

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:**Higher policy rates may hamper investment and job creation: DCCI**

- The persisting higher policy rates may negatively impact the country's investment and job creation in the long run, according to the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/higher-policy-rates-may-hamper-investment-and-job-creation-dcci-3714321>

434 units at BSCIC estates are either sick or closed

- A total of 434 industrial units under the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) are either suffering over financial issues or have already closed down due to various reasons.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/434-units-bscic-estates-are-either-sick-or-closed-3714591>

Per capita foreign debt more than doubles in eight years

- According to the Bangladesh Bank data, per capita external debt of the country surged 135% to USD 605 in fiscal year 2023-24 compared to fiscal year 2015-16.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/capita-foreign-debt-more-doubles-eight-years-3714901>

Bank loan shortage, gas-power crisis major challenges for industries: DCCI

- A lack of bank loans, coupled with a crisis in gas and electricity supply, posed significant challenges for running industries in the first six months of this year, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bank-funds-gas-electricity-supply-were-major-headaches-over-last-6-months-dcci-president>

NBR requests IMF to lower FY25 revenue target

- The National Board of Revenue has asked the visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) team to reduce the revenue collection target set for Bangladesh for the current fiscal year considering the country's recent political changes.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-requests-imf-lower-fy25-revenue-target-951481>

Sector & Industries:**HEALTHCARE | BDT 250 Mn WB aid for medicare of critically injured**

- The World Bank will provide BDT 250 Mn as health ministry is assessing the medical capacity for treatment and health condition of critically injured people in the July-August student movement.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/tk-250m-wb-aid-for-medicare-of-critically-injured>

TRADE | Progress slow in signing preferential trade deals with trading partners

- There has been little progress regarding the signing of preferential trade deals by Bangladesh with major trading partners amidst the change in government following the anti-discrimination movement in July.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/progress-slow-signing-preferential-trade-deals-trading-partners-3714896>

BANK | Minimum 2% shareholding for board membership a reason behind banking sector ills

- Referring to the legal provision requiring a 2% shareholding in a commercial bank to become a director, Abdul Mannan, chairman of First Security Islami Bank (FSIB), said this has driven away seasoned banking leadership from boardrooms and allowed infamous individuals like S Alam into banking leadership roles.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/minimum-2-shareholding-board-membership-reason-behind-banking-sector-ills-3714871>

BANK | Loan restructuring and recovery

- Classified loans in the banking sector have exceeded BDT 2110 Bn. Various agencies are talking of almost BDT 4000 Bn of stressed assets in the banking sector, almost 25% of the total loans.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/loan-restructuring-and-recovery-3714861>

Stocks:**RENATA | Renata's profit rises 55% to BDT 3.62 Bn**

- The company's revenue increased 14% year-on-year to BDT 37.71 Bn in FY 24, with the profit surging by 55% year-on-year to BDT 3.62 Bn, according to a disclosure by the company.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/renatas-profit-rises-55-tk-362cr-3714846>

BATBC | BAT Bangladesh to invest BDT 115.6 Mn to set up rooftop solar panel

- British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company (BATBC), a multinational cigarette manufacturer, has decided to set up a rooftop solar panel with a capital investment of BDT 115.6 Mn along with its relevant infrastructure.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bat-bangladesh-invest-tk1156cr-set-rooftop-solar-panel-951456>

UCB | BDT 750 Mn loss looms over UCB as stock investment raises questions

- United Commercial Bank (UCB) PLC is on the verge of incurring losses of around BDT 750 Mn as one-third of its total share market investment has been on a lone stock that has undergone price manipulation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/tk-75cr-loss-looms-over-ucb-stock-investment-raises-questions-3714891>

SEAPEARL | Only a slap on the wrist for hundreds of crore taka Sea Pearl share scam!

- Sea Pearl Beach Resorts and Spa's share price skyrocketed more than threefold in just two months in 2022. Behind this unusual price rise was a network of insiders, including the five-star resort's managing director, who engaged in coordinated trades that netted them a staggering BDT 3 Bn, according to a Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) probe.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/only-slap-wrist-hundreds-crore-taka-sea-pearl-share-scam-952961>

EXCHANGE | Calls for BSEC chairman to step down if investor confidence isn't restored

- Investors have called for the urgent restoration of confidence in the declining capital market, warning that if this is not achieved, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) Chairman Khondoker Rashed Maqsood should resign due to perceived incompetence.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/calls-bsec-chairman-step-down-if-investor-confidence-isnt-restored-952816>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 68.18	(USD 3.47)	-4.84%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 71.98	(USD 5.06)	-6.57%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,658.24	USD 595.26	28.85%
DSEX	5,639.13	-607.36	-9.72%
S&P 500	5,738.17	968.34	20.30%
FTSE 100	8,320.76	587.52	7.60%
BSE SENSEX	85,571.85	13,331.59	18.45%
KSE-100	81,292.13	18,912.72	30.32%
CSEALL	11,835.47	1,181.31	11.09%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.42 BDT****1 GBP = 159.75 BDT****1 Euro = 133.38 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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