

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:**Taskforce readies strategies to fix economic fault lines**

- The planning ministry's task force for sustainable development has drafted a report with proposals to fix the economic fault lines identified by the white paper on the country's economic state and achieve moderate economic growth.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/taskforce-readies-strategies-fix-economic-fault-lines-3778866>

Debapriya reappointed to Committee for Development Policy

- Debapriya Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and convenor of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs Bangladesh, has been reappointed to the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) for a three-year term with effect from January 1 next year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/debapriya-reappointed-committee-development-policy-3778871>

Current account maintaining virtual balance after 4-month of new govt: Cenbank governor

- The current account, a key component of the country's balance of payments, is maintaining a virtual balance after four months of the new government led by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur has said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/current-account-maintaining-virtual-balance-after-4-month-new-govt-cenbank-governor-1020931>

Businesses worry as 20% tax on foreign loan interest to be back

- Businesses with foreign loans face an additional burden of around BDT15 Bn annually as their 20% tax exemption on interest payments expires this month, increasing their business costs and diminishing their competitiveness.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businesses-worry-20-tax-foreign-loan-interest-be-back-1021326>

IMF loan release may face NPL, capacity payment roadblocks

- Disbursement of a USD 1 Bn aggregated tranche from the IMF lending package principally faces NPL roadblocks as its reform-reappraisal mission indicates fund holdback unless banks' bad-loan buildups cut as per terms, sources said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/imf-loan-release-may-face-npl-capacity-payment-roadblocks-1734456525>

Our corruption trap

- The White Paper on the State of the Bangladesh Economy provides illustrations of various manifestations of corruption gleaned from various quantitative and qualitative assessments, especially in banking, energy, physical infrastructure and Information and Communication Technology sectors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/our-corruption-trap-1021076>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Bangladeshi card spending falls in India, rises in Thailand, Singapore**

- Credit card spending by Bangladeshi citizens in India has plummeted in recent months while it is rising in Thailand and Singapore, according to central bank data. This trend, according to industry people, is linked to India's limited visa issuance, which has reduced the number of Bangladeshi patients and tourists visiting the neighbouring country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshi-card-spending-falls-india-rises-thailand-singapore-3778881>

FUEL & POWER | BDT 8.1 Bn to be invested in 3 gas projects

- The government will invest BDT 8.1 Bn in three gas projects over the next two years. They include procuring and installing a 60-MMSCFD processing plant for Bhola North Gas Field, drilling the Rashidpur-11 exploration well in Habiganj, and running a 2D seismic survey on exploration blocks 7 and 9 in 78 upazilas of 17 districts to reduce pressure on the supply of gas and fuels.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tk-81b-to-be-invested-in-3-gas-projects-1734456658>

BANK | Six private banks see bad loans nearly triple in a year

- Defaulted loans at six private commercial banks nearly tripled in one year till September 2024, according to central bank data, which bankers term "alarming". They held BDT 805.73 Bn in September this year, over 171% more than BDT 296.45 Bn in September 2023.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/six-private-banks-see-bad-loans-nearly-triple-year-3778876>

Stocks:**ICB | Bangladesh Development Bank to sell 1 Mn ICB shares**

- Bangladesh Development Bank will sell 1 Mn shares from its holdings in the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) within 30 days. As a sponsor and corporate director of ICB, the state-owned lender currently holds 219.4 Mn shares, representing a 25.31% stake in the specialised financial institution formed to support the capital market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bangladesh-development-bank-sell-10-lakh-icb-shares-1020711>

ICB | Defaulters behind ICB's miseries

- The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has not been able to recover principal plus interest amounting to more than BDT 9 Bn from financial institutions, though FDRs kept with them matured five to seven years ago.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/defaulters-behind-icbs-miseries>

BEXIMCO | Beximco lays off 30,000 workers for lack of orders, banking support

- Beximco Group has laid off 30,000 workers from its 16 apparel factories in Gazipur Industrial Park, citing a lack of orders and banking support following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's government in August.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/beximco-lays-30000-workers-lack-orders-banking-support-1021281>

EXCHANGE | Six cos to face penalties for missing deadline to pay dividends

- Directors of six listed companies will face penalties for missing the deadline given by the securities regulator to distribute approved dividends to their shareholders. Five weeks earlier, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) set a new deadline of December 15 for nine companies to complete the disbursement of dividends.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/six-cos-to-face-penalties-for-missing-deadline-to-pay-dividends>

EXCHANGE | Brokers seek till 2030 to meet provisioning against negative equity, unrealised losses

- Stockbrokers, one of the major intermediaries in the country's capital market, have proposed another six-year period of relaxation, up to 2030, to gradually maintain provisions against negative equity and unrealised losses to resolve these long-standing issues.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brokers-seek-gradual-provisioning-2030-1021266>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 70.27	(USD 1.38)	-1.93%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 73.36	(USD 3.68)	-4.78%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,648.51	USD 585.53	28.38%
DSEX	5,224.58	-1,021.91	-16.36%
S&P 500	6,050.61	1,280.78	26.85%
FTSE 100	8,195.20	461.96	5.97%
BSE SENSEX	80,662.49	8,422.23	11.66%
KSE-100	114,860.69	52,481.28	84.13%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.41 BDT****1 GBP = 151.69 BDT****1 Euro = 125.37 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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