

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:**Govt approves EPA signing with Japan**

- The interim government's advisory council approved the signing of an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan. Once the agreement comes into effect, Japan will allow duty-free access for 7,379 products, which are 97% of Bangladesh's export basket, including the main garment items. In return, Bangladesh will provide duty-free access to 1,039 Japanese products, largely in phases over 18 years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-approves-epa-signing-japan-4088141>

LC openings rise amid dollar stability, settlements face hurdles

- Import activity in Bangladesh showed signs of a modest recovery in 5MFY26, supported by a stable dollar market and preparations for Ramadan. According to Bangladesh Bank data, Letters of Credit (LC) openings increased by 4.5% to USD 29.69 Bn during July–November of FY26, up from USD 28.4 Bn in the same period last year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/lc-openings-rise-amid-dollar-stability-settlements-face-hurdles>

Negotiable instruments law lightened to try financial crimes

- The interim government on Thursday approved the Negotiable Instruments Act 2025, to be enacted through an ordinance. Under the revised law, metropolitan magistrates and magistrates of the first class will be empowered to hear cases related to cheque dishonour, significantly widening the number of courts able to try such offences. Cases involving amounts exceeding BDT 500,000 will fall under the jurisdiction of joint sessions judges.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/negotiable-instruments-law-lightened-to-try-financial-crimes-1769274953>

Holding tax for BSCIC factories may drop to 5% in cities, 2% elsewhere

- Holding tax for factories in BSCIC industrial estates may now be capped at a maximum of 5% within city corporation areas and 2% at the municipal and union parishad levels – a significant relief for small industries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/holding-tax-bscic-factories-may-drop-5-cities-2-elsewhere-1342111>

Govt debt jumps 28% to BDT 7.45 Tn in FY25

- The outstanding balance of government debt through the issuance of different securities, mainly treasury bills and bonds, increased further in fiscal year 2024-25, as authorities borrowed more to cover budget deficits amid sluggish revenue collection. Of the amount, outstanding debt from treasury bonds was BDT 5.19 Tn, which increased 27% year-on-year. At the same time, outstanding debt through treasury bills grew 31% to BDT 1.75 Tn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/govt-debt-jumps-28-tk-745-lakh-crore-fy25-4089511>

Cash-Based Social Safety Net Progs: Monthly allowances likely to go up

- Each allowance under the cash-based social safety-net programmes (SSNPs) may see a rise of BDT 50-100 as inflation erodes people's income every year, Ministry of Finance (MoF) officials say. The government will require some BDT 40 Bn to finance the additional money for cash-based allowances.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/cash-based-social-safety-net-progs-monthly-allowances-likely-to-go-up>

Investors in wait-and-see mode as uncertainty persists

- Business confidence in Bangladesh is at a low point as the country navigates economic challenges and political uncertainty, according to Kamran T Rahman, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). High borrowing costs, stress in the banking sector and a widening disconnect between policymakers and industry as key factors weighing on confidence.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/investors-wait-and-see-mode-uncertainty-persists-4089506>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Nov Islamic banking up on remittances, investments**

- The Islamic banking sector in Bangladesh staged a significant comeback in Nov'25, buoyed by a robust surge in inward remittances and a steady rise in Shariah-compliant investments. According to BB data, the Islamic banking system recorded a considerable 12.86% growth in investments, rising to BDT 5.89 Tn in November 2025.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nov-islamic-banking-up-on-remittances-investments-1769275527>

BANK | Affluent banks invest surplus liquidity in lower-interest state instrument

- According to the central bank statistics, the affluent banks parked BDT 261.47 Bn in the SDF in July when the regulator cut the rate. Since then, the volume had grown to BDT 267.65 Bn, BDT 365.32 Bn, BDT 669.55 Bn, BDT 404 Bn and BDT 424 Bn in August, September, October, November and December respectively.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/affluent-banks-invest-surplus-liquidity-in-lower-interest-state-instrument>

BANK | BB seeks authority to override law, waive banks' CRR penalties

- Bangladesh Bank moves to bolster its regulatory authority to waive, remit, or reduce penalties for banks' Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) shortfalls in special circumstances as the central bank oversees the largest bank-consolidation effort in nation's history.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-seeks-authority-to-override-law-waive-banks-crr-penalties>

INSURANCE | Low claims settlement rate deepens confidence crisis in insurance sector

- Bangladesh's insurance companies paid out less than half of the premiums collected in 9M'25, raising concerns over mounting unpaid claims and eroding public confidence. BDT 46 Bn collected in premiums in 9 months, but claims worth BDT 22.21 Bn settled.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/low-claims-settlement-rate-deepens-confidence-crisis-insurance-sector-1342736>

FUEL & POWER | Rooppur power project seeks BDT 255.93 Bn cost hike

- The cost of the Rooppur nuclear power plant is set to rise by BDT 255.93 Bn, pushing the total outlay to BDT 1.38 Tn and extending the completion deadline to 2028.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/rooppur-power-project-seeks-tk-25593cr-cost-hike-4089541>

TELECOMMUNICATION | Telcos get one week to submit plan on data price cut

- Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has asked all mobile network operators to submit reports within a week detailing the measures they are taking to reduce data package prices, amid growing public concern over rising mobile internet costs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/telcos-get-one-week-submit-plan-data-price-cut-4089521>

Stocks:
MTB | Mutual Trust Bank to raise BDT 3.45 Bn in Tier-1 capital

- Mutual Trust Bank PLC has announced plans to raise BDT 3.46 Bn in Tier-1 capital to strengthen its core capital base and support future growth. The proposed capital raising represents about 32% of the bank's existing paid-up capital, which currently stands at BDT 10.81 Bn. The capital may be raised through a rights offer, issuance of preference shares, bonds, or another instrument in line with regulations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mutual-trust-bank-raise-tk345cr-tier-1-capital-1342731>

WALTONHIL | Lower raw material costs boost Walton's half-year profit to BDT 3.63 Bn

- Walton Hi-Tech Industries posted a 19.34% YoY rise in profit in H1FY26, driven by lower raw material costs, a stable exchange rate, tighter control over production expenses and strong management strategies. Revenue rose by 8.48% year-on-year. However, in Q2'FY26, its EPS stood at BDT 4.27, down from BDT 4.66 in Q2'FY25.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/lower-raw-material-costs-boost-waltons-half-year-profit-tk36334cr-1341441>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank to form subsidiary for mobile financial services

- As per the decision, the authorised capital of the proposed subsidiary will be BDT 10 Bn, while the initial paid-up capital will be BDT 500 Mn. The paid-up capital will be increased gradually in line with investment requirements.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/islami-bank-form-subsidiary-mobile-financial-services-1341311>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.07	USD 3.64	6.34%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 65.88	USD 5.03	8.27%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,987.49	USD 646.49	14.89%
DSEX	5,099.61	234.27	4.82%
S&P 500	6,915.61	16.79	0.24%
FTSE 100	10,143.44	212.06	2.14%
BSE SENSEX	81,537.70	-3,255.88	-3.84%
KSE-100	189,166.83	15,112.53	8.68%
CSEALL	23,956.51	1,332.20	5.89%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.35 BDT

1 GBP = 166.90 BDT

1 Euro = 144.66 BDT

1 INR = 1.33 BDT

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