

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.

International:**US buyers delay apparel orders over pending tariff call**

- Local apparel makers are seeing delays in the confirmation of work orders for the next summer season, as US retailers and brands wait for the final decision on reciprocal tariffs by the US administration, expected in early July. Western buyers usually place orders for upcoming seasons, such as summer and autumn, between June and September. This year, US buyers are booking production slots as usual but are taking longer to confirm orders, according to manufacturers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-buyers-delay-apparel-orders-over-pending-tariff-call-3921491>

Middle East tensions put investors on alert, weighing worst-case scenarios

- Investors are mulling a host of different market scenarios should the U.S. deepen its involvement in the Middle East conflict, with the potential for ripple effects if energy prices skyrocket. They have honed in on the evolving situation between Israel and Iran, which have exchanged missile strikes, and are closely monitoring whether the U.S. decides to join Israel in its bombing campaign.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/middle-east-tensions-put-investors-alert-weighing-worst-case-scenarios-3922106>

Macro:**NBR officials again announce pen-down strike**

- The NBR Reform Unity Council, a platform comprising officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), has announced that it will start a demonstration from Monday, demanding the inclusion of its representatives in the panel formed by the government to amend the new tax reform ordinance. The council has also demanded the removal of the NBR chairman and a stop to what it described as "vengeful transfers and repression" by the administration.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-officials-again-announce-pen-down-strike-3922301>

Govt may scrap money whitening provision

- The interim government is likely to scrap the provision that allows black money to be legalised through the purchase of apartments and land in the next fiscal year (FY) 2025-26, amid criticism from civil society groups, think tanks and watchdogs. The decision may be finalised at today's advisory council meeting in Dhaka, where the BDT 7.9 Tn national budget is expected to be passed, according to a top finance ministry official.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-may-scrap-money-whitening-provision-3922456>

Tight monetary policy alone can't reduce inflation

- Inflation in Bangladesh is not a monetary phenomenon, so only a tight monetary policy may not reduce it at the expected pace. Rather, it will reduce investment and job creation, said economists yesterday. They were addressing a seminar of the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) at the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) in the capital.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tight-monetary-policy-alone-cant-reduce-inflation-3922466>

Govt focuses on 4 priorities to ensure business-friendly environment: BIDA chief

- Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun has said the government is focusing on four priorities to ensure business-friendly environment. "BIDA and BEZA are focusing on four main priorities: fast-tracking high-impact investment projects, expanding and improving One-Stop Services, solving problems faced by investors, and creating a strong pipeline of major investments," he said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-focuses-4-priorities-ensure-business-friendly-environment-bida-chief-1170241>

Govt to pass FY26 budget tomorrow

- The government is set to pass the national budget for the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal year on Sunday (22 June), with a gazette notification expected later in the day. Given the absence of the national parliament, the Advisory Council is expected to approve the proposed budget in a meeting in the morning, finance ministry official told The Business Standard today (21 June). "The Advisory Council meeting will begin at 10am on Sunday at the Chief Adviser's office. Following its approval, the budget will be passed with the president's endorsement and a gazette notification issued on the same day," the official said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-pass-fy26-budget-sunday-1170466>

ADB commits over USD 1.3 Bn to transform Bangladesh's development landscape

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Bangladesh yesterday (19 June) signed four major loan agreements totalling over USD 1.3 Bn, including USD 900 Mn in budget support, to advance key reforms and infrastructure development in the country. The agreements were signed at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) in Dhaka by ERD Secretary Md Shahriar Kader Siddiky and ADB Country Director for Bangladesh Hoe Yun Jeong.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adb-commits-over-13bn-transform-bangladeshs-development-landscape-1169411>

USD 3.6 Bn budget support expected by month-end

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves are expected to receive an inflow of USD 3.62 Bn as budget support from global lenders before the current fiscal year ends on 30 June, according to the Finance Division and the Economic Relations Division (ERD). This includes a USD 1.3 Bn loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), along with anticipated disbursements from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and Japan.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/36b-budget-support-expected-month-end-1169346>

BD prepares for Chinese FDI surge, export spurt

- Bangladesh prepares to receive prospective higher Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) under its broader strategy to strengthen trade competitiveness amid challenges linked to its graduation from least-developed country (LDC) status and forex constraints. The government moves for action on intelligence tips that higher FDI inflow from China could play a transformative role in several key sectors. Bangladesh's position as world's second-largest exporter of readymade garments makes it a strong candidate to absorb relocated Chinese apparel manufacturing, driven out by rising labour costs and shifting global trade dynamics.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-prepares-for-chinese-fdi-surge-export-spurt-1750526282>

WB to give Bangladesh USD 500 Mn fund for governance, transparency, financial stability

- The World Bank (WB) today approved USD 500 Mn in financing to enhance trust in Bangladesh's public institutions through increased accountability and transparency. This credit support, under the Strengthening Governance and Institutional Resilience Development Policy, will also improve corporate governance and stability in the financial sector, said the multilateral lender.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wb-give-bangladesh-500m-fund-governance-transparency-financial-stability-3922151>

Sector & Industries:**FOOD & ALLIED | Bangladesh's food processing market hits USD 8 Bn**

- Bangladesh's food processing sector, which was worth USD 8 Bn last year, is growing at an average rate of 8% a year, according to a report by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). A growing urban middle class and shifting lifestyles are the key forces behind the expanding processed food market, it said, adding that the expanding market in Bangladesh offers export opportunities for producers of food ingredients in the US.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-food-processing-market-hits-8b-3921466>

SHIPPING | Shipping ministry opts to hand over Ctg container terminal to CPA

- The Ministry of Shipping has decided in principle to hand over the operations of the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) to the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) once the current private operator's contract ends in early July. The decision was made at a meeting of the ministry on Thursday last week. The proposal will now go to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for final approval.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shipping-ministry-opts-hand-over-ctg-container-terminal-cpa-3922416>

MFS | BB recommends Nagad restructuring as a public bank's subsidiary

- The Bangladesh Bank has recommended immediate revoking of the interim approval for the scam-hit mobile financial service (MFS)-provider Nagad and its restructuring as a subsidiary of a state-owned bank for the time being. If restructured, Bangladesh Bank and the designated state-run bank could jointly manage Nagad temporarily before handing it over to a strategic investor -- paving the way for large-scale investment and sustainable operations.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bb-recommends-nagad-restructuring-as-a-public-banks-subsidiary-1750526369>

BANK | Recapitalisation vs inflation: Twin dilemmas of our banking crisis

- According to Bangladesh Bank, non-performing loans (NPLs) stood at BDT 4.2 Tn as of March 2025. Experts predict this figure could reach BDT 8 Tn within six months – nearly half of the BDT 17.12 Tn currently lent out by banks. Of these bad loans, 81% fall into the "bad and loss" category, meaning no repayments have been made for nine to twelve months or more. This has plunged many banks into a severe liquidity crisis. Unable to recover loans, they are now struggling to return depositors' funds. Among the country's 61 banks, at least 16 are in precarious condition, collectively holding 77% of total bad loans – equivalent to BDT 3.25 Tn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/recapitalisation-vs-inflation-twin-dilemmas-our-banking-crisis-1169876>

INSURANCE | Govt moves to curb family control, protect policyholders in insurance sector

- The government is set to amend the Insurance Act to strengthen regulatory oversight, curb mismanagement and family control on board, and enhance protection for policyholders, following a series of scandals that have rocked the country's insurance sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-moves-curb-family-control-protect-policyholders-insurance-sector-1170681>

FUEL & POWER | Govt declines PDB's BDT 566 Bn loan-to-subsidy proposal

- The finance ministry has turned down a proposal from the Power Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources to convert the Bangladesh Power Development Board's (BPDB) outstanding loan of BDT 566 Bn to a subsidy, citing excessive fiscal pressure, according to officials. The Power Division recently urged the finance ministry to write off the massive loan, disbursed between July 2006 and November 2017, as subsidy support.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-declines-pdbs-tk-566b-loan-to-subsidy-proposal-1750526538>

FUEL & POWER | Govt unveils new renewable energy policy

- The government has updated the Renewable Energy Policy after 17 years, aiming to produce at least 20% of the national power demand from green sources by 2030. The new policy offers a 10-year corporate tax exemption for all government and private renewable energy producers, followed by another five years of partial tax exemption.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-unveils-new-renewable-energy-policy-3921486>

Stocks:**GPHISPAT | BSEC rejects GPH Ispat's BDT 5 Bn fundraising plan thru preference shares**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has rejected a proposal by GPH Ispat Limited to raise BDT 5 Bn through preference shares for loan repayment. The company had floated the plan in October last year, seeking to issue redeemable, cumulative, non-convertible, and non-participating preference shares. The proposal required approval from both shareholders and the BSEC.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-rejects-gph-ispats-tk500cr-fundraising-plan-thru-preference-shares-1170636>

BANKASIA, NFML | Bank Asia to auction National Feed Mill assets over loan defaults

- Bank Asia will auction mortgaged assets of National Feed Mill, a listed company, and National Hatchery Private Limited — both owned by the National Group — to recover nearly BDT 470 Mn in overdue loans. The bank's Shanti Nagar Branch in Dhaka announced the decision following an order from the Gazipur Money Loan Court, according to an auction notice published in newspapers this week.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bank-asia-auction-national-feed-mill-assets-over-loan-defaults-1170586>

MIRAKHTER | BSEC rejects Mir Akhter Hossain's BDT 2.50 Bn fundraising plan thru preference shares

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has turned down a proposal by Mir Akhter Hossain Limited to raise BDT 2.50 Bn through preference shares to repay loans and borrow further funds. The construction firm had floated the plan in December last year, aiming to issue redeemable, cumulative, non-convertible, and non-participative preference shares. The proposal required approval from both shareholders and the BSEC.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-rejects-mir-akhter-hossains-tk250cr-fundraising-plan-thru-preference-shares>

BATBC | BAT Bangladesh to shut Mohakhali factory, relocate HQ after lease rejection

- British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh, a cigarette manufacturer, has decided to shut down operations at its Dhaka factory from 1 July, following the Supreme Court's rejection of its appeal to extend the land lease agreement. The publicly listed company will also relocate its head office from Mohakhali DOHS to Ashulia on the same date, according to a stock exchange filing today (19 June).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bat-bangladesh-shut-down-dhaka-factory-1-july-1168561>

UCB | UCB to issue bond worth BDT 10 Bn for regulatory capital

- After announcing plans to raise core capital through issuing fresh shares to a strategic investor and rights share issuance, United Commercial Bank – a publicly listed private lender – has now decided to issue a BDT 10 Bn subordinated bond to meet regulatory capital requirements. The unsecured, non-convertible, and redeemable bond will be the bank's sixth such issuance, with a tenure of seven years, subject to regulatory approval.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ucb-issue-bond-worth-tk1000cr-regulatory-capital-1170591>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 73.84	USD 2.41	3.37%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 77.01	USD 2.62	3.52%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,368.39	USD 759.91	29.13%
DSEX	4,754.41	-462.03	-8.86%
S&P 500	5,967.84	60.90	1.03%
FTSE 100	8,774.65	653.64	8.05%
BSE SENSEX	82,408.17	4,208.24	5.38%
KSE-100	120,023.24	4,764.24	4.13%
CSEALL	17,087.95	1,143.34	7.17%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.58 BDT

1 GBP = 164.88 BDT

1 Euro = 141.29 BDT

1 INR = 1.42 BDT

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