

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:**Interim govt to strengthen universal pension scheme**

- The interim government plans to strengthen the universal pension scheme (UPS) with the aim of bringing people from all walks of life under a sustainable social security framework.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/interim-govt-strengthen-universal-pension-scheme-3741031>

Govt won't allow shortage of essentials: Salehuddin

- The interim government will see to it that there is no shortage of any essential commodity even though there are financial constraints, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-wont-allow-shortage-essentials-salehuddin-3740696>

Cenbank trims Export Development Fund to USD 2.51 Bn amid allegations of smuggling

- Bangladesh Bank has reduced the size of its Export Development Fund (EDF) to USD 2.51 Bn following evidence that some businesses used the fund to smuggle money abroad, the central bank confirmed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/cenbank-trims-export-development-fund-251b-amid-allegations-smuggling-980476>

Govt to go for wider reforms to fix economy: Lutfey Siddiqi

- The government will bring structural reforms in all areas as required to mend the economy and create an investment climate, according to Lutfey Siddiqi, the chief adviser's special envoy on international affairs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-go-wider-reforms-fix-economy-lutfey-siddiqi-3740701>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | BB nod not needed for bandwidth import payments**

- Banks will no longer be required to take permission from the Bangladesh Bank to process import payments for internet bandwidth and related services.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-nod-not-needed-bandwidth-import-payments-3741001>

RMG | Govt to support ailing factories hit hard by labour unrest

- The government has formed a special committee to aid the struggling ready-made garment (RMG) and non-RMG factories, particularly those affected by recent labour unrest.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/govt-support-ailing-factories-hit-hard-labour-unrest-980681>

Stocks:**ROBI | Robi Axiata's profit rises 78% in Q3**

- Telecom operator Robi Axiata's profit rose 78% year-on-year to BDT 1.89 Bn in the July-September quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal year, thanks to significant cost optimization.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/robi-axiatas-profit-rises-78-q3-3740566>

BSC | Profit keeps rising – Shipping Corp to start repaying govt

- Established in 1972, just months after the country's independence, the corporation last fiscal year logged a profit of BDT 2.50 Bn for the first time in its 52-year history.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/profit-keeps-rising-shipping-corp-start-repaying-govt-980676>

NCCBANK | Ex-chairman Tofazzal to buy NCC Bank's 1.25 Mn shares

- Tofazzal Hossain, sponsor and former chairman of National Credit and Commerce (NCC) Bank, has declared to buy the bank's 1.25 Mn shares at the prevailing market price through the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ex-chairman-tofazzal-buy-ncc-banks-1250-lakh-shares-980356>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank incurs loss of BDT 1 Bn in Jul-Sep, its first quarterly loss in decades

- Islami Bank Bangladesh incurred a loss of BDT 1 Bn in the July-September quarter of this year, an unprecedented event for the country's largest private lender in over three decades.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/islami-bank-incurs-loss-tk100cr-jul-sep-980416>

SOUTHEASTB | Southeast Bank profit drops 70% in Jul-Sep quarter

- Southeast Bank reported a 70% decline in its consolidated net profit for the July-September quarter of this year, primarily due to high provisions for classified loans, according to its unaudited financial statement.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/southeast-bank-profit-drops-70-jul-sep-980361>

NBL | National Bank incurs further losses

- National Bank saw a huge amount of losses pile up during the July-September period this year, mainly due to the non-recovery of loans disbursed in the past 15 years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/national-bank-incurs-further-losses-3741026>

BATBC | BAT Bangladesh sees 2% drop in profit

- In the July-September quarter of 2024, the company made a net profit of BDT 3.97 Bn, which is nearly 2% lower than BDT 4.05 Bn of the same period last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bat-bangladesh-sees-2-drop-profit-3740296>

ALARABANK | Al-Arafah Islami Bank incurs loss of BDT 470 Mn in Jul-Sep

- Al-Arafah Islami Bank incurred a loss of BDT 470 Mn in July-September quarter of this year. According to its price sensitive statement, its loss per share during the quarter was BDT 0.41.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/al-arafah-islami-bank-incurs-loss-tk47cr-jul-sep-979776>

EXCHANGE | Immediate changes on cards to restore investor trust: Salehuddin

- Emphasis will be placed on implementing immediate solutions and medium to long-term plans to restore investor confidence in the stock market, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-aims-restore-investor-confidence-stock-market-adviser-salehuddin-980381>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 68.92	(USD 2.73)	-3.81%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 72.88	(USD 4.16)	-5.40%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,787.29	USD 724.31	35.11%
DSEX	5,164.84	-1,081.65	-17.32%
S&P 500	5,813.67	1,043.84	21.88%
FTSE 100	8,159.63	426.39	5.51%
BSE SENSEX	79,942.18	7,701.92	10.66%
KSE-100	90,286.57	27,907.16	44.74%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.40 BDT****1 GBP = 154.55 BDT****1 Euro = 129.52 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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