

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:**Forex reserves on the rise: BB Governor assures stability**

- As of October 8, Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves stood at USD 19.82 Bn as per BPM6 calculations, while the gross reserves reached USD 24.97 Bn. In the past two months alone, the central bank has successfully reduced deferred payments from USD 2.5 Bn to USD 700 Mn by paying off USD 1.8 Bn in outstanding liabilities for energy and other essential services.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/forex-reserves-the-rise-bb-governor-assures-stability-3731931>

Structural reforms demanded for SME sector development

- Policymakers and business leaders have called for the timely formulation and proper implementation of a better policy to reform the small and medium enterprises (SME) sector to protect the interests of entrepreneurs and the national economy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/coordination-structural-reforms-must-sme-sector-development-speakers-970546>

Foreign debt servicing surges 29% in Jul-Sep

- Bangladesh returned USD 1.13 Bn in principal and interest payments on foreign loans during the July-September period of FY25, up from USD 870 Mn during the same quarter of FY24, according to data of the finance ministry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/foreign-debt-servicing-surges-29-jul-sep-3732406>

Job market shrinkage pushes high-skill labour force into low-paid livelihoods

- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2022 reveals the size of the country's workforce as of 2022 as 71 Mn, up from 61 Mn in 2016-17. The overall decline in the unemployment rate does not reflect healthy job creation, as opportunities for decent work are diminishing while the informal economy finds a boom-time.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/job-market-shrinkage-pushes-high-skill-labour-force-into-low-paid-livelihoods-1729448095>

Past gov't's empty promises: Starting business still a nightmare

- Despite the previous Awami League government's strong commitment to simplifying business procedures during its nearly 16-year tenure, businesses still face a mountain of paperwork and bureaucratic hurdles just to get started.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/hasina-govts-empty-promises-starting-business-still-nightmare-971736>

Sector & Industries:**ENERGY | Gas supply improves as spot LNG imports resume**

- State-run Petrobangla is now supplying gas of around 900 million cubic feet per day (mmcf), which was around 700 mmcf a couple of days back, according to official data.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/gas-supply-improves-as-spot-lng-imports-resume-1729448374>

BANK | Six banks get BDT 16 Bn to ease liquidity crisis

- Sonali Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, and Dutch Bangla Bank provided the support to First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, National Bank and Exim Bank. The funds were transferred on Thursday after they were approved by Bangladesh Bank. Islami Bank has also sought similar liquidity support.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/six-banks-get-tk-16b-to-ease-liquidity-crisis-1729448651>

BANK | Devolvement on PDs in primary auction of govt securities set to go

- Devolvement on Primary Dealers (PDs) in primary auction is set to be withdrawn shortly to ensure market-driven yields on government securities, officials said. Devolvement on Primary Dealers (PDs) in primary auction is set to be withdrawn shortly to ensure market-driven yields on government securities, officials said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/devolvement-on-pds-in-primary-auction-of-govt-securities-set-to-go-1729448700>

Stocks:**DBH | DBH Finance posts a massive 40% rise in profit**

- DBH Finance PLC reported a profit of BDT 334.1 Mn in the July-September quarter of 2024, marking a 40% year-on-year increase. The company's earnings per share (EPS) rose to BDT 1.68, up from BDT 1.20 in the same period last year, according to a disclosure on the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dbh-finance-posts-massive-40-rise-profit-3731851>

IDLC | IDLC Finance profit grows 80% in Jul-Sep

- According to the un-audited financial statement for the third quarter of 2024 published on its website, the NBFIL posted the consolidated net profit of BDT 500 Mn during the quarter, marking a significant increase from BDT 278.4 Mn in the previous year at the same time.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/idlc-finance-profit-grows-80-jul-sep-971476>

EXCHANGE | Bourses to upgrade Z stocks on 80% dividend disbursed

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has authorised both stock exchanges to upgrade Z category stocks to their relevant categories if 80% of the declared dividend is disbursed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bourses-upgrade-z-stocks-80-dividend-disbursed-971741>

BSC | BSC buying four ships at past govt-negotiated high price

- Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) move now gets going, one year after the signing of deal with a Chinese company, to buy four ships with the go-ahead from the interim administration despite allegation of fixing high price by the previous regime. The shipping ministry recently reappraised the project and sent to the ERD to forward to the Chinese government to make arrangement for signing loan agreement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bsc-buying-four-ships-at-past-govt-negotiated-high-price-1729448590>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 69.50	(USD 2.15)	-3.00%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 73.26	(USD 3.78)	-4.91%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,727.84	USD 664.86	32.23%
DSEX	5,160.73	-1,085.76	-17.38%
S&P 500	5,864.67	1,094.84	22.95%
FTSE 100	8,358.25	625.01	8.08%
BSE SENSEX	81,224.75	8,984.49	12.44%
KSE-100	85,250.09	22,870.68	36.66%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.35 BDT****1 GBP = 155.76 BDT****1 Euro = 129.80 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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