

*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:****Top Turkish firm plans to invest in Bangladesh**

- Top Turkish business group Koc Holdings has planned to set up a component manufacturing plant in Bangladesh to export components to its factories all over the world, according to its company officials. Fatih said the company has set up a home appliance manufacturing plant at Araihasar in Narayanganj after acquiring Singer Bangladesh Limited several years ago, said a press release from the CA's Press Wing.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/top-turkish-firm-plans-invest-bangladesh-1056801>

**Shifting poverty map a wake-up call for policymakers**

- According to a report based on the Poverty Map 2022, things have turned around for Rangpur where the poverty rate dropped from 47.23% in 2016 to 25% in 2022. In contrast, Barishal's poverty rate slightly increased from 26.49% to 26.6%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/editorial/news/shifting-poverty-map-wake-call-policymakers-3812916>

**Safety net schemes fall short in the fight against poverty**

- Social safety net programmes, such as Open Market Sales (OMS) and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), provided less help to the actual poor, according to a taskforce report. Using the 2022 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), the report estimated that social protection programmes contributed to reducing extreme poverty by only 0.6 percentage points and moderate poverty by 0.8 percentage points between 2010 and 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/safety-net-schemes-fall-short-the-fight-against-poverty-3813871>

**Debt-to-revenue ratio rises - Can Bangladesh manage the pressure?**

- The debt-to-revenue ratio surged to 16.53% in FY24, up from just 12% a year ago, as the government turned to foreign loans without adequately assessing expected returns. ERD data shows the government's foreign debt stock increased by nearly USD 6.5 Bn, reaching USD 69 Bn in FY24. In 2027 and 2028, principal repayments will exceed USD 3 Bn each year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/debt-revenue-ratio-rises-can-bangladesh-manage-pressure-1058296>

**Task force favours infrastructure bonds, warns of risks from G2G loans from India, China**

- The report highlights the fact that while G2G loans offer relatively low interest rates and extended grace periods, they are increasingly influenced by shifting geopolitical dynamics, which may complicate long-term infrastructure development plans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/geopolitical-influence-over-gtog-loans-poses-risks-bangladesh>

**Top 10 corporate entities' contributions fall 1.25%**

- Collection of value-added tax (VAT) from the top 10 corporate taxpayers declined by BDT 4.0 Bn or 1.25% in the first half (H1) of the current fiscal year (FY 2024-25) from the same period of last FY. Latest data from the Large Taxpayers Unit (LTU) of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) suggests sectors such as cigarettes, cement, gas, hotels, pharmaceuticals, and soap had less contributions to the tax collected during the period.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/top-10-corporate-entities-contributions-fall-125pc>

**Sector & Industries:****BANK | BB committee to suggest remedy for distressed borrowers**

- The Bangladesh Bank has formed a five-member committee to provide necessary policy support for restructuring corporate borrowers that have defaulted on loans due to factors beyond their control.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-committee-suggest-remedy-distressed-borrowers-3812546>

**TECHNOLOGY | Feature phones dominate local handset production**

- Feature phones last year accounted for 69% of the total handsets produced by local manufacturers, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). In 2024, local phone-makers produced 27.2 Mn handsets, with 18.8 Mn being feature phones.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/feature-phones-dominate-local-handset-production-3813846>

**TEXTILE | Yarn imports rise, India dominates supply**

- Bangladesh imported more yarn in 2024 than in the previous year, with the lion's share of the key raw material for readymade garments (RMG) coming from India. Last year, Bangladesh imported BDT 1.215 Mn tonnes of yarn—mainly cotton yarn—up 31.45% from 0.924 Mn tonnes in 2023, according to the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/yarn-imports-rise-india-dominates-supply-3812556>

**BANK | Islamic banks see fluctuations in deposits**

- Islamic banking deposits, which peaked at BDT 4,404.3 Bn in June 2024, have declined in subsequent months, reaching BDT 4,329.4 Bn in October -- a 0.31% drop from September.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/islamic-banks-see-fluctuations-deposits-3813706>

**FUEL & POWER | Power outages feared in oncoming summer**

- The financial situation of BPDB has only worsened since then with its payment backlog to different clients rising to around BDT 400 Bn until November 2024. The power board currently owes around BDT 160 Bn to different power producers, of which BDT 100 Bn is payable to furnace oil-fired plants alone and BDT 60 Bn to other plant owners.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/power-outages-feared-in-oncoming-summer-1738429366>

**HOSPITALITY | Luxury hotels face declining profits in Oct-Dec despite peak season**

- Two luxury hotels, Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Peninsula Chittagong, reported losses, while Best Holdings saw a sharp decline in profits. Unique Hotel, however, managed to remain profitable despite the challenging conditions. Hotel operators noted that the sluggish business began with the fiscal year, fueled by student protests and an unstable economy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/luxury-hotels-face-declining-profits-oct-dec-despite-peak-season-1056991>

**CONSTRUCTION | Escalating costs eat into top-listed steel, cement makers' profits**

- Factors such as increased raw material prices, energy expenses, higher taxes, and sluggish demand have contributed to the financial strain, impacting their bottom line in the October-December quarter of the current fiscal year, according to industry insiders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/escalating-costs-eat-top-listed-steel-cement-makers-profits-1058206>

**Stocks:****SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma's profit rises 26% in 2nd quarter**

- Its revenue grew by 13% year-on-year to BDT 19.97 Bn during the quarter. Meanwhile, the company's investment income surged by 51%, or BDT 0.54 Bn, to BDT 1.59 Bn, according to the company's financial report.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/square-pharmas-profit-rises-26-2nd-quarter-3813856>

**MJLBD | MJL eyes 75% stakes in Omera**

- In a post on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website, MJL said its board of directors had approved a plan to buy 27.7 Mn shares of OPL from the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank FMO at BDT 21.80 per share.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mjl-eyes-75-stakes-omera-3812541>

**ENVOYTEX, MATINSPINN | Envoy Textiles, Matin Spinning beat the odds to secure profit growth**

- Envoy Textiles registered sales growth of 30% year-on-year in the July-December period of the current fiscal, driving its profits up 134% compared to its value the previous year. Similarly, sales of Matin Spinning grew about 17% year-on-year to BDT 4.45 Bn, with the company's bottom line more than tripling to BDT 0.25 Bn in the July-December period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/envoy-textiles-matin-spinning-beat-the-odds-secure-profit-growth-3812531>

**OLYMPIC | Olympic Industries reports slight growth in Q2 profit**

- The company reported a net profit of BDT 598.9 Mn in Q2, marking a marginal 1% year-on-year growth, according to the company's financial statement. Its revenue for the first six months of the fiscal year stood at BDT 14.90 Bn, reflecting a 15.89% increase from the same period a year ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/olympic-industries-reports-slight-growth-q2-profit-3813566>

**SAPORTL | Summit Alliance Port revenue jumps 355% in H1**

- According to the company's unaudited financial statement, Summit Alliance Port recorded consolidated revenue of BDT 4.46 Bn, marking a significant increase from BDT 0.97 Bn in the same time previous year. The subsidiary firm Container Transportation Services contributed 74% to Summit Alliance Port revenue, where its solo revenue was BDT 1.05 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/summit-alliance-port-revenue-jumps-355-h1-1058246>

**ACI | ACI's revenue rises in Q2**

- The company's revenue rose 13% to BDT 36.48 Bn in October-December period of FY25, according to its financial statements.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/acis-revenue-rises-q2-3813551>

**DOREENPWR | Doreen Power's Q2 profit drops 48%**

- The company's consolidated earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 0.53 for October-December 2024, down from BDT 1.03 in the same period a year ago, according to its financial statements. Doreen Power attributed the decline to a significant rise in finance costs for its subsidiary companies due to higher interest rates on bank loans.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/doreen-powers-q2-profit-drops-48-3813556>

**PREMIERCEM | Premier Cement's profit drops 89% in Q2**

- Premier Cement Mills PLC reported a profit of BDT 24.2 Mn in the second quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25, marking an 89% year-on-year decline. The leading cement maker reported consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 0.23 for October-December 2024, down from BDT 2.09 a year earlier, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/premier-cements-profit-drops-89-q2-3812506>

**BPML | BDT 1.01 Bn loss in H1: What pushes Bashundhara Paper into the red?**

- In the first half of the current fiscal year (July to December), its production costs increased by around 8% due to rising gas and electricity prices, while finance costs for loans surged by 108% to BDT 1.56 Bn. In the first half of FY25, its revenue declined to BDT 4.10 Bn, and it incurred a loss of BDT 1.01 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tk101cr-loss-h1-what-pushes-bashundhara-paper-red-1058196>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.53	USD 1.10	1.54%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.67	USD 1.28	1.72%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,798.41	USD 189.93	7.28%
DSEX	5,112.90	-103.55	-1.99%
S&P 500	6,040.53	133.59	2.26%
FTSE 100	8,673.96	552.95	6.81%
BSE SENSEX	77,505.96	-693.97	-0.89%
KSE-100	114,255.73	-1,003.27	-0.87%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.74 BDT****1 GBP = 150.95 BDT****1 Euro = 126.15 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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