

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:**EUR 14.45 Mn deals signed with Germany for sustainability**

- The deals, valued at EUR 14.45 Mn, focus on transforming the textile sector, enhancing climate adaptation efforts, and advancing sustainable electric mobility, according to a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/eu1445m-deals-signed-germany-sustainability-3800306>

BIDA creates 'FDI Heatmap' prioritising 19 sectors to boost investment

- The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has created an FDI Heatmap, prioritising 19 sectors to boost foreign direct investment (FDI), which currently stands at a mere 0.3% of Gross domestic product (GDP).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-creates-fdi-heatmap-prioritising-19-sectors-boost-investment-1043876>

Govt raises savings rates to cool inflation, woo investors

- The interim government has increased interest rates on various national savings certificates to upwards of 12% in an effort to make these instruments more attractive to savers and to cool inflation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-raises-savings-rates-cool-inflation-woo-investors-3800341>

US for labour law reform to extend rights to EPZs

- The United States has called for Bangladesh to reform its labour laws to extend the rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining to export-processing zones and special economic zones.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/us-for-labour-law-reform-to-extend-rights-to-epzs-1736962019>

Sector & Industries:**FUEL & POWER | Govt rejects local energy giant's plea to revive cancelled contract**

- The Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) rejected the request of the Summit LNG II Terminal Co. Ltd. in this regard, following recommendation from the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Energy Secretary Mohammad Saiful Islam told the FE on Wednesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-rejects-local-energy-giants-plea-to-revive-cancelled-contract-1736961933>

TRADE | NBR moves to activate Bangladesh Single Window system

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has announced that certificates, licences and permits (CLP) issued manually by seven state agencies will no longer be accepted for duty assessment and customs clearance from February 1.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-moves-activate-bangladesh-single-window-system-3800321>

RMG | Textile millers urge cenbank steps to clear USD 44 Mn payment stuck in banks

- Textile millers have requested that the Bangladesh Bank take necessary steps to clear an outstanding payment of USD 44.31 Mn owed to 66 factories for matured bills of yarn and fabric supplied through various banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/textile-millers-urge-cenbank-steps-clear-44m-payment-stuck-banks-1043241>

BANK | Suppliers' credit report requirement rules relaxed

- Credit reports for foreign suppliers will not be required for imports up to USD 30,000 against proforma invoices issued directly from abroad, according to a Bangladesh Bank (BB) circular issued Wednesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/suppliers-credit-report-requirement-rules-relaxed-1736961834>

BANK | Farm credit disbursements fall 14% in July-November

- The loans disbursed came down to BDT 130.81 Bn during the July-November period of FY'25 from BDT 152.80 Bn in the same period of the previous fiscal year, according to the Bangladesh Bank's (BB) latest statistics.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/farm-credit-disbursements-fall-14pc-in-july-november-1736961777>

Stocks:**ACI | Another ACI director to buy 1.51 Mn shares**

- Shusmita Anis, director of Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI), now expressed her intention to buy 1.5 Mn shares of the company. She is now serving as a nominated director on the board of publicly listed company ACI, and holds 1.47 Mn shares of the company, according to ACI's shareholding report for December 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/another-aci-director-buy-1515-lakh-shares-1043896>

ISLAMIBANK | BB unearths fresh irregularities in Islami Bank

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has unearthed fresh loan irregularities at Islami Bank Bangladesh, even after the board of directors was restructured following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government in August last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-unearths-fresh-irregularities-islami-bank-3800326>

RAHIMTEXT | Rahim Textile sees robust profit growth of 96% in Jul-Dec

- From July to December 2024, its net profit after tax increased to BDT 4.67 Mn, up from BDT 2.34 Mn at the same time as the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rahim-textile-sees-robust-profit-growth-96-jul-dec-1043901>

SIBL | Social Islami Bank allegedly hid BDT 80 Bn in defaulted loans with central bank's help

- A secret report from Bangladesh Bank has revealed that the central bank had facilitated Social Islami Bank in concealing defaulted loans amounting to BDT 79.26 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/social-islami-bank-allegedly-hid-tk8000-crore-defaulted-loans-central-banks-help>

BSC | BSC to sell two fire-damaged ships as scrap at BDT 500 Mn

- The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) has decided to dispose of its two fire-damaged oil tankers, "Banglar Shourabh" and "Banglar Jyoti", for BDT 506 Mn, including value-added tax (VAT) and taxes.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsc-sell-two-fire-damaged-ships-scrap-tk-50cr-3800111>

EXCHANGE | Union Bank, Sea Pearl, Sonali Life downgraded to Z category

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has downgraded Union Bank, Sea Pearl Beach Resort, and Sonali Life Insurance to the Z category due to their failure to hold annual general meetings (AGMs).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/union-bank-sea-pearl-sonali-life-downgraded-z-category-1043651>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 80.32	USD 8.89	12.45%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 82.27	USD 7.88	10.59%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,696.69	USD 88.21	3.38%
DSEX	5,142.52	-73.92	-1.42%
S&P 500	5,949.91	42.97	0.73%
FTSE 100	8,301.13	180.12	2.22%
BSE SENSEX	76,724.08	-1,475.85	-1.89%
KSE-100	114,495.71	-763.29	-0.66%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.77 BDT****1 GBP = 148.92 BDT****1 Euro = 125.33 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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