Important News Snippets

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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:

Project preparation delays cost country a huge sum

- World Bank's loan confirmation without project preparation creates a hiatus making Bangladesh pay interest and other fees before fund utilisation begins, officials say about the financial waste. The mismatch has caused a financial gap of about USD 1.5 Bn between the active loans and the WB's total portfolio in Bangladesh, sources said Saturday. The Bank is currently financing USD 13.37 Bn funds for 48 active projects in Bangladesh, ERD data show.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/project-preparation-delays-cost-country-a-huge-sum-1762625146

Bangladesh to pay USD 1.6 Bn ACU bill this week, reserves likely to dip below $26b

- Bangladesh is set to pay a USD 1.6 Bn import bill to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) this week, which could reduce the country's foreign exchange reserves below USD 26 Bn, a senior official of Bangladesh Bank said. Reserves were USD 27.37 Bn on 27 October. Bangladesh last paid an ACU import bill of USD1.96 Bn in July 2022 for the May-June period.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-pay-16b-acu-bill-week-reserves-likely-dip-below-26b-1280431

Exchange rate adjustment pushes Rooppur plant cost up by BDT 133.86 Bn

- The project's timeline has also been extended to June 2028, up from the original December 2025 completion date, following cost increases and project delays, according to planning commission sources. The depreciation of taka against the US dollar has pushed the Rooppur Nuclear Power Project's cost up by BDT 133.86 Bn (11.84%), raising the total to BDT 1. 26 Tn, the first revised proposal shows. The initial 2016 proposal had an estimated cost of BDT 1.13 Tn.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/exchange-rate-adjustment-pushes-rooppur-plant-cost-tk13386cr-1279201

Sector & Industries:

BANK | Experts push for discounted shares for general investors

- As the central bank moves forward with the merger of five troubled Islamic banks, general shareholders of these listed banks should either be offered shares of the merged entity or allowed to subscribe to its shares at a discounted price. This view has been voiced by market experts as well as officials of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), amid growing criticism over the central bank's stance of excluding general investors from any benefits in the new entity.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/experts-push-for-discounted-shares-for-general-investors-1762623575

INSURANCE | Malfunctioning insurance cos now up for merger or liquidation

- Sources say the insurance regulator has finalised the Insurer Resolution Ordinance 2025, paving the way for sweeping insurance reforms the way the banking-sector problems are being fixed. The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA), which oversees 82 life and non-life insurance companies, has finalized the draft law in consultation with industry stakeholders. Once enacted, the law will empower the authority to appoint administrators in troubled insurers, dissolve their boards, and transfer viable portfolios to newly created bridge entities.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/malfunctioning-insurance-cos-now-up-for-merger-or-liquidation-1762624701

TELECOMUNICATION | Proposed Telecom Licensing Policy: Stakeholders fear foreign dominance, rise in internet prices

▪ "Domestic entrepreneurs have created nearly one million jobs and ensured affordable internet services across the country, even in remote areas," President of the Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) Mohammad Aminul Hakim stated. "If the new policy protects only foreign operators' interests, internet prices will rise by at least 20%, and marginal communities will be deprived of access." He further declared that local entrepreneurs would not hesitate to take legal action if the policy is finalised with provisions that endanger their existence.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/proposed-telecom-licensing-policy-stakeholders-fear-foreign-dominance-rise-in-internet-prices

TELECOMUNICATION | Govt, telcos consider settling long-drawn audit row thru arbitration

▪ BTRC claimed over BDT 140 Bn from GP, Robi, and Banglalink, citing unpaid dues, fees, and revenue shares. Bangladesh's top mobile operators — led by Grameenphone — have formally asked the telecom regulator to settle their long-running audit disputes through expert-led arbitration, signaling a potential breakthrough in one of the country's most protracted corporate-regulatory standoffs. For the first time, both the government and the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) appear receptive to the idea.

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-telcos-consider-settling-long-drawn-audit-row-thru-arbitration-1280586

BANK | Bangladesh plans to introduce open banking system for faster financial solutions

▪ Bangladesh is set to introduce an open banking system, mirroring practices in technologically advanced countries, which promises greater transparency and innovation in the financial sector. Explaining the system, a senior official said a customer holding an account with one bank could receive services from another bank, based on their performance history, through a third-party fintech. The system will let customers, with their consent, share financial data with third-party fintechs or apps, providing a single platform to access loans, bill payments, spending analysis, and investment information.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-plans-introduce-open-banking-system-faster-financial-solutions-1280561

MFS, BANK | BB unveils draft rules to open mobile money to non-bank players

▪ The Bangladesh Bank has unveiled draft rules allowing non-bank local and foreign companies to obtain licences to operate as Payment Service Providers (PSPs) or Mobile Financial Service (MFS) providers. Existing MFS and PSP operators – whether bank-led or otherwise – must apply for new licences within six months of the regulations taking effect to comply with the updated framework.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-unveils-draft-rules-open-digital-payments-non-bank-players-1279741

BANK | Japan Remit Finance, DBL Group apply to BB to set up digital bank

▪ Japan Remit Finance Co Ltd (JRF) of Japan and DBL Group of Bangladesh have jointly applied to Bangladesh Bank for a digital banking licence to operate as Japan Bangla Digital Bank PLC. The proposed Japan Bangla Digital Bank (JBD Bank) received initial approval from the central bank in 2023 and has since been awaiting a letter of intent (LOI), reads a press release. According to the press release, the bank aims to provide inclusive, technology-driven financial services, particularly targeting underserved and unbanked segments of the population.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/japan-remit-finance-dbl-group-apply-bb-set-digital-bank-1280461

BANK | BB puts ball in govt's court over compensation amid merger protests

- The Bangladesh Bank has affirmed that it currently has no scope to protect the interests of general investors and shareholders who may face potential losses following the planned merger of five financially distressed banks, stating that the government may consider the issue of compensation. According to the press release, under the Bank Resolution Ordinance, if the value of an investment is wiped out during resolution and a shareholder faces greater losses than what would have occurred in liquidation, the shareholder may be entitled to compensation equivalent to the excess loss.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bb-puts-ball-govts-court-over-compensation-amid-merger-protests-1279216

LEATHER | Savar leather industrial park to come under Bepza control

- A Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) study found that leather and footwear manufacturers often avoid sourcing raw materials from local companies due to the absence of a functional CETP at the Savar estate. As a result, Bangladesh is unable to fully utilise its export potential while spending large amounts of foreign currency to import raw materials. A high-level committee is working on a roadmap to transfer the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate from the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) to the control of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza).

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/savar-leather-industrial-park-come-under-bepza-control-1279046

FUEL & POWER | BRAC Bank, Idcol finance USD 67 Mn solar project

- BRAC Bank PLC and Infrastructure Development Company Limited (Idcol) have jointly financed a 64.55 megawatt (MW) solar power plant in Pabna, operated by Bangladesh China Renewable Energy Company Limited (BCRECL). The plant, among the largest in the country, has already begun supplying electricity to the national grid, marking a significant step in Bangladesh's transition toward sustainable growth.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/brac-bank-idcol-finance-67-million-solar-project-4029886

RMG | RMG Sustainability Council can now oversee labour issues too

- The RMG Sustainability Council (RSC) – the largest alliance monitoring factory safety in Bangladesh's garment sector and formerly known as Accord – has expanded its mandate to include the investigation of labour rights violations alongside safety issues. Under the new directive, the RSC will now be able to investigate not only electrical, fire, and structural safety matters but also unfair labour practices, set deadlines for corrective measures, and notify global buyers of non-compliance – potentially leading to the cancellation of purchase orders.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-sustainability-council-can-now-oversee-labour-issues-too-1280446

BANK | Internet banking transactions surge 47.5% in Aug

- Internet banking transactions in Bangladesh posted a robust growth of about 47.5% year-on-year in August 2025, reaching BDT 1.12 trillion from BDT 759.39 Bn in the same month of 2024, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bank (BB). Although the August figure was slightly lower than BDT 1.13 trillion recorded in July, the growth shows a continued momentum in the country's digital banking landscape.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/internet-banking-transactions-surge-475pc-in-aug-1762625410

ICT | New ICT projects look foredoomed like forerunners

- Three new ICT-sector development projects involving BDT 46.33 Bn have been proposed all of which are lookalikes of previous ones allegedly doomed to failure in set goals for corruption, misuse of public funds. Officials at the Planning Commission hold such view about the projects designed by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division with an avowed objective of ensuring advances of the worldwide fastest-growing sector of knowledge economy.

https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-ict-projects-look-foredoomed-like-forerunners-1762624778

Stocks:

BEXIMCO | Beximco Group faces auction of mortgaged assets over BDT 4.09 Bn loan default

- The move comes under the Money Loan Court Act 2003, which allows banks to sell mortgaged properties before filing a case in court. Exim Bank has announced the auction of mortgaged assets owned by Beximco Group affiliates, as part of its efforts to recover defaulted loans amounting to BDT 4.09 Bn.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/beximco-group-faces-auction-mortgaged-assets-over-tk409cr-loan-default-1280511

WATACHEM | Wata Chemicals trims dividend despite profit growth in FY25

- The company's revenue stood at BDT 813.4 Mn, up 14% from BDT 713.3 Mn in the previous fiscal year. Its net profit rose 12% year-on-year to BDT11 Mn from BDT 9.8 Mn in FY24, driven by higher sales and operational efficiency. Wata Chemicals Limited, a listed chemical manufacturer, has declared a 10% cash dividend for the 2024-25 fiscal year, trimming its payout from 12% in the previous year.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/wata-chemicals-trims-dividend-despite-profit-growth-fy25-1280531

SAPORTL| Summit Alliance Port declares 18% cash dividend

- Summit Alliance Port Limited (SAPL) has declared an 18% cash dividend for shareholders for the fiscal year 2024–25, compared to a 15% cash dividend in the previous year. According to the declaration, the company's consolidated earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 2.85, up from BDT 1.75 in the same period last year.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/summit-alliance-port-declares-18-cash-dividend-1280451

NTLTUBES| National Tubes declares 1% cash dividend for FY25

- National Tubes Limited, a state-owned listed company under the Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC), has declared a 1% cash dividend for the fiscal year 2024-25, significantly lower than the 4% dividend distributed in the previous fiscal year. For FY25, the company reported earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 1.72, reflecting a 14% decline from the previous fiscal year.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/national-tubes-declares-1-cash-dividend-fy25-1280526

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Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 59.75	(USD 11.68)	-16.35%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 63.63	(USD 10.76)	-14.46%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,001.26	USD 1,392.78	53.39%
DSEX	4,967.94	-248.50	-4.76%
S&P 500	6,728.80	821.86	13.91%
FTSE 100	9,682.57	1,561.56	19.23%
BSE SENSEX	83,216.28	5,016.35	6.41%
KSE-100	159,592.90	44,333.90	38.46%
CSEALL	23,338.25	7,393.64	46.37%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.12 BDT

1 GBP = 160.64 BDT

1 Euro = 141.28 BDT

1 INR = 1.38 BDT

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