

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:****WB okays USD 900 Mn to improve economic, urban resilience in Bangladesh**

- The World Bank has approved USD 900 Mn in loans for Bangladesh to help implement two projects to strengthen fiscal and financial sector policies and improve urban infrastructure and management to ensure sustainable and climate-resilient growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-receives-900-million-world-bank-financing-increase-economic-and-urban>

**Bangladesh forex reserves increases by USD 318 Mn to reach USD 19.53 Bn thanks to additional remittances**

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves rose by US USD 318 Mn in the span of a week to hit USD 19.53 Bn on 19 June. According to the latest update from the Bangladesh Bank, the foreign exchange reserves were USD 19.21 Bn on June 12. The reserves increased to USD 19.53 Bn on June 19.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-forex-reserves-increases-318m-reach-1953b-thanks-additional-remittances-880711>

**Bangladesh up two notches on Energy Transition Index**

- Bangladesh has ranked 109th on the global Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2024, which has assessed the performance of 120 countries on their current energy systems and on their transition readiness.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/bangladesh-two-notches-energy-transition-index-881981>

**SDG Index: Bangladesh slips 6 notches but still ahead of India, Pakistan**

- Bangladesh has dropped six notches on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) index but still ranks ahead of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan in South Asia, according to the Sustainable Development Report 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/sdg-index-bangladesh-slips-6-notches-still-ahead-india-pakistan-881976>

**NBR sets new rules for firms seeking customs privilege**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has revised rules, including raising the capital requirements, for businesses to be listed as authorized economic operators (AEO), a status an increasing number of firms are expressing interest in.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nbr-sets-new-rules-firms-seeking-customs-privilege-3639246>

**Consumption squeezes as inflation bites**

- Consumption compared to Bangladesh's GDP in the outgoing fiscal year has been the lowest in three years, as entrenched inflation, yawning income inequality, and waning purchasing power eat out from commoners' platters, economists say, and official data substantiate.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/consumption-squeezes-as-inflation-bites>

**Sectors & Industries:**

**BANK | April transactions thru MFS up by 16%**

- Transactions through mobile financial services (MFS) increased by nearly 16% year on year in April last, implying people's growing trust in this digital platform.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/april-transactions-thru-mfs-up-by-16pc>

**LEATHER | Govt plans forming dedicated leather industry authority**

- The government has taken the initiative to establish a dedicated authority for developing and managing the leather industry, Bangladesh's second-largest sector in export earnings, with a focus on public and private enterprises.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-plans-forming-dedicated-leather-industry-authority-3639111>

**BANK | Janata Exchange in Italy survives closure bid**

- A rethink on the proposed shutdown of the perennially losing Janata Exchange Company in Italy saves the offshore entity amid fear of negative impacts on remitters and resultant governmental image crisis, officials said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/janata-exchange-in-italy-survives-closure-bid>

**Stocks:**

**CITYBANK | City Bank acquires USD 30 Mn loan from OPEC Fund**

- City Bank recently signed a USD 30 Mn loan agreement with the OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC Fund) to support international trade by financing import and export companies in Bangladesh, especially in the agriculture and green energy sectors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/city-bank-acquires-30-million-loan-opec-fund-881441>

**MTB | MTB secures USD 15 Mn Belgian loan**

- The Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO) has provided a USD 15 Mn loan to Mutual Trust Bank (MTB) to expand its portfolio dedicated for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) alongside sustainable financing initiatives.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/mtb-secures-15m-belgian-loan-3638016>

**BRACBANK | BRAC Bank thrives on SMEs that many consider a no-go**

- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are considered risky clients by most formal sector lenders since their financial health is weak and they are not good at managing risks and are expensive to lend. However, BRAC Bank has a different story to tell.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/brac-bank-thrives-smes-many-consider-no-go-3639236>

**EXCHANGE | First-ever ETF on the back burner, awaiting investors' zeal**

- Nearly nine months after getting the regulatory consent, Lanka Bangla Asset Management is yet to float the country's first-ever Exchange Traded Fund (ETF), namely LB Multi-Asset Income ETF, because of apathy among eligible investors.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/first-ever-etf-on-the-back-burner-awaiting-investors-zeal-1719068653>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 80.73	USD 9.08	12.67%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 85.24	USD 8.20	10.64%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,321.98	USD 259.00	12.55%
DSEX	5,244.13	-1,002.36	-16.05%
S&P 500	5,464.62	694.79	14.57%
FTSE 100	8,237.72	504.48	6.52%
BSE SENSEX	77,209.90	4,969.64	6.88%
KSE-100	78,855.50	16,476.09	26.41%
CSEALL	12,249.06	1,594.90	14.97%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 117.61 BDT****1 GBP = 148.81 BDT****1 Euro = 125.79 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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