

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:****BB could lower policy rate if inflation falls**

- The Bangladesh Bank increased the policy rates by 50 basis points to 9% on August 25 to combat persistently high inflation by making bank borrowing costlier. Regarding the recent hike in policy rates, Mansur said it would be possible to reduce them within the next six or seven months if inflation is brought down to a tolerable level by then.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-could-lower-policy-rate-if-inflation-falls-3688276>

**Finance adviser urges NBR to reconsider duty structure**

- Finance and Commerce Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday asked the National Board of Revenue (NBR) officials to reconsider the duty structure of imported essential commodities in a bid to tackle persistent inflation. He asked them to consider the issue during a courtesy meeting with NBR officials at the tax administration's headquarters in Agargaon.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/finance-adviser-urges-nbr-reconsider-duty-structure-3688116>

**Foreign loan inflows raise USD 2.5 Bn financial account surplus in June**

- According to data from the central bank, the financial account surplus reached USD 4.55 Bn at the end of FY24, up from just over USD 2 Bn at the end of May. However, the surplus amount decreased slightly compared to FY23, when the financial account had a surplus of approximately USD 7 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-loan-inflows-raise-25b-financial-account-surplus-june-927536>

**Smooth logistics, banking and security major issues now: MCCI**

- Smooth logistics, banking services and security in industries are the major issues that need to be addressed for revival of economic activities, said the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka. Additionally, issues of unemployment and low investment are other significant challenges, the MCCI said in the report published today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/smooth-logistics-banking-and-industries-security-major-issues-now-mcci-927156>

**Foreign debt repayment higher than dev partners' disbursements in July**

- According to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) data, Bangladesh received USD 358.33 Mn in foreign aid in July, while it repaid USD 385.67 Mn in principal and interest during the same period. According to ERD data, foreign loan repayments increased by 52.34% this July compared to the same month last year. In the last fiscal's July, Bangladesh repaid USD 253.09 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-debt-repayment-higher-dev-partners-disbursements-july-927456>

**Sectors & Industries:****ENERGY | ERL going to discard proposal of S Alam Group**

- As the ERL authority completed the final report for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the S Alam Group under the Public Private Partnership, with an estimated cost of BDT 400 Bn. However, it now appears unlikely that the second unit of ERL will be constructed in collaboration with S Alam Group.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/erl-going-to-discard-proposal-of-s-alam-group-1724782491>

**TRADE | Law and order buyers' main concern**

- Businesspeople yesterday expressed deep concern over the security of their factories and trade, apprehending that a lack of law and order would prompt foreign buyers to shift work orders to other countries.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/law-and-order-buyers-main-concern-3688286>

**Stocks:****ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank to appoint 3 auditors to find out causes of irregularities**

- Islami Bank Bangladesh will appoint three external auditors to root out the causes of irregularities in its loan approvals, forex dealings, and employee recruitment process over the past seven years. Earlier on August 22, the Bangladesh Bank formed a new board for the Shariah-based bank with the appointment of five independent directors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/islami-bank-appoint-3-auditors-find-out-causes-irregularities-3688281>

**UCB, GIB, UNIONBANK | UCB, Global Islami, Union get new boards of directors**

- The central bank has appointed five independent directors each for Global Islami and Union Bank while UCB gets two directors and three independent directors, according to the separate letters issued by the BB. With the decisions, the control of S Alam Group over the Shariah-based banks ended after seven years of its domination and rampant misappropriation of nearly a hundred thousand crores of taka in the name of taking loans.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ucb-global-islami-union-get-new-boards-directors-3688101>

**ARAMITCEM | Ex-land minister's Aramit Cement to face criminal case over dishonoured cheque**

- Aramit Cement is set to face a criminal case due to a dishonored cheque related to the repayment of an outstanding loan from Social Islami Bank. The bank recently issued a notice in a newspaper, warning of legal actions against the company and its directors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ex-land-ministers-aramit-cement-face-criminal-case-over-dishonoured-cheque-927446>

**EXCHANGE | Investors allege discrimination on SME platforms**

- The investors argue that the circuit breaker for SME stocks should align with that of the main market to ensure fairness. They are also calling for the removal of the BDT 3 Mn investment requirement, asserting that all investors should be able to purchase SME shares.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/investors-allege-discrimination-sme-platforms-927411>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 75.67	USD 4.02	5.61%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 79.72	USD 2.68	3.48%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,516.31	USD 453.33	21.97%
DSEX	5,685.78	-560.71	-8.98%
S&P 500	5,625.80	855.97	17.95%
FTSE 100	8,345.46	612.22	7.92%
BSE SENSEX	81,711.76	9,471.50	13.11%
KSE-100	78,084.24	15,704.83	25.18%
CSEALL	11,212.58	558.42	5.24%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 119.62 BDT****1 GBP = 158.54 BDT****1 Euro = 133.68 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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