

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:**Moody's downgrades Bangladesh's ratings to B2, changes outlook to negative**

- "The downgrade reflects heightened political risks and lower growth, which increases government liquidity risks, external vulnerabilities and banking sector risks, following the recent political and social unrest that led to a change in government," said Moody's.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/moodys-downgrades-bangladeshs-ratings-b2-changes-outlook-negative-3755706>

IMF fourth tranche: committee to review progress on loan conditions

- Amid the prevailing economic challenges, the implementation coordination committee is gearing up to assess progress on meeting the loan conditions of the International Monetary Fund, or IMF, aiming for the seamless release of the fourth tranche.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/imf-fourth-tranche-committee-to-review-progress-on-loan-conditions>

Bida chief stresses structural reforms to improve investment climate

- "The benchmark for improvement is low, but this government's clear intent and determination provide an opportunity to enact meaningful changes," said the Bida executive chairman, who was also the chief guest at the workshop.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-chief-stresses-structural-reforms-improve-investment-climate-996456>

Sector and Industries:**BANK | Banks asked to ensure smooth exchange of coins**

- The central bank issued this directive after learning that although lenders store a specified amount of coins in their vault, they do not exchange them as they misinterpreted a previous instruction to this end.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-asked-ensure-smooth-exchange-coins-3756076>

BANK | BB won't shut down companies like S Alam Group, Beximco: Mansur

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) is taking action against individuals, not companies like S Alam Group and Beximco, as these companies are considered national assets, BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur said today (18 November).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-wont-shut-down-companies-s-alam-group-beximco-mansur-996251>

RMG | Janata Bank turns down Beximco's request for funds

- Janata Bank has rejected the Beximco Group's request for a BDT 600 Mn loan to pay employees' salaries for October, according to a letter sent to the finance ministry by the bank. In the letter, the bank's Chairman M Fazlur Rahman states that Janata Bank is not in a position to take on the financial risk that new funding would entail.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/janata-bank-turns-down-beximcos-request-funds-996786>

Stocks:**WALTONHIL | Walton inks deal with Sri Lankan firm for market expansion**

- Walton Hi-Tech Industries has inked a deal with Monik Trading Private Ltd, a Sri Lankan company, to develop joint brands and expand market reach. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with Monik Trading to this end, Walton said in a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/walton-inks-deal-sri-lankan-firm-market-expansion-3755551>

KPCL | Khulna Power's Q1 profit plunges 72%

- Khulna Power Company Ltd reported a substantial profit decline in the first quarter of the current financial year, primarily due to power plant shutdowns linked to unresolved agreements with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/khulna-powers-q1-profit-declines-72-3755711>

TECHNODRUG | Techno Drugs' post-IPO profit plunges 24% in Q1

- Newly-listed Techno Drugs endured a 24% year-on-year decrease in profit to BDT 78 Mn in the first quarter through September of FY25, mainly due to lower sales for dwindling demand from the government.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/techno-drugs-post-ipo-profit-plunges-24pc-in-q1>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank to realise BDT 100 Bn by selling S Alam Group's stake

- Islami Bank Bangladesh plans to sell the S Alam Group's stake in the bank to realize dues of around BDT 100 Bn from the controversial conglomerate. According to bank officials, the Chattogram-based group and associated companies have taken out around BDT 800 Bn in loans through 17 branches of Islami Bank since 2015.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/islami-bank-realise-tk-10000cr-selling-s-alam-groups-stake-3756086>

EXCHANGE | Falling global interest rates, market reforms drive up foreign investments

- The equity market has been showing signs of a return of foreign investors since the August political changeover. According to market analysts, the renewed interest in the stocks is largely driven by reform measures taken by the interim government across the economy.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/falling-global-interest-rates-market-reforms-drive-up-foreign-investments-1731946644>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 69.26	(USD 2.39)	-3.34%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 73.40	(USD 3.64)	-4.72%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,622.32	USD 559.34	27.11%
DSEX	5,300.07	-946.42	-15.15%
S&P 500	5,893.62	1,123.79	23.56%
FTSE 100	8,109.32	376.08	4.86%
BSE SENSEX	77,374.31	5,134.05	7.11%
KSE-100	94,995.67	32,616.26	52.29%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.50 BDT****1 GBP = 151.46 BDT****1 Euro = 126.53 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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