

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:**Oil price jumps to USD 117 a barrel**

- Oil prices shot higher Wednesday on concerns of an extended blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, while stocks slid as investors adopted a cautious stance ahead of a US Fed rate decision and a slew of tech firm earnings. Both main oil contracts jumped around 5% following a Wall Street Journal report that the USA was preparing for a prolonged blockade of Iranian ports.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/298326/oil-price-jumps-to-117-a-barrel>

Govt forms high-powered committee to revive NBR bifurcation

- The government has formed a high-powered committee to resume the long-pending process of bifurcating the National Board of Revenue (NBR) into two separate divisions.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-forms-high-powered-committee-to-revive-nbr-bifurcation-1777483198>

Promising export sectors to get RMG-style support: Amir Khosru

- The government will provide all promising export sectors with the same facilities currently available to the readymade garment (RMG) industry, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said at a meeting with business leaders. Bonded warehouse facilities, back-to-back arrangements, and all other relevant support will be provided, he added, citing the gold and diamond sectors as examples of industries held back by the absence of such support.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/promising-export-sectors-get-rmg-style-support-amir-khosru-4164186>

No significant tax relief but business barriers to be removed

- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud admits that the new government will not be able to offer significant tax relief to businesses in the upcoming budget for resource constraints but assures removing all business barriers. He says steps will be taken to reduce the cost of doing business by addressing barriers in ports, logistics and customs within the next three months, based on recommendations from the business community.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/no-significant-tax-relief-but-business-barriers-to-be-removed-1777483637>

BB plans special refinance fund to reopen closed factories

- Bangladesh Bank is planning to form a special refinance fund to provide low-interest loans for reopening closed industrial units, aiming to boost employment across the country. The committee will evaluate whether the fund will be financed by the government or from the central bank's own resources and will submit a comprehensive report detailing the necessary financial and policy support.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-plans-special-refinance-fund-to-reopen-closed-factories-1777484943>

Lending rates to be brought down to tolerable level: commerce minister

- Commerce Minister has told that double-digit bank lending rates will be brought down to a tolerable level to make them more investment-friendly. Industries such as textiles cannot survive with high-cost financing under the current double-digit interest rate regime, the minister said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/lending-rates-be-brought-down-tolerable-level-commerce-minister-4164161>

Investment climate in Bangladesh faces eight key barriers

- Bangladesh's investment climate is being vitiated by a mix of bureaucratic delays, policy uncertainty and rising business costs, making it harder for both local and foreign investors to expand operations and create jobs. Policy Exchange Bangladesh has identified eight major obstacles - bureaucratic complexity, restrictive regulatory framework, energy shortages, infrastructure bottlenecks, high tax pressure, weak institutional coordination and the absence of a clear investment strategy.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/investment-climate-in-bangladesh-faces-eight-key-barriers-1777484599>

BUET team suggests closing BRT project, turning corridor into high-speed route

- Experts from BUET have recommended closing the long-delayed Gazipur-Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project and converting the 20.1-kilometre corridor into a high-speed roadway instead. The recommendation came despite nearly 97% of the project work being completed after spending BDT 28.10 Bn over the past 15 years.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/buet-team-suggests-closing-brt-project-turning-corridor-into-high-speed-route-1777482929>

Deferring Bangladesh's LDC graduation: Proposal forwarded to UN body for consideration

- A proposal seeking an additional three-year transition period for Bangladesh's graduation from the category of Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), following a letter from Prime Minister, has been forwarded to the UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP) for consideration.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/deferring-bangladeshs-ldc-graduation-proposal-forwarded-to-un-body-for-consideration>

Sector and Industries:**AVIATION | Biman signs USD 3.7 Bn Boeing deal today for 14 aircraft**

- Bangladesh's flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines is poised to sign a USD 3.7 Bn agreement with US aerospace giant Boeing to purchase 14 aircraft, which includes a mix of long-haul and short-haul aircraft - eight Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner, two Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and four Boeing 737-8 MAX jets.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/biman-signs-37b-boeing-deal-today-for-14-aircraft-1777483798>

INSURANCE | Insurance coverage slumps 40% despite BDT 9.25 Bn project

- The country's insured population has fallen sharply despite a costly reform initiative, with the number of policyholders dropping by around 40% during the implementation of a BDT 9.25 Bn development project, which aimed to raise total insured people to 20 Mn within four years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/insurance-coverage-slumps-40-despite-tk925cr-project-1425506>

BANK | Banks asked to not open LCs for supplement imports without DGDA approval

- Bangladesh Bank has instructed all scheduled banks not to open letters of credit or process telegraphic transfers for the import of dietary and related supplements without prior approval from the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA).

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/298327/banks-asked-to-not-open-lcs-for-supplement-imports-without-dgda-approval>

Stocks:

WALTON | Walton Hi-Tech profit falls 28% on higher VAT

- Walton Hi-Tech Industries posted a sharp 28% year-on-year decline in profit to BDT 2.80 Bn in Q3 FY26, as higher value-added tax (VAT) on key products squeezed sales and margins.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/walton-hi-tech-profit-falls-28%-on-higher-vat-1777481944>

MARICO | Marico posts strong annual profit growth on robust sales

- Despite a turbulent economic environment, Marico Bangladesh has delivered record financial performance for the year ending March this year, supported by strong brand equity, product innovation and disciplined cost management. The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company's net profit rose 10% to BDT 6.49 Bn, while revenue jumped 27% to BDT 20.71 Bn for the year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/marico-posts-strong-annual-profit-growth-on-robust-sales-1777481910>

SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma's Q3 profit dips on higher tax burden

- The country's largest drug manufacturer posted an 8% year-on-year increase in revenue in the quarter, while profit edged down 1.32 % to BDT 5.97 Bn in Q3FY26.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/square-pharmas-q3-profit-dips-on-higher-tax-burden-1777482027>

POWERGRID, TITASGAS | Energy utilities post mixed Q3 results: Power Grid returns to profit, Titas in the red

- Power Grid reported a profit of BDT 0.94 Bn in Q3FY26, marking a turnaround from a loss of BDT 1.86 Bn in the same quarter last year, mainly supported by non-operating income.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/energy-utilities-post-mixed-q3-results-power-grid-returns-to-profit-titas-in-the-red-1777482152>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 108.96	USD 51.53	89.73%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 122.63	USD 61.78	101.53%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,560.32	USD 219.32	5.05%
DSEX	5,317.36	452.03	9.29%
S&P 500	7,135.95	237.13	3.44%
FTSE 100	10,213.11	281.73	2.84%
BSE SENSEX	77,496.36	-7,297.22	-8.61%
KSE-100	165,823.88	-8,230.42	-4.73%
CSEALL	22,635.00	10.69	0.05%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.80 BDT****1 GBP = 165.48 BDT****1 Euro = 143.26 BDT****1 INR = 1.29 BDT**

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

Analyst Certification: Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

Disclaimer: Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

Compensation of Analysts: The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

General Risk Factors: BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed, CFA	Research Analyst	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Analyst	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (88)-02-222282446-47

Fax: + (88)-02-222282452

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com