

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:**ADB to provide USD 1 Bn annually for Bangladesh's inclusive development**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pledged to provide USD 1 Bn annually to support Bangladesh's inclusive development in climate resilience and environmental sustainability. During the meeting, Rizwana emphasized the ADB's increased focus on climate-focused and socially inclusive activities over traditional infrastructure projects.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adb-provide-1billion-annually-bangladeshs-inclusive-development-1035371>

NBR plans to phase out tax exemptions

- "Along with the VAT, various steps are being taken to increase the tax base in the case of income tax," the NBR said in a statement on Saturday night. As a part of ongoing efforts to phase out the practice of providing income tax exemptions, several provisions have already been repealed or amended, the statement said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-plans-phase-out-tax-exemptions-3792831>

Squeezed by inflation, people seek refuge in mini-packs

- People are switching to shampoo mini-packs from regular bottles, women are sacrificing their tiny luxuries of cosmetic puffs while households are embracing cheap but substandard detergents for laundry: this is exactly what happens when brutal price pressures push around 7.8 Mn people below the poverty line in just two years and stalk another 10 Mn to do so.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/squeezed-inflation-people-seek-refuge-mini-packs-3792856>

Unemployed population rises by 0.17 Mn in one year: BBS

- The number of unemployed in Bangladesh has increased by 0.17 Mn within a year, as the number of people engaged in work or participating in the labour force has significantly decreased, a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics survey revealed today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/unemployment-jumps-266-lakh-jul-sep-bbs-1035711>

Sector & Industries:**RMG | Investment in product tracking tech fuels RMG accessories growth**

- According to data from the Bangladesh Garments Accessories and Packaging Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGAPMEA), the number of factories producing RFID locally has increased from 5-6 five years ago to 30 now.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/investment-product-tracking-tech-fuels-rmg-accessories-growth-1035776>

CERAMICS | Exports of ceramic products drop by 2% in FY '24

- The ceramic sector in Bangladesh, despite its impressive growth in recent years, faced a setback in the fiscal year 2023-24, as there was a decline in both exports and direct employment compared to the previous year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/exports-of-ceramic-products-drop-by-20pc-in-fy-24>

RMG | RMG accessories expo to begin in Dhaka from Jan 8

- The 14th edition of the International Garment Accessories and Packaging Expo (GAPEXPO) 2025 will be held in Dhaka from January 8 to 11. The four-day exhibition will showcase garment accessories such as buttons, packaging products, hangers, zippers, machinery, yarn, and fabrics at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rmg-accessories-expo-begin-dhaka-jan-8-3792801>

RMG | Home textile exports bounce back

- Home textile exports grew by 7.85% year-on-year in the July-December period of the current fiscal year to USD 410.81 Mn while it was negative two to three months ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/home-textile-exports-bounce-back-3792841>

Stocks:

EXCHANGE | IPO of Borak Real Estate rejected on suspicion of inflated earnings

- The stock market watchdog has recently rejected an IPO proposal of Borak Real Estate amid a dried-up IPO flow, owing to concerns that earnings might have been inflated to influence the price of primary shares.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ipo-of-borak-real-estate-rejected-on-suspicion-of-inflated-earnings-1736096353>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 74.01	USD 2.58	3.61%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 76.54	USD 2.15	2.89%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,645.13	USD 36.65	1.41%
DSEX	5,165.17	-51.28	-0.98%
S&P 500	5,942.50	35.56	0.60%
FTSE 100	8,223.98	102.97	1.27%
BSE SENSEX	79,223.11	1,023.18	1.31%
KSE-100	117,586.98	2,327.98	2.02%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.21 BDT****1 GBP = 150.76 BDT****1 Euro = 125.07 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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