Important News Snippets

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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 IMF loan may come next January, say officials

- A new International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan programme, prioritising revenue collection growth and banking sector reforms in Bangladesh, may commence next January. Starting on Sunday, a fact-finding mission led by Ivo Krznar, the IMF's mission chief for Bangladesh, will hold discussions with the Bangladesh Bank, the finance ministry and other relevant agencies to gather updates on reform programmes and government plans to that end.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/new-imf-loan-may-come-next-january-say-officials-4221471

Iran declares Strait of Hormuz closed as 'unauthorised' vessel hit

- Iran on Sunday said it closed the Strait of Hormuz after a vessel travelled on an unapproved route and was struck, warning that any retaliation over the incident would be met with a "severe response."

https://www.tbsnews.net/worldbiz/middle-east/iran-declares-strait-hormuz-closed-unauthorised-vessel-hit-1485826

Tax net expands to cover foreign digital businesses

- A significant amendment to Bangladesh's income-tax law has paved the way for taxing foreign digital businesses that have no physical presence in the country but serve 0.1 Mn or above Bangladeshi users.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tax-net-expands-to-cover-foreign-digital-businesses-1783791257

SMEs urge govt to cut business costs, ease regulations

- Business leaders have urged the government to reduce the cost of doing business, simplify regulatory procedures and improve law and order, warning that persistent global trade uncertainties and domestic challenges are weighing on investment and economic growth.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/smes-urge-govt-to-cut-business-costs-ease-regulations-1783791535

Several nondescript sectors picked as potential GDP hikers

- Several nondescript sectors like courier services, money exchange, foundation-run activities, and arts and recreation, have been picked up for having major untapped potential to raise Bangladesh's economic growth. Based on preliminary case studies, the sectors collectively contributed BDT 4.54 Bn few years back.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/several-nondescript-sectors-picked-as-potential-gdp-hikers-1783791632

Bangladesh's wheat imports surge to all-time high

- Wheat imports surged to 7.3 Mn tonnes in FY26 as the private sector capitalised on lower international prices. Private imports rose 16% YoY to 6.58 Mn tonnes, while public sector imports jumped 61% YoY.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladeshs-wheat-imports-surge-all-time-high-4221481

Bangladesh may face highest inflation in South Asia in 2026-27: ADB

- In its latest Asian Development Outlook July update, the multilateral lender predicted that Bangladesh's average inflation could hit 8.8%, outpacing regional peers including India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/305741/bangladesh-may-face-highest-inflation-in-south-asia-in-2026-27-adb

Three sub-zones dev project under NSEZ comes under scrutiny

- Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) is seeking approval for a BDT 19.18 Bn infrastructure-development project to carve out three sub-zones in the National Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) in Mirsarai, Chattogram.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/three-sub-zones-dev-project-under-nsez-comes-under-scrutiny-1783791804

BDT 400 Bn SOE debt pile fuels fiscal concern

- State-backed contingent liabilities for underperforming State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and autonomous bodies reached BDT 400.12 Bn in sovereign guarantees till the last fiscal year, officials say.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/tk-400b-soe-debt-pile-fuels-fiscal-concern-1783792246

Govt earmarks BDT 4.0 Bn for 100 electric buses

- The government has taken a major step to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by deciding to introduce 100 electric buses into the public transport fleet and requiring government agencies to procure only fully electric vehicles for their transport pools.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-earmarks-tk-40b-for-100-electric-buses-1783792312

Prepare for EU trade shift

- Bangladesh’s trade relations with the European Union (EU) are set to undergo the biggest transformation in decades, but the country may not be fully prepared to seize new opportunities and tackle emerging challenges, said MA Razzaque, chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID).

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/prepare-eu-trade-shift-4221456

Global oil demand picks up despite war fears: IEA

- The International Energy Agency said Friday that ‘a recovery’ in global oil demand had started as supplies tentatively start moving through the strategic Strait of Hormuz again and prices ease.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/power-energy/305641/global-oil-demand-picks-up-despite-war-fears-iea

Sector and Industries:

BANK | BB to offer commodity price hedging for importers

- Bangladesh Bank will likely allow commercial banks’ Offshore Banking Units (OBUs) to offer commodity price hedging services to importers, enabling them to lock in prices of key imported commodities in advance and reduce the impact of sharp swings in global markets on businesses, production costs and ultimately consumers.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/305818/bb-to-offer-commodity-price-hedging-for-importers

BANK | Bangladesh Bank begins special inspection

- In a major move to curb irregularities in foreign exchange operations and stamp out illicit financial flows, Bangladesh Bank has launched a comprehensive special inspection targeting some commercial banks.

https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/305815/bangladesh-bank-begins-special-inspection

BANK | Islami Bank remains remittance leader in FY26 as Krishi, BRAC banks post strong gains

- Trouble-hit Islami Bank retained its position as Bangladesh's largest remittance-collecting bank in FY26, while state-owned specialised Krishi Bank emerged as a surprise second place-holder, followed by BRAC Bank.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/islami-bank-remains-remittance-leader-fy26-krishi-brac-banks-post-strong-gains

RMG | Jan-May apparel exports to US fall over 8%

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the United States declined more than 8% in the first five months of 2026 as weaker consumer demand weighed on imports, although a rebound in May signalled a potential recovery in export orders.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jan-may-apparel-exports-to-us-fall-over-8pc-1783791753

Stocks:

EXCHANGE | Only 10 firms make up 40% of DSE market value

- Although 360 companies are listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), just 10 account for nearly 40 percent of its total market capitalisation, showing the limited depth of the local capital market.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/only-10-firms-make-40-dse-market-value-4221486

EXCHANGE | Web portal to showcase open-ended mutual fund performance

- The securities regulator has moved to launch a web portal that will display the performance of all open-ended mutual funds (MFs) to help investors make investment decisions. BSEC chairman added that the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) would launch the web portal.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/web-portal-to-showcase-open-ended-mutual-fund-performance-1783782222

EASTRNLUB | Eastern Lubricants ties up with US-based Ergon to expand transformer oil business

- The company's share price rose 0.94% to BDT 1,889 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange on Saturday.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-lubricants-ties-us-based-ergon-expand-transformer-oil-business-1485691

DAFODILCOM | Daffodil Computers surges 308% in five months despite weak earnings, no PSI

- The company’s share price climbed from BDT41.80 on 8 February to BDT 170.60 on 9 July, marking a 308.13% gain during the period.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/daffodil-computers-surges-308-five-months-despite-weak-earnings-no-psi-1485686

AFCAGRO | DSE finds AFC Agro’s factory closed, adding to growing list of non-operational firms

- An inspection team from the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) recently visited the factory premises of AFC Agro Biotech Limited only to find its production and operations completely shut down.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-finds-afc-agros-factory-closed-adding-growing-list-non-operational-firms-1485681

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 71.41	USD 13.98	24.34%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 76.01	USD 15.16	24.91%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,119.93	(USD 221.07)	-5.09%
DSEX	5,804.06	938.73	19.29%
S&P 500	7,575.39	676.57	9.81%
FTSE 100	10,497.29	565.91	5.70%
BSE SENSEX	77,569.39	-7,224.19	-8.52%
KSE-100	182,338.70	8,284.40	4.76%
CSEALL	21,765.56	-858.75	-3.80%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 123.23 BDT

1 GBP = 165.16 BDT

1 Euro = 140.69 BDT

1 INR = 1.29 BDT

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