

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:**Time to move forward with pure hearts for tax system reform**

- The latest press release from the Ministry of Finance has been issued to clarify its position and address the ongoing debacle. This is a positive step towards a solution. We hope for a return to normalcy in the system while discussions on reforms are conducted, articulated, agreed upon, and implemented. We also expect a sustainable reform process to create a professional and fair tax system in the country and potentially set standards or offer lessons for an open, transparent, participatory, accountable, and sustainable reform process that can be scaled up.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/time-move-forward-pure-hearts-tax-system-reform-3903226>

Helicopter rides may cost more

- From horse-drawn carriages to helicopters, weddings in Bangladesh have taken flight -- literally. What was once a luxury reserved for the ultra-rich has become an aspirational trend among the middle class in recent years. But those lofty dreams could soon be grounded, as the government plans to raise import duties on helicopters in the upcoming national budget.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2025-26/news/helicopter-rides-may-cost-more-3903501>

Customs duty for buses may halve to 5%

- In a move to develop an effective public transport system in the country's major cities, the interim government may reduce customs duties on the import of public buses. A finance ministry official, on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that the existing 10% customs duty on the import of 16- to 40-seat buses could be reduced to 5% in line with an initiative aimed at modernising the fleet and improving passenger comfort nationwide.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2025-26/news/customs-duty-buses-may-halve-5-3903486>

NBR officials call off shutdown as govt softens stance

- Officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) called off their planned shutdown yesterday evening, following a government pledge to transform the board into a "specialised and autonomous agency" rather than dissolving it. The officials, protesting under the banner of the "NBR Reform Unity Council", had earlier threatened a complete suspension of operations from today unless their four-point demand was met.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-officials-call-shutdown-govt-softens-stance-3903526>

Strong external sector bolsters economic recovery hopes: GED

- The Planning Commission's General Economics Division (GED) expects an economic recovery bolstered by a favorable external sector with positive exports, remittance growth, and a stable exchange rate. "While global growth is expected to remain steady, domestic challenges, including political uncertainty and inflation, are expected to weigh on the economy in the short term," it, however, warns.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/strong-external-sector-bolsters-economic-recovery-hopes-ged-1150926>

10-month revenue growth plunges to five-year low amid NBR crisis

- Bangladesh is set to face its most significant revenue deficit in five years, since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, with growth in revenue collection hitting its lowest since the fiscal year 2019-20. Officials at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) have attributed the grim picture to the deadlock triggered by the protest by officials against a government move to split the NBR.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/10-month-revenue-growth-plunges-five-year-low-amid-nbr-crisis-1151626>

Overcoming structural, management challenges crucial for agricultural export growth

- To unlock the full potential of agricultural sector, speakers at the Bangladesh Agro Conclave 2025 stressed the need for increased youth engagement, stronger public-private partnerships, and coordinated policy and investment initiatives. The event, titled "Bangladesh Agro Conclave 2025: Unlocking Bangladesh's Agri-Potential for Global Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth," was held at a hotel in Gulshan on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/overcoming-structural-management-challenges-crucial-agricultural-export-growth-1151601>

FY26 Budget: Surcharge to be levied on actual tax to promote transparency

- In a bid to promote tax fairness, the government is set to revise the surcharge provisions, with plans to impose it on actual tax liabilities rather than inflated assessments. The move aims to encourage taxpayers to disclose their actual wealth with more transparency in their tax returns. Currently, individuals with assets exceeding BDT 40 Mn are subject to a surcharge – essentially a tax on tax, ranging from 10% to 35%, depending on different tiers set as per their net wealth. The measure is primarily aimed at high-income taxpayers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/fy26-budget-surcharge-be-levied-actual-tax-promote-transparency-1151706>

Bangladesh to seek USD 1.0 Bn in budget support

- Bangladesh will seek one-billion-dollar budget support from Japan during the Chief Adviser's upcoming visit, which will also yield some bilateral cooperation accords, officials said. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is scheduled to visit Tokyo on June 28-31, with these matters high on agenda, the foreign adviser told The Financial Express Sunday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-to-seek-10b-in-budget-support-1748196508>

Revenue misses target by BDT 715 Bn until April

- Taxmen stroll far behind the pared-down target for the outgoing fiscal by BDT 714.76 Bn or 38.02%, as of April, fundamentally for sluggish investment and ongoing macroeconomic challenges. To rub salt into the wound, came a pen-down by the revenue staff in backlash against an ordinance promulgated by the interim government to disband the National Board of Revenue, which makes it difficult to make up for the shortfall in the remaining days of May and in June.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/revenue-misses-target-by-tk-715b-until-april-1748196568>

Economic Review to be dropped from FY26 budget docs

- The Bangladesh Economic Review, a key budget-related annual publication, will not be included in the official budget documents for the fiscal year (2025-26), according to officials familiar with the matter. Instead, a Bangla version along with an English version of the publication is expected to be released in October 2025, they added. The Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance decided this following confusion created last year, when three separate versions of the Economic Review were published with the same title, said an official who spoke to the FE on Sunday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/economic-review-to-be-dropped-from-fy26-budget-docs-1748196995>

Sector & Industries:**TELECOM | Four more companies seek NTTN licences**

- Four new companies have applied to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) for Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) licences, reflecting renewed interest in the transmission business in the country. According to state guidelines, the licence is primarily for building, maintaining, and managing a nationwide fibre-optic transmission network and sharing infrastructure for telecom operators and internet service providers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/four-more-companies-seek-nttn-licences-3903451>

TANNERY | RMG-like support can boost annual leather shipment to USD 5 Bn by 2030: Exporters

- Bangladesh's leather industry could achieve an annual export target of USD 5 Bn by 2030, potentially doubling to USD 10 Bn by 2035, provided it receives financial incentives and policy support similar to those extended to the ready-made garments (RMG) sector, according to exporters. This ambitious projection was put forth by Syed Nasim Manzur, president of the Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Bangladesh, during a focus group discussion organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) in Dhaka today (25 May).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/policy-and-financial-support-can-boost-leather-exports-5-billion-2030-industry-leaders>

RMG | Gas crisis still choking textile mills

- Textile and garment industry owners yesterday expressed grave concerns over the inadequate supply of gas to industrial units, which has been severely hampering their operations for almost three years. Many textile mills are on the verge of shutting down as they are unable to operate even at minimum capacity, said Showkat Aziz Russell, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gas-crisis-still-choking-textile-mills-3902996>

TANNERY | Leather exports drop 64% in 10 years as CETP woes linger

- The country's leather exports have plunged by over 64% in the past decade, due mainly to the failure to complete the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at the Savar Tannery Estate -- a key requirement for obtaining international environmental certifications. In the fiscal year (FY) 2014, the country exported leather worth USD 397 Mn. By FY2024, that figure had fallen to just USD 142.54 Mn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/leather-exports-drop-64-10-years-cetp-woes-linger-3903496>

TELECOM | Loopholes, violations causing monthly loss of over USD 2 Mn under ILDTS framework

- Speakers on Sunday said policy loopholes and licensing violations under the current ILDTS framework are causing significant revenue losses for Bangladesh, which stakeholders estimate amounts to over a couple of Mn dollars in a month. Over 30 Mn international application-to-person (A2P) SMS messages bypass the International Long Distance Telecommunication Services (ILDTS) system each month. Stakeholders from the International Gateway (IGW) sector estimate that this results in over USD 2.4 Mn in lost revenue monthly.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/loopholes-violations-causing-monthly-loss-of-over-2m-under-ildts-framework-1748197200>

FUEL & POWER | Further delay likely as interim govt also moves slowly

- Bangladesh's delay in constructing its first crude-oil refinery after independence is set to linger further as the interim government is also in the slow lane to implement the project like the previous ones. Bangladesh had "failed" to build any crude-oil refinery over the past half a century after its independence, resulting in huge waste of foreign currencies that went into the import of refined oils from the international market, market insiders said. Only "negligence" on the part of the authorities concerned is to blame, they added, in an indication of the dominance of rent-seeking import lobbies.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/further-delay-likely-as-interim-govt-also-moves-slowly-1748196897>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | BSEC to take action against corrupt officials within six months**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has announced its intention to take action within the next six months against officials and employees of capital market-related institutions who face specific allegations of misconduct and corruption.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-take-action-against-corrupt-officials-within-six-months-1151661>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.55	(USD 9.88)	-13.83%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.80	(USD 9.59)	-12.89%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,347.00	USD 738.52	28.31%
DSEX	4,736.34	-480.10	-9.20%
S&P 500	5,802.82	-104.12	-1.76%
FTSE 100	8,717.97	596.96	7.35%
BSE SENSEX	81,721.08	3,521.15	4.50%
KSE-100	119,102.67	3,843.67	3.33%
CSEALL	16,494.46	549.85	3.45%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.43 BDT****1 GBP = 164.89 BDT****1 Euro = 138.52 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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