

*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:****Trade deficit narrows 2.6% in July-April**

- The country's trade deficit narrowed by 2.60% in the first ten months of the current fiscal year compared to the same period a year ago, thanks to a rise in export earnings coupled with subdued imports. During the July-April period of fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, the trade gap was USD 18.22 Bn, down from USD 18.70 Bn in the corresponding period of FY24, according to the latest data from the central bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trade-deficit-narrows-26-july-april-3910596>

**Reducing penalty on false declarations will encourage smuggling: experts**

- In the Finance Ordinance 2025–26, presented on Monday, the government proposed amending the Customs Act 2023 and revising the penalty structure for tax evasion related to intentional false declarations during import clearance, reducing the minimum fine from twice the evaded amount to an equivalent sum.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reducing-penalty-false-declarations-will-encourage-smuggling-experts-3910591>

**Chambers warn budget may hurt business, investment**

- Just a day after the interim government proposed the national budget and tax measures for fiscal year 2025-26, leading business chambers expressed significant concern that several measures could potentially impede business growth and affect investment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/chambers-warn-budget-may-hurt-business-investment-3910541>

**Inflation to drop below 7% within September**

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur expressed hope that inflation would come down to below 7% by August or September this year. The inflation rate stood at 9.05% in May, down from 9.17% a month earlier, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-drop-below-7-within-september-3910841>

**Budget targets chocolate, lipstick**

- If you're planning to import cheap lipstick into Bangladesh anytime soon, think again. The country's interim government, in its latest budget, has quietly declared war on undervalued imports with a series of oddly specific tweaks to customs rules. Among the victims: chocolate bars, lipsticks, eye shadow, and -- wait for it -- inflatable toys. The changes, buried in the budget document, read like a shopping list for a middle-class household. Minimum taxable values for imported chocolates have more than doubled -- from USD 4 to USD 10 per kilogramme. Lipstick? Now USD 40/kg, up from USD 20. And that cheap inflatable unicorn your kid's been begging for? Add 14% to the price tag, thanks to a new floor of USD 4 per unit (up from USD 3.50).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/budget-targets-chocolate-lipstick-3910476>

**Exports in May highest in 23 months**

- Bangladesh recorded USD 4.73 Bn in exports in May, the highest in at least 23 months, owing to increased shipments of manufactured commodities, especially apparel, ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha festival to be celebrated on Saturday. Exports grew 11.45% in May this fiscal year (2024-25) from USD 4.25 Bn in the same month the previous year, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/exports-may-highest-23-months-3910866>

**Remittance jumps 32% in May**

- Bangladesh recorded a sharp rise in **remittance inflows** in May, as migrant workers sent more money home in the run-up to Eid-ul-Azha, which falls in early June. Funds sent by migrant workers and non-resident Bangladeshis reached USD 2.97 Bn last month, up 32% from the same period a year earlier, according to data released by the Bangladesh Bank yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/remittance-jumps-32-may-3908811>

**Proposed budget people-, business-friendly: finance adviser**

- Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed has said the proposed national budget for the 2025–26 fiscal year is both people- and business-friendly. However, he acknowledged that it is never entirely possible to make a budget fully business-friendly.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/proposed-budget-people-business-friendly-finance-adviser-3910301>

**Black money whitening not commendable**

- Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed has acknowledged that the opportunity to whiten black money in the proposed national budget is not a commendable measure and hinted that this provision might be reviewed, if required.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/black-money-whitening-not-commendable-1748975192>

**BD becoming self-reliant in air shipment of its exports**

- A surprise Indian restriction on aerial transshipment taboo on Bangladesh exports turns a blessing in disguise with the latter poised to become self-reliant in air shipment, officials say. Airfreight facilities are taking a facelift at all the country's international.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-becoming-self-reliant-in-air-shipment-of-its-exports-1748975422>

**Highly ambitious budget's implementation to be difficult**

- The proposed national budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 has been termed highly ambitious by panellists at a post-budget discussion, who said its implementation will be difficult in the current economic and political contexts.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/highly-ambitious-budgets-implementation-to-be-difficult-1748975903>

**Govt eases tax burden for company funds**

- Source tax deducted from various company funds will be treated as final settlement effective from the fiscal 2025-26, eliminating the need for annual tax returns and audits for these funds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/govt-eases-tax-burden-company-funds-1159736>

**Private sector credit growth slips slightly to 7.50% in April after March rebound**

- Private sector credit growth eased slightly to 7.50% in April 2025, down from 7.57% in March, according to the latest data released by the Bangladesh Bank. This small decline comes after a notable rebound in March, when the rate had increased by 0.75% points from February's 6.82%, reaching its highest level in four months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/private-sector-credit-growth-slips-slightly-750-april-after-march-rebound-1159731>

**Businesses decry turnover tax hike**

- The interim government's proposal to raise the turnover tax from 0.6% to 1% from the next fiscal year has sparked an outcry among business leaders, who said the measure could deal a fresh blow to firms already struggling to stay afloat. The tax raise has drawn criticism not only from business chambers but also from tax analysts, who say it could cripple struggling and marginal enterprises.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-decry-turnover-tax-hike-3910856>

**Sector & Industries:****TELECOMMUNICATIONS | VAT hike deals fresh blow to local handset industry**

- Bangladesh's mobile phone manufacturing industry, once hailed as a potential pillar of the country's digital ambitions, is bracing for a fresh blow after the interim government proposed a hike in value-added tax (VAT) at the production stage in the national budget for fiscal year 2025-26. Under the new structure, the VAT on handsets made entirely from locally produced components was raised from 2% to 4%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/vat-hike-deals-fresh-blow-local-handset-industry-3910861>

**BANK | Sonali Bank profit jumps 32% to BDT 9.88 Bn in 2024**

- Sonali Bank, country's largest state-owned bank, reported that its consolidated net profit jumped by 32% to BDT 9.88 Bn in 2024 compared to the previous year. According to the bank's audited statement filed on its website, its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 21.82, which was BDT 16.50 a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sonali-bank-profit-jumps-32-tk988cr-2024-1159726>

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS | Truely secures USD 2 Mn to accelerate global expansion**

- Travel tech company Truely has secured USD 2 Mn in fresh funding to accelerate its expansion in the eSIM market. This brings the company's total funding to USD 5.5 Mn following a previous raise of USD 3.5 Mn in October 2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/truely-secures-2m-accelerate-global-expansion-3910451>

**FUEL & POWER | LNG re-gasification hits record high at 1,050 mmcf**

- Bangladesh's liquefied natural gas (LNG) re-gasification reached its highest level ever on Monday as the regular berthing of LNG tankers to the floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) resumed, following last week's rough weather in the Bay of Bengal. The country's LNG re-gasification surged to 1,050 Mn cubic feet per day (mmcf) on the day, driven by the increased volume of LNG supply, according to official data.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/lng-re-gasification-hits-record-high-at-1050-mmcf-1748975516>

**AVIATION | Biman eyes 30% rise in cargo handling this year**

- Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the sole ground handler at the country's airports, eyes a 30% rise in its handling of both domestic and international cargoes to reach 0.434 Mn tonnes this year. Biman handled 0.334 Mn metric tons of international and domestic cargo in 2019, it said in a press release.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/biman-eyes-30pc-rise-in-cargo-handling-this-year-1748975987>

**TRADE | ICD-bound containers allowed direct delivery from Ctg port amid congestion dispute**

- A temporary resolution has been reached in the dispute between C&F (Clearing and Forwarding) agents and inland container depot (ICD) owners concerning the direct delivery of ICD-bound import containers from Chattogram Port.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/icd-bound-containers-allowed-direct-delivery-ctg-port-amid-congestion-dispute-1159646>

**Stocks:****EXCHANGE | Budget offers mixed bag of benefits, threats for capital market**

- The proposed budget for FY26 offers tax benefits for some specific sectors while imposing higher taxes on other industries where growth is not under the agenda of the government for attaining economic stability. EBL Securities distinguished both the groups in a budget review and explained why one group will benefit but the other will endure more obstacles to smooth business operations.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/budget-offers-mixed-bag-of-benefits-threats-for-capital-market-1748977013>

**RUPALIBANK | Monirul Haque new CEO of Rupali Investment**

- Md Monirul Haque has recently been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Rupali Investment Limited, a subsidiary company of state-owned Rupali Bank PLC and a merchant bank. Earlier this year, he was promoted to the position of General Manager through a notification issued by the Financial Institutions Division, says a statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/monirul-haque-new-ceo-of-rupali-investment-1748977158>

**SEAPEARL | Sea Pearl upgraded to B, stock gains nearly 8%**

- After over five months in the Z category due to non-compliance for failing to hold its annual general meeting (AGM), Sea Pearl Beach Resort has been reinstated to the B category following a delayed AGM.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sea-pearl-upgraded-b-stock-gains-nearly-8-1159581>

**DHAKAINS | Dhaka Insurance recommends 10% cash dividend for 2024**

- Dhaka Insurance, a non-life insurer in the country, has recommended a 10% cash dividend for its shares for 2024. The recommended dividend is 7% lower compared to 2023 as it paid 17% cash dividend to its shareholders. Due to lower dividend recommendation, shares price of Dhaka Insurance declined by 7.58% or BDT 2.7 each to BDT 32.90 each at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-insurance-recommends-10-cash-dividend-2024-1159596>

**EXCHANGE | DSE, brokers hail 'capital market-friendly' budget**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) have welcomed the national budget presented by the finance adviser on Monday, deeming it highly favourable for the country's capital market. DSE Chairman Mominul Islam expressed gratitude to the Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed for incorporating supportive policies aimed at developing Bangladesh's capital market, especially after the interim government assumed responsibility.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-brokers-hail-capital-market-friendly-budget-1159626>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 63.18	(USD 8.25)	-11.55%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 65.43	(USD 8.96)	-12.04%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,364.27	USD 755.79	28.97%
DSEX	4,664.79	-551.65	-10.58%
S&P 500	5,970.37	63.43	1.07%
FTSE 100	8,787.02	666.01	8.20%
BSE SENSEX	80,737.51	2,537.58	3.24%
KSE-100	120,450.87	5,191.87	4.50%
CSEALL	17,214.39	1,269.78	7.96%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 122.18 BDT****1 GBP = 165.26 BDT****1 Euro = 139.03 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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