

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:**Bangladesh's exports rise in November, imports decline**

- Bangladesh's merchandise exports grew 15.63% year-on-year in November, primarily driven by an increase in shipments of ready-made garments, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/export-earnings-grow-15-november-1009926>

Govt aims to bring down inflation to 4-5%

- The government plans to reduce inflation to 4-5%, Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Ahsan H Mansur said yesterday. He said that the interim government aims to bring inflation down to 7% by next June. We will reduce it to 5% by the next fiscal year 2025-26. The main goal is to bring inflation down to 4-5%. I hope it is possible," he said

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-aims-bring-down-inflation-4-5-3768431>

IMF raises Bangladesh's revenue growth target

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set Bangladesh's revenue growth target for the current fiscal to an amount that is 27% higher than what was collected last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-raises-bangladeshs-revenue-growth-target-27-1010441>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Cenbank relaxes loan classification, provisioning rules for CMSMEs**

- The Bangladesh Bank has relaxed the rules of loan classification and provisioning for the Cottage, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CMSME) sector to create more employment opportunities through increasing investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-relaxes-loan-classification-provisioning-rules-csme-1010286>

BANK | Russia to get Rooppur loan payments via Sonali Bank account

- Under the agreement, a foreign currency account will be opened in the name of the Russian government at Bangladesh's state-owned Sonali Bank's Local Branch in Dhaka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/russia-get-rooppur-loan-payments-sonali-bank-account-1010526>

FUEL & POWER | Bangladesh's new LNG purchase policy draws Shell, BP, Glencore and Aramco

- Shell, BP, Aramco and Glencore are among nearly two dozen firms Bangladesh has approved as suppliers of spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) as it seeks to boost competition and cut costs, the country's top energy official told Reuters.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-new-lng-purchase-policy-draws-shell-bp-glencore-and-aramco-3768226>

BANK | Banks asked to provide loan info of Thermax Group

- The Bangladesh Bank has asked lenders in the country to provide detailed information on all the loans and liabilities of companies operated by Thermax Group.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-asked-provide-loan-info-thermax-group-3768426>

ENGINEERING | No respite for steelmakers as sales depressed since July

- The price of mild steel (MS) rods has continued to fall due to low demand for construction materials, especially as public consumption has declined to virtually zero since the political changeover on August 5.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-respite-steelmakers-sales-depressed-july-3768681>

FUEL & POWER | Diesel supply disrupted in eight northern districts

- Diesel supply in eight districts of Rangpur has been hampered due to the refusal of loco masters to work overtime and non-arrival of a scheduled consignment through the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline from across the border.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/diesel-supply-disrupted-eight-northern-districts-3768641>

Stocks:

SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma's export up 22% in FY24, as it diversifies markets, products

- The country's largest drug manufacturer's export revenue stood at BDT 2.39 Bn in FY24, up from BDT 1.96 Bn the year before, according to its annual report published recently.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/square-pharmas-export-up-22pc-in-fy24-as-it-diversifies-markets-products>

BANGAS | Bangas sees Q1 profit surge by 16%

- Bangas Ltd, a leading biscuit maker in Bangladesh, reported profit and revenue growth in the first quarter of its current financial year. The company's profit grew 16% year-on-year to BDT 0.56 Mn in Q1.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangas-sees-q1-profit-surge-16-3768051>

SICL | Sikder Insurance proposes to invest BDT 60.8 Mn in govt treasury bonds

- After failing to meet the deadline for fully utilising its initial public offering (IPO) funds, Sikder Insurance Company has revised its fund utilisation plan, opting to invest BDT 60.8 Mn in government treasury bonds instead of purchasing floor space.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sikder-insurance-proposes-invest-tk608cr-govt-treasury-bonds-1010426>

DUTCHBANGL | Dutch-Bangla Bank's services to remain suspended temporarily

- Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC has received approval to temporarily suspend certain banking services to facilitate a seamless migration to a new core banking software system.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dutch-bangla-banks-services-remain-suspended-temporarily-3768386>

ACTIVEFINE | BSEC forms body to look into Active Fine's irregularities

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has formed a three-member committee to investigate alleged financial irregularities at Active Fine Chemicals Ltd, a publicly listed supplier of bulk drug materials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-forms-body-look-active-fines-irregularities-1010471>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 68.59	(USD 3.06)	-4.27%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 72.36	(USD 4.68)	-6.07%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,646.31	USD 583.33	28.28%
DSEX	5,238.37	-1,008.12	-16.14%
S&P 500	6,086.50	1,316.67	27.60%
FTSE 100	8,335.81	602.57	7.79%
BSE SENSEX	80,937.79	8,697.53	12.04%
KSE-100	105,104.34	42,724.93	68.49%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.56 BDT****1 GBP = 151.87 BDT****1 Euro = 125.75 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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