

Important News Snippets

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 research@bracepl.com

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:

IMF sets 33 conditions for next two loan instalments

• Bangladesh must comply with 33 new conditions by June next year to receive the next two instalments under the International Monetary Fund's USD 4.7 Bn loan programme. It came as the lender approved the third tranche of USD 1.15 Bn yesterday in a boost to Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imf-sets-33-conditions-next-two-loan-instalments-3641676

Record USD 3 Bn foreign debt repaid in 11 months

• Bangladesh's annual foreign debt servicing –principal and interest – has exceeded USD 3 Bn for the first time, driven by the initiation of principal repayments for several mega projects and the impact of high global interest rates.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/record-3b-foreign-debt-repaid-11-months-884521

OPEC Fund to sign framework agreement with Bangladesh for wider cooperation

• The OPEC Fund will sign a framework agreement for 3 to 5 years for wider cooperation with Bangladesh. President of OPEC Fund Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa said this in a meeting with Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali in Austria, reports BSS.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/opec-fund-to-sign-a-framework-agreement-with-bangladesh-for-wider-cooperation

Proposed provision for money whitening with 15% tax stays

• Following legal complexities, the budget proposal to phase out the blanket tax benefit for lawmakers may not be approved by parliament for now, sources said.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/proposed-provision-for-money-whitening-with-15pc-tax-stays

Sectors & Industries:

RMG | Chinese company to invest USD 109 Mn in Bepza Economic Zone

• Chinese company Alpen Banyan Garments BD Co Ltd will invest USD 108.99 Mn in the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) Economic Zone. According to a news release, an agreement to this effect was signed in Dhaka on Tuesday (25 June).

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/chinese-company-invest-109m-bepza-economic-zone-884206

FUEL & ENERGY | Petrobangla pays BDT 50 Bn in tax arrears

• The Bangladesh Oil, Gas, and Mineral Resources Corporation (Petrobangla) paid BDT 50 Bn in arrears for value-added tax (VAT) on Monday and Tuesday. However, the total amount owed by this organisation to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources was BDT 375.49 Bn till March of this year, sources from the government-owned company said.

https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/petrobangla-pays-tk5000cr-tax-arrears-884471



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RMG | Ananta Group to invest USD 70 Mn in synthetic knit fabric manufacturing unit

Despite various challenges industries face, such as dollar shortages for importing raw materials and capital machinery and a lack of uninterrupted gas and electricity supply, Ananta Group is set to invest USD 70 Mn to establish a synthetic knit fabric manufacturing facility.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/adb-ananta-group-sign-40-million-deal-promote-energy-efficient-fabric-manufacturing

BANK | Banks asked not to offer over BDT 118 for remittance dollar

■ The Bangladesh Bank has instructed commercial banks not to offer a rate higher than BDT 118 for purchasing remittance dollars. A central bank deputy governor gave the directive in a meeting with the managing directors of 15 banks yesterday (25 June).

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-asked-not-offer-over-tk118-remittance-dollar-884516

BANK | BB issues new rules on home loan repayment

• The Bangladesh Bank has issued new directives on the repayments of industrial term and home construction loans in line with the new market-based method of calculating the interest of bank loans.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-issues-new-rules-home-loan-repayment-3641646

Stocks:

FIRSTFIN | First Finance's accumulated loss rises to BDT 5.54 Bn

• First Finance, a non-bank financial institution (NBFI), has plummeted into substantial losses, recording an accumulated loss of BDT 5.54 Bn at the end of March this year, according to the company's financial statements.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/first-finances-accumulated-loss-rises-tk554-crore-884481

EXCHANGE | Regulator forbids RACE from managing funds until further order

■ The securities regulator has taken away control from RACE Asset Management over mutual funds after it identified BO (beneficiary owner's) accounts opened to handle funds' assets bypassing the approved custodians.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/regulator-forbids-race-from-managing-funds-until-further-order

EXCHANGE | What stops good companies in Bangladesh from going public?

• The Bangladesh Merchant Bankers Association (BMBA) has recently proposed several measures to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to address these barriers to the development of the capital market.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/what-stops-good-companies-bangladesh-going-public-884531





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World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 80.94	USD 9.29	12.97%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 85.08	USD 8.04	10.44%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,314.96	USD 251.98	12.21%
DSEX	5,241.84	-1,004.65	-16.08%
S&P 500	5,469.30	699.47	14.66%
FTSE 100	8,247.79	514.55	6.65%
BSE SENSEX	78,053.52	5,813.26	8.05%
KSE-100	77,925.08	15,545.67	24.92%
CSEALL	12,273.41	1,619.25	15.20%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 117.56 BDT

1 GBP = 149.17 BDT

1 Euro = 125.99 BDT

1 INR = 1.41 BDT

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