

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:**NBR to bring 4 Mn entities under VAT net in two years**

- NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan says the current 644,000 VAT-registered entities do not reflect the true scale of Bangladesh's business sector. "In the future, no one will be able to operate a business without VAT registration," he said at a press briefing on Tuesday. This is part of its efforts to expand the VAT net and ensure greater compliance across the country.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbr-to-bring-4m-entities-under-vat-net-in-two-years-1765300361>

Railway to slash fund demand by 34.7% in RADP

- The Bangladesh Railway (BR) is set to place a 34.70% lower demand in the revised FY26 annual development programme (RADP) to implement 32 projects as it is unable to complete some schemes on schedule. It says BDT 49.24 Bn will be required in the next six months against BDT 75.41 Bn allotted in the ADP. Of the total, the government's share is likely to be reduced from BDT 40.14 Bn to BDT 23.76 Bn, and project aid from BDT 35.27 Bn to BDT 25.47 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/railway-to-slash-fund-demand-by-347pc-in-radp-1765301005>

Bangladesh's debt repayments jump 617%, fastest in South Asia

- The World Bank's International Debt Report 2025 shows South Asia's foreign debt repayments hit USD 95 Bn in 2024 (up 253% from 15 years ago), with Bangladesh seeing the fastest regional growth at a 617% jump to USD 7.3 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladeshs-debt-repayments-jump-617-fastest-s-asia-4054581>

Govt issues gazette on RPO (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2025

- The government yesterday (8 December) published the Representation of the People Order (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, introducing extensive reforms to the country's electoral framework. The new ordinance focuses on regulating postal ballots, streamlining vote counting, and strengthening the enforcement and adjudication powers of election officials. It also enhances the judicial authority and accountability of specific polling officers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-issues-gazette-rpo-second-amendment-ordinance-2025-1305326>

Sector & Industries:**BANK, NBFI | Govt on bank borrowing spree for bailout funds**

- The government is significantly increasing its bank borrowing through special auctions of treasury bonds and bills to fund the financial sector cleanup, specifically for merging five Islamic banks into Sammilito Islami Bank and liquidating nine troubled NBFIs. This increased borrowing is driven by lower-than-expected revenue and is drawing warnings from economists about potential strain on the money market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-on-bank-borrowing-spreed-for-bailout-funds-1765300024>

BANK | BB buys USD 202 Mn at BDT 122.29 per dollar

- The central bank purchased over USD 2.50 Bn from banks in nearly last five months aiming to encourage both exporters and remitters through keeping the dollar-taka rate stable. As part of the ongoing intervention, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) bought USD 202 Mn more through auction from 13 commercial banks on the interbank spot market on Tuesday on the same ground.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-buys-202m-at-tk-12229-per-dollar-1765300399>

BANK | Banks with capital or provision shortfall can't pay incentive bonuses: BB

- Bangladesh Bank has directed that no commercial bank with a capital shortfall or provision shortfall can pay incentive or performance bonuses to its employees. Previously, banks could distribute such bonuses even if they had deficits.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-capital-or-provision-shortfall-cant-pay-incentive-bonuses-bb-1305796>

FOOD & ALLIED | State-run sugar mills face crisis as BSFIC fails to secure funds for farmers

- The financial stability of eight state-run sugar mills is under threat as the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) struggles to secure adequate funds to pay sugarcane farmers in the ongoing 2025-26 crushing season. Despite having a staggering outstanding claim of BDT 80.80 Bn against the government for trade gaps and subsidies, the corporation is short of a BDT 3.30 Bn required to settle farmers' dues.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/state-run-sugar-mills-face-crisis-as-bsfic-fails-to-secure-funds-for-farmers-1765297023>

PHARMACEUTICALS | Bangladesh's vaccine export dreams on hold over WHO certification

- Bangladesh's goal to become a major vaccine exporter is stalled because the DGDA failed to secure the WHO's ML-3 certification, a mandatory requirement for large-scale global exports. This decade-long delay, due to gaps in capacity and regulation, is costing the country potential export revenue and creating challenges before its 2026 LDC graduation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-vaccine-export-dreams-hold-over-who-certification-1304981>

ENERGY & POWER | Govt approves 12 solar power projects worth BDT 398.62 Bn

- Key projects include a 200 MW solar plant in Fatikchhari, Chattogram, awarded to Confidence Power Holdings at a tariff of BDT 9.45 per kilowatt-hour, and a 150 MW project in Pabna given to a joint venture of Paramount Textile PLC and Paramount Holdings at BDT 9.62 per kilowatt-hour.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-approves-12-solar-power-projects-worth-tk-39862cr-4054591>

Stocks:**AAMRANET | Why Aamra Networks is under BSEC scanner**

- On 20 May 2024, the company received BDT 930 Mn from its Right Share Issue, which was allocated for loan repayment, network system upgradation, and network coverage expansion. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has once again ordered an investigation into the utilisation of funds raised by Aamra Networks Limited.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/why-aamra-networks-under-bsec-scanner-1305931>

MIDLANDBNK | Three investors fined BDT 45.1 Mn for manipulating Midland Bank shares

- Quest Asia Overseas, an international recruiting agency, received the largest penalty of BDT 370 Mn, while Anichul and Nahar were fined BDT 8 Mn and BDT 10 Mn, respectively.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/three-investors-fined-tk451cr-manipulating-midland-bank-shares-1305886>

EXCHANGE | 5-yr bond yield rises

- The yield on five-year treasury bonds edged up on Tuesday, signalling higher government borrowing from the banking system in the coming months to help finance the budget deficit, officials said. The cut-off yield, commonly referred to as interest rate, on Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs) rose to 10.84%, up from 10.79% at the previous auction, according to official results. Despite the increase in yields, the government raised BDT 30 Bn on the day through the issuance of BGTBs to partially meet its budgetary shortfall.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/5-yr-bond-yield-rises-1765300647>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 58.40	(USD 13.03)	-18.24%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 62.09	(USD 12.30)	-16.53%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,216.06	USD 1,607.58	61.63%
DSEX	4,962.90	-253.54	-4.86%
S&P 500	6,840.52	933.58	15.80%
FTSE 100	9,642.01	1,521.00	18.73%
BSE SENSEX	84,666.28	6,466.35	8.27%
KSE-100	169,456.39	54,197.39	47.02%
CSEALL	22,034.32	6,089.71	38.19%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.29 BDT

1 GBP = 162.65 BDT

1 Euro = 142.19 BDT

1 INR = 1.36 BDT

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