

*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:****No cut in corporate tax for non-listed firms**

- The interim government has kept the corporate tax rate for non-listed firms unchanged at 27.5% for fiscal year 2025-26, despite repeated demands from entrepreneurs and business chambers to reduce the tax, especially for those transacting through banking channels. Currently, non-listed companies are taxed at 27.5%, but the rate drops to 25% if they conduct all transactions via banking channels.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-cut-corporate-tax-non-listed-firms-3923391>

**Scope for whitening black money goes**

- The interim government has finally scrapped the controversial provision allowing the legalisation of undisclosed income through the purchase of apartments and land in the upcoming fiscal year. "We have made one of the most significant decisions regarding undisclosed income by completely withdrawing the provision," said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed at a press conference yesterday after the advisory council approved the BDT 7900 Bn budget and Finance Bill 2025.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/scope-whitening-black-money-goes-3922946>

**ADP implementation in July-May hits record low at 49%**

- Bangladesh's Annual Development Programme (ADP) implementation rate has plummeted to 49% in the first 11 months (July–May) of the current fiscal year - the lowest on record. The government managed to spend only BDT 1.11 Tn of the revised ADP allocation from July 2024 to May 2025, according to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adp-implementation-july-may-hits-record-low-49-1171336>

**Foreign debt repayments near USD 4 Bn, up 23.4% in 11 months amid expiring grace periods**

- Bangladesh's foreign debt repayments have surged to a record USD 3.78 Bn in July-May period of the current fiscal year, marking a 23.4% year-on-year increase, according to a report released today (22 June) by the Economic Relations Division (ERD). This is the highest amount ever repaid by Bangladesh in a single fiscal period. In comparison, the country repaid USD 3.07 Bn during the same period last fiscal year. For the entire FY24, total repayments stood at USD 3.37 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-foreign-debt-repayments-rise-234-11-months-near-4-billion-1171276>

**Remittance dollar rate falls amid weak demand, strong export growth**

- The exchange rate for remittance dollars has started to fall as demand from banks eases due to improved liquidity, reduced overdue import payments, and steady export growth. On Thursday, banks paid BDT 122.70-122.80 per dollar to buy remittance inflows – down BDT 0.5-0.7 from mid-May when rates were around BDT 123.20-123.30, according to treasury officials at several banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/remittance-dollar-rate-falls-amid-weak-demand-strong-export-growth-1171476>

**Zero-rated tax on 152 imports goes**

- Zero-rated tax benefit on 152 items, mostly essentials like rice, wheat, onions and edible oils, goes as the new budget takes effect on July 1 with some major changes in fiscal measures. Importers of the goods would be required to pay 2% Advance Income Tax (AIT) from the upcoming fiscal year at the import stage. However, the AIT is adjustable with the actual payable taxes of the importers and traders at the time of submission of tax returns.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/zero-rated-tax-on-152-imports-goes-1750613316>

**Budget FY26: Advance tax on petroleum products cut; no VAT on cotton produced from jhut**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has cut the advance tax on the import of refined petroleum products from 7.5% to 2% while VAT has been exempted at the production stage of cotton produced through recycling of garment waste (jhut). The moves came along with a series of tax reforms and adjustments in the national budget for FY2025-26, which was approved by the Advisory Council today (22 June), with major changes to income tax, VAT, and customs duties.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget-fy26-advance-tax-petroleum-products-cut-no-vat-cotton-produced-jhut-1171151>

**Govt borrows BDT 107 Bn in one day as FY-end pressures mount**

- Facing a mounting budgetary shortfall ahead of the fiscal year's close, the government borrowed over BDT 107 Bn in a single day by issuing three types of treasury bills (T-bills) on Sunday. The borrowing surpassed the government's initial target by a significant margin. "The government's demand for funds has increased significantly ahead of the end of the outgoing fiscal year (FY 2024-25) to meet its budgetary expenditures," a senior official of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) told The Financial Express (FE).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-borrows-tk-107b-in-one-day-as-fy-end-pressures-mount-1750613899>

**67% goes into debt servicing**

- As much as 67% of the foreign aid disbursed in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year went into repaying earlier loans, according to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) data released on Sunday. From July to May of FY25, development partners disbursed USD 5.61 Bn in loans for various development projects, a 20% drop compared to USD 7.02 Bn released during the same period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/67pc-goes-into-debt-servicing-1750613977>

**Sector & Industries:****BANK | Amid bank merger hype, uncertainty looms over investors' assets**

- The Bangladesh Bank is set to merge five Shariah-based banks into a single entity in an effort to revive their financial health from the ashes. As the banks are publicly listed, the question is how the interest of shareholders, except for sponsor directors, who are blamed for the financial institutions' present liquidity crisis, will be protected. The banks are First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, and Exim Bank. As much as 76.7% of the loans disbursed by these banks have become non-performing, according to the central bank data, which pushed them to the brink of bankruptcy.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/amid-bank-merger-hype-uncertainty-looms-over-investors-assets-1750606937>

**BANK | Banks' reliance on central bank borrowing hits record high**

- Bangladesh's commercial banks are increasingly leaning on the central bank to stay afloat, with borrowing through the repo window hitting a record BDT 1.33 Tn in May 2025, signaling a worsening liquidity crunch in the country's banking system. The growing reliance on Bangladesh Bank's short-term liquidity support comes amid sluggish deposit growth, mounting non-performing loans (NPLs), and a crisis of confidence in the banking sector following recent political upheaval and revelations of financial irregularities.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/banks-reliance-on-central-bank-borrowing-hits-record-high-1750613863>

**FUEL & POWER | NBR slashes customs duty for petroleum, solar power generation**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has announced a series of tax reforms and adjustments in the national budget for FY202526, with major changes to income tax, VAT, and customs duties. In a move to implement invoice-based customs valuation instead of tariff-based valuation, the import duty on crude petroleum has been reduced from 5% to 3%, while the rate for other petroleum products has been lowered from 10% to 6%, according to a press release issued by the finance ministry today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-slashes-customs-duty-petroleum-solar-power-generation-1171116>

**Stocks:****UNIONBANK | Union Bank branch manager uses multiple schemes to embezzle BDT 80 Mn:****Internal probe**

- An internal investigation has uncovered a major financial fraud at Union Bank's Hatkhola branch, where manager Zakir Hossain is accused of systematically syphoning off over BDT 80 Mn from customer accounts over several years. The fraudulent methods included creating loans against savings and fixed deposit accounts without customers' consent, duplicating accounts, and transferring funds between accounts.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/union-bank-branch-manager-uses-multiple-schemes-embezzle-tk8cr-internal-probe>

**SBACBANK | SBAC Bank faces BDT 8.11 Bn provision shortfall in 2024**

- South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce (SBAC) Bank ended 2024 with a provision shortfall of BDT 8.11 Bn, largely due to a surge in classified loans, according to its auditor's report. The private lender's total required provisioning against loans, advances, and lease or investment rose sharply to BDT 11.43 Bn last year, which was BDT 3.82 Bn in 2023.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sbac-bank-faces-tk81075cr-provision-shortfall-2024-1171481>

**ASIAINS | Asia Insurance declares 10% cash dividend for 2024**

- Asia Insurance has announced a 10% cash dividend for its shareholders for the year ended 31 December 2024. This is slightly lower than the 11% cash dividend paid in the previous year (2023).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/asia-insurance-declares-10-cash-dividend-2024-1171431>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 75.06	USD 3.63	5.08%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 78.23	USD 3.84	5.16%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,364.53	USD 756.05	28.98%
DSEX	4,677.60	-538.84	-10.33%
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 = 122.15 BDT****1 GBP = 163.97 BDT****1 Euro = 140.62 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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