

*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 unveils first budget tomorrow**

- Finance Adviser Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed is set to unveil the first budget of the interim government tomorrow (Monday), at a time when the country's economy is grappling with multiple challenges, including persistently high inflation and a slump in private investment.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/interim-govt-unveils-first-budget-tomorrow>

**Rollback of protective taxes begins under new budget**

- An envisaged rollback of protective taxes on 'made-in -Bangladesh' package of products begins in the upcoming fiscal year with the planned levying of standard 15% VAT on all goods after 2030. Also, income tax for corporate taxpayers, irrespective of being in profit or loss, is poised to go up to 1.0% from the existing 0.6%.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/rollback-of-protective-taxes-begins-under-new-budget-1748713497>

**Budget to set 10 priorities**

- Facing inflation fatigue and fiscal strain, Bangladesh's interim government is betting on discipline over expansion in a new budget built around 10 priorities to stabilise the economy. To be unveiled tomorrow, the budget gives top billing to inflation control, with a target of 6.5% in the fiscal year beginning July 1. That restraint is matched by a modest growth projection of 5.5%, reflecting a shift away from the expansionary stance of recent years as the government responds to prolonged economic pressures and warnings of rising poverty from global organisations.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2025-26/news/budget-set-10-priorities-3908271>

**High-powered panel formed to attract FDI**

- The government has formed a high-level committee to explore and recommend incentive mechanisms for increasing foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bangladesh. According to a gazette notification issued by the chief adviser's office on May 29, the five-member committee will be led by Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/high-powered-panel-formed-attract-fdi-3908006>

**Low imports, low confidence, low growth: Is Bangladesh in a slow-burning crisis?**

- When Bangladesh's annual imports plummet by USD 10 Bn, the economic fallout extends far beyond that figure. Experts and business leaders warn that the true cost could be double, or even more, as the decline signals a deeper economic malaise.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/low-imports-low-confidence-low-growth-bangladesh-slow-burning-crisis-1156666>

**Tax-free income ceiling to be raised, slabs restructured**

- While the government plans to offer a minor concession to marginal taxpayers by raising the tax-free income threshold by BDT 25,000 to BDT 0.38 Mn, nearly all other taxpayers are set to face increased tax burdens in the upcoming national budget, according to officials concerned.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/tax-free-income-ceiling-be-raised-slabs-restructured-1156586>

**BDT 21 Bn be set aside for election expenses in FY26 budget**

- The finance ministry is expected to earmark nearly BDT 21 Bn in the FY2025-26 national budget for the Election Commission (EC) to cover the costs of the upcoming parliamentary elections and multiple local government polls. A ministry official, requesting anonymity, told TBS that the EC had initially sought BDT 59.22 Bn to conduct around 2,500 elections, including national, city corporation, district and upazila council, municipality, and union parishad elections—both general and by-elections.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/fy26-budget-govt-allocate-tk2100cr-upcoming-national-local-govt-elections-1156251>

**Multiple factors impede MSMEs' growth set**

- Bangladesh's highest job creating small and medium enterprises has been showing a grim picture over the last few years as their production shortfall is casting a long shadow over the nation's employment landscape, analysts said on Saturday. According to recent data by the BBS, the year-on-year industrial production growth rate in MSMEs lowered to only 5.07% in FY2024. The rate was lower than that in the previous two consecutive fiscals of FY2022 and FY2023.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/multiple-factors-impede-msmes-growth-1748713787>

**Japan eyes Bangladesh as key investment hub**

- Emerging from the initial uncertainty following last year's political transition, Japan has re-engaged with Bangladesh in a robust way, which was reflected during Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' recent visit to Tokyo, according to foreign-policy and trade analysts. During the trip, Japan agreed to provide Bangladesh with budgetary support alongside loans and grants worth USD 1.063 Bn, while eight other memoranda of understanding were signed covering human-resource development, worker recruitment, the business environment, and factory set-ups in the Bangladesh Special Economic Zone.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/japan-eyes-bangladesh-key-investment-hub-3907996>

**Budget may offer major tax breaks for capital market**

- The upcoming national budget for FY2025–26 is expected to feature significant tax relief measures aimed at revitalising Bangladesh's capital market, which has been struggling amid weak investor confidence. Key proposals may include widening the corporate tax gap between listed and non-listed companies to 7.5% (from the current 5%), reducing advance income tax (AIT) on securities trading from 0.05% to 0.03%, and lowering the corporate tax rate for merchant banks by 10 percentage points to 27.5%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/budget-may-offer-major-tax-breaks-capital-market-1156641>

**China vows to boost Bangladesh's export capacity**

- Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao has said China is willing to help Bangladesh improve its export capacity, promote the integrated development of trade and investment, jointly maintain the multilateral trading system and inject more stability and certainty into the world economy. The Chinese minister laid emphasis on promoting the continuous development of the China-Bangladesh comprehensive strategic partnership, strengthen cooperation in trade, e-commerce, production and supply chains and investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/china-vows-boost-bangladeshs-export-capacity-1156661>

**Bangladesh targets global trade alignment with sweeping tariff changes**

- As Bangladesh prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026, the government is planning significant structural reforms in the FY2025–26 budget. These reforms aim to streamline its tariff regime, curbing overprotection of local industries and aligning trade practices with global standards.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-targets-global-trade-alignment-sweeping-tariff-changes-1155156>

**Tax exemptions for key industries to go, sweeping tax hikes planned**

- In a significant fiscal policy shift, the Bangladeshi government is set to withdraw numerous tax exemptions for key local industries in the upcoming national budget. These changes, anticipated to take effect from the next financial year, will substantially increase the tax burden on a wide range of sectors, from manufacturing and construction to e-commerce.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tax-exemptions-key-industries-go-sweeping-tax-hikes-planned-1155706>

**Extra incomes from past land sales can be legalised by paying 15% tax**

- Incomes from land sales over deed value during the past five years can now be legalised by paying a 15% tax as the revenue authorities plan to bring undeclared proceeds from property sales into the formal economy. According to sources at the finance ministry and the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the excess amount received from selling land or apartments over the deed value will be considered capital gain and taxed at a flat rate of 15%. This benefit will apply to income from the past five years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/extra-incomes-past-land-sales-can-be-legalised-paying-15-tax-1156571>

**Bangladesh entrepreneurs urged to tap USD 10 Tn global packaging market**

- Given its labour-intensive nature and relatively low investment requirements, local entrepreneurs should capitalise on the potential of the USD 10 Tn global packaging industry, which is nine times larger than the apparel sector, offering significant opportunities for Bangladesh to diversify its export basket. Mahbubur Rahman, secretary at the commerce ministry, made the remarks while speaking at the launch event of the Export Market Intelligence Platform, held at a hotel in the capital today (29 May). He further said that the packaging industry is a labour-intensive sector, and it requires low investment as it does not require high technology, and entrepreneurs can seize those opportunities.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-entrepreneurs-urged-tap-10-trillion-global-packaging-market-1154986>

**SME production boost effort through common facility centres stalled for lack of funds**

- An effort by the SME Foundation to establish common facility centres (CFCs) for small and medium enterprise (SME) entrepreneurs across Bangladesh, aimed at enhancing production and improving product quality through the use of modern technology and machinery, has remained stalled for years due to a lack of adequate funding.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/sme-production-boost-effort-through-common-facility-centres-stalled-lack-funds-1155726>

**Bangladesh repays USD 3.5 Bn foreign debt in 10 months of FY25**

- Bangladesh repaid USD 3.5 Bn in foreign loans during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year 2024-25, exceeding the USD 3.37 Bn repaid in the entire previous fiscal. Data from the Economic Relations Division (ERD) released today (29 May) show a 24.73% year-on-year rise in total external debt repayments in the July-April period of FY25. In the same corresponding period of FY24, the amount repaid was USD 2.81 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-repays-35b-debt-10-months-fy25-1154731>

**Bida to host China-Bangladesh conference on investment**

- The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) is set to host the China-Bangladesh Conference on Investment and Trade on June 1 as part of efforts to attract foreign investment. The day-long summit is being jointly organised by the governments of Bangladesh and China. According to Bida sources, the event will feature around 250 Chinese investors and business delegates representing nearly 100 enterprises, including senior executives from six to seven Fortune 500 companies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bida-host-china-bangladesh-conference-investment-3906546>

**Sector & Industries:****FUEL & POWER | Nuclear power project clinches highest chunk, over BDT 100 Bn outlay**

- Now nearing completing, the gargantuan Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project is set to receive BDT 100.12 Bn, the highest single recipient, from the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the upcoming fiscal year. This power-generation project under the Ministry of Science and Technology has also received the highest allocation in the ADP for several consecutive years, said officials from the programming division of the Planning Commission.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/nuclear-power-project-clinches-highest-chunk-over-tk-100b-outlay>

**FUEL & POWER | Govt slashes diesel, petrol, octane prices**

- The government has adjusted fuel prices for the month of June in line with latest international market prices. Diesel price came down by BDT 2.0 per litre, petrol and octane by BDT 3.0 per litre for the month of June. Kerosene price surged by BDT 10 a litre. Under the new rates, diesel price has been re-fixed at BDT 102 per litre, petrol price at BDT 118 and octane at BDT 122 and kerosene at BDT 114 a litre.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-slashes-diesel-petrol-octane-prices-1748713648>

**FUEL & POWER | Industries may get addl gas soon after weather improves**

- The government expects to significantly augment natural gas supply to industries as soon as the ongoing rough weather, hampering the unloading and re-gasification of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for the past several days, subsides.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/industries-may-get-addl-gas-soon-after-weather-improves-1748714177>

**ENGINEERING | Industry leaders urge dedicated industrial park for light engineering sector**

- The Bangladesh Engineering Industry Owners' Association (BEIOA) has urged the government to establish a dedicated industrial park for the country's light engineering sector – similar to the Savar Leather Industrial Park, where entrepreneurs were provided plots at subsidised rates.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/leather-light-engineering-sector-also-needs-industrial-park-industry-leaders>

**Stocks:****BANKASIA | Yet another jewel in the Bank Asia's crown**

- In a significant development within the country's banking sector, Bank Asia PLC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank Alfalah Limited, one of the largest commercial banks in Pakistan, in which Bank Asia will acquire the Bangladesh Operations of Bank Alfalah Ltd. With a classified loan ratio of less than 2% and a deposit mix consistently outperforming the industry average, the bank's operational indicators reflected sound management and prudent lending practices.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/print/yet-another-jewel-in-the-bank-asias-crown-1748710256>

**ALARABANK | Al-Arafah Islami Bank will not pay dividend for 2024**

- Al-Arafah Islami Bank has decided not to pay dividend to its shareholders for 2024. According to the bank's price sensitive statement that was approved at a board meeting held yesterday (28 May), its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 0.66 in 2024, which was 68% lower from BDT 2.04 in the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/al-arafah-islami-bank-will-not-pay-dividend-2024-1154381>

**RUPALIBANK | Rupali Bank reports BDT 153.75 Bn provision shortfall, no dividend for 2024**

- State-owned Rupali Bank has reported a massive provision shortfall of BDT 153.75 Bn as of 31 December 2024, prompting its board of directors to withhold any dividend declaration for the year. According to a bank's disclosure, a sharp decline in profit and its failure to meet the required provision levels under Bangladesh Bank's policy were the main reasons behind the decision.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rupali-bank-reports-tk15375cr-provision-shortfall-no-dividend-2024-1156596>

**IFIC | IFIC Bank incurs BDT 5 Bn loss in Jan-Mar**

- IFIC Bank has reported a loss of BDT 5 Bn in the January–March quarter of this year, primarily due to a deterioration in asset quality. According to sources, the bank disclosed its unaudited quarterly financial statement at a board meeting on 29 May. During the first quarter, its consolidated loss per share stood at BDT 2.60, compared to an earnings per share of BDT 0.21 in the same period last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ific-bank-incurs-tk500cr-loss-jan-mar-1156546>

**NTC | BSEC extends subscription period for National Tea Company until 30 June**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has extended the validity of its consent letter for National Tea Company's share subscription offer until 30 June – marking the third such extension. The publicly listed tea producer aims to raise BDT 2.8 Bn by issuing placement shares to its existing shareholders at BDT 119.53 per share, payable in cash on the record date.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-extends-subscription-period-national-tea-company-until-30-june-1155041>

**SOUTHEASTB | Southeast Bank's profit drops 80% in 2024**

- Southeast Bank has reported that its consolidated earnings per share dropped by 80% to BDT 0.32 in 2024 compared to the previous year. According to the statement, the bank also decided not to pay any dividend to its shareholders for the last year as it is taking steps to strengthen the capital base, which will support long-term financial stability.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/southeast-banks-profit-drops-80-2024-1154966>

**PREMIERBAN | Premier Bank declares no dividend due to shortfall in provisions**

- Premier Bank has declared no dividend for 2024 due to significant shortfall in required provisions, according to its price sensitive statement. The bank approved its financial statement for the last year and announced the dividend at a meeting held today (29 May), according to sources.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/premier-bank-declares-no-dividend-due-shortfall-provisions-1154951>

**BATBC | BAT Bangladesh has to vacate Mohakhali HQ as SC rejects lease appeal**

- British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh, a leading multinational cigarette manufacturer, must vacate its head office and factory premises in the capital's Mohakhali DOHS after the Supreme Court rejected its appeal to extend the land lease agreement with the Dhaka Cantonment Board.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/court/bat-bangladesh-has-vacate-mohakhali-hq-sc-rejects-lease-appeal-1155046>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 60.79	(USD 10.64)	-14.90%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 62.78	(USD 11.61)	-15.61%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,289.25	USD 680.77	26.10%
DSEX	4,637.92	-578.52	-11.09%
S&P 500	5,911.69	4.75	0.08%
FTSE 100	8,772.38	651.37	8.02%
BSE SENSEX	81,451.01	3,251.08	4.16%
KSE-100	119,691.09	4,432.09	3.85%
CSEALL	16,854.86	910.25	5.71%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 122.69 BDT****1 GBP = 165.23 BDT****1 Euro = 139.22 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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