

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:**Security a must for economic recovery: MCCI**

- Smooth logistics, banking services and security for industries are a must to ensure a revival of economic activities that have been disrupted following the mass uprising that toppled the previous government.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/security-must-economic-recovery-mcci-3740046>

Two broad sectors' bad going squeezes GDP growth to 3.91%

- Bangladesh's economic growth slowed to 3.91% in the last quarter of the past fiscal as two broad sectors' bad going compared to the previous three quarters downgraded the rate, official data showed Monday.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/two-broad-sectors-bad-going-squeezes-gdp-growth-to-391pc-392>

FDI drops by 8.8% in FY24 amid economic volatility

- The country's net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow fell by 8.8% in FY24 compared to the previous fiscal year due to difficulties in repatriating earnings, a volatile foreign exchange situation, and other economic uncertainties, according to the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fdi-drops-88-fy24-amid-economic-volatility-979726>

Sector & Industries:**ENERGY | Renewable power: All producers get 100% tax exemption for 5 years**

- The government has provided 100% tax-exemption facilities for all renewable energy-oriented power producers whose commercial production will begin between July 01, 2025 and June 30, 2030 on the basis of Build Owned Operate (BOO). They will enjoy the facilities for five years.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/renewable-power-all-producers-get-100pc-tax-exemption-for-5-years>

BANK | bKash reports BDT 2.18 Bn profit in nine months

- bKash Limited, the country's premier mobile financial services provider, reported a net profit of BDT 2.18 Bn in January-September 2024, marking a staggering 147% increase from the amount recorded in the same period of last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bkash-reports-tk218-crore-profit-nine-months-979346>

TELECOM | Door may open for Starlink, others soon

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has drafted guidelines for satellite internet service operators, permitting wholly owned foreign companies to obtain licences -- paving the way for Elon Musk's Starlink and similar companies to enter Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/door-may-open-starlink-others-soon-3740041>

ENGINEERING | High-end electronics sales hurt by runaway inflation

- The demand for consumer electronics in the mid to high-end categories has declined drastically in Bangladesh as most people are shifting to cheaper alternatives or avoiding purchases altogether amid persistent inflation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/high-end-electronics-sales-hurt-runaway-inflation-3740021>

BANK | Farm loan disbursements fall 27% in first quarter

- Farm-credit disbursements dropped by nearly 27% in the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year (FY 2024-25) due to political unrest across the country and severe flooding in different parts, officials said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/farm-loan-disbursements-fall-27pc-in-first-quarter>

RMG | BGMEA seeks payment from Australian buyer

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday requested the Australian high commissioner in Bangladesh to take measures regarding approximately USD 20.30 Mn in outstanding payments that a Sydney-based company owes to 23 local exporters.

<https://thedailystar.net/business/news/bgmea-seeks-payment-australian-buyer-3740026>

Stocks:**PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank posts impressive profit growth in Q3**

- Prime Bank Limited posted a 46% year-on-year growth in consolidated profits for the July-September quarter, driven by increased net investment income.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/prime-bank-posts-impressive-profit-growth-q3-979676>

AIL | Alif Industries strikes deal to acquire Royal Denim

- Alif Industries, a listed firm on the stock exchange, has signed a deal to acquire Royal Denim Limited, a 100% export-oriented, non-listed company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/alif-industries-strikes-deal-acquire-royal-denim-979571>

UNILEVERCL | Unilever Consumer Care sees lower profit as demand falls

- Unilever Consumer Care endured a 49% year-on-year decline in profit to BDT 159 Mn in the third quarter through September this year as its sales plummeted. The quarterly income was the lowest in four years.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/unilever-consumer-care-sees-lower-profit-as-demand-falls-1730217410>

KPCL | Khulna Power's fate sealed after shutdown of plants

- Khulna Power Company decided to shut down its remaining two power plants as the government has stopped demanding electricity from it.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/khulna-powers-fate-sealed-after-shutdown-of-plants>

EXCHANGE | BSEC to discuss incentives for small investors with govt

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is set to hold talks with the interim government to explore potential incentives for small investors, aiming to bolster the capital market's stability and attract fresh participation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-discuss-incentives-small-investors-govt-979361>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 67.42	(USD 4.23)	-5.90%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 71.33	(USD 5.71)	-7.41%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,778.62	USD 715.64	34.69%
DSEX	5,017.33	-1,229.16	-19.68%
S&P 500	5,832.92	1,063.09	22.29%
FTSE 100	8,219.61	486.37	6.29%
BSE SENSEX	80,369.03	8,128.77	11.25%
KSE-100	90,864.09	28,484.68	45.66%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.38 BDT****1 GBP = 155.29 BDT****1 Euro = 129.15 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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