ecosystem for bKash & its users.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mizanur-rashid-appointed-as-dmd-of-city-bank-1764697879>

EXCHANGE | 11 more firms granted extra time to adjust negative equity

- The securities regulator has granted additional time to 11 more market intermediaries to ensure compliance with provisioning requirements for unrealised losses and to adjust negative equity. The extension will take effect after December 31 this year, when the current deadline expires. Some institutions have been given one more year, some two years, while others have received extensions up to 2032.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/11-more-firms-granted-extra-time-to-adjust-negative-equity-1764697924>

Stock and Commodities*

| Index Name | Close Value | Value Change YTD | % Change YTD |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Crude Oil (WTI)* | USD 58.39 | (USD 13.04) | -18.26% |
| Crude Oil (Brent)* | USD 62.21 | (USD 12.18) | -16.37% |
| Gold Spot* | USD 4,226.67 | USD 1,618.19 | 62.04% |
| DSEX | 4,950.92 | -265.53 | -5.09% |
| S&P 500 | 6,829.37 | 922.43 | 15.62% |
| FTSE 100 | 9,701.80 | 1,580.79 | 19.47% |
| BSE SENSEX | 85,138.27 | 6,938.34 | 8.87% |
| KSE-100 | 167,642.28 | 52,383.28 | 45.45% |
| CSEALL | 22,241.57 | 6,296.96 | 39.49% |

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.05 BDT****1 GBP = 161.47 BDT****1 Euro = 142.04 BDT****1 INR = 1.36 BDT**

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