

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:**Bangladesh can earn USD 1 Bn a year from carbon market: analysts**

- Bangladesh has the potential to generate up to USD 1 Bn annually from the global carbon market, but a lack of clear national policy continues to limit investment in the sector, analysts said at a discussion. Despite some progress, including USD 17 Mn earned since 2006 through projects like improved cooking stoves and solar home systems, the analysts stressed the need for stronger policy direction to unlock the country's full potential.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-can-earn-1b-year-carbon-market-analysts-3904236>

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.

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

Focus on income distribution, not GDP alone, says Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee

- Nobel Laureate in Economics Dr Abhijit Banerjee has said that in countries like Bangladesh and India, a large share of GDP has been increasingly concentrated in the hands of the wealthy over the past 30 to 40 years. As a result, poverty reduction has not been significant despite GDP growth. Speaking virtually at a conference titled "Transforming Development: Building a Culture of Accountability through Evaluation, Auditing and Ethics", organised by the Ministry of Finance and the New Development Bank today (26 May) at Hotel InterContinental in Dhaka, Dr Abhijit Banerjee emphasised the need to look beyond GDP figures.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/focus-income-distribution-not-gdp-alone-says-nobel-laureate-abhijit-banerjee-1151901>

USD 1.07 Bn loan deals likely during chief adviser's upcoming Japan visit

- Bangladesh is expected to sign two loan agreements worth a total of USD 1.074 Bn with Japan during the upcoming visit of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to Tokyo from 28 May to 30 May. Two loan agreements and one grant deal are being finalised ahead of the visit, according to senior officials from the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/107b-loan-deals-likely-during-chief-advisers-upcoming-japan-visit-1151786>

VAT on plastics may double, eco-friendly products may get waiver

- In a bid to discourage the use of plastic, the interim government may double the value-added tax (VAT) on some synthetic household products such as tableware and kitchenware to 15%. Meanwhile, a 15% VAT on eco-friendly alternatives, such as plates and cutlery made of baked clay and plant-based materials like areca nut sheaths and those with biodegradable components, may be entirely waived, said sources.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/vat-plastics-may-double-eco-friendly-products-may-get-waiver-3904266>

Govt expects gross reserves to reach USD 34 Bn by June next year

- The interim government expects the country's gross foreign exchange reserves to rise to USD 34.4 Bn by the end of the fiscal year (FY) 2025–26, buoyed by strong remittance inflows, export performance, and budgetary support from development partners. As of May 24, Bangladesh's gross reserves stood at USD 25.70 Bn, up from USD 24.16 Bn on the same date last year, according to the Bangladesh Bank (BB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-expects-gross-reserves-reach-34b-june-next-year-3904251>

Equity, not just equality': Experts call for stronger gender-responsive budgeting in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh must go beyond symbolic allocations and adopt a more inclusive and effective approach to Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) so that fiscal policies adequately address the actual needs and rights of women and girls, said experts at a pre-budget dialogue today. They also emphasised the need for an increased gender budget allocation and effective monitoring to ensure proper utilisation of the funds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/equity-not-just-equality-experts-call-stronger-gender-responsive-budgeting-bangladesh>

Favourable geopolitics key to unlocking potential of economic corridors: Planning adviser

- Countries in the region can reap mutual economic benefits by utilising economic corridors – but only if the geopolitical environment remains favourable, Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud has said. Bangladesh's strategic location, with access to key ports like Chattogram and Mongla, which could benefit neighbours such as India, China, Nepal and Bhutan, he said at a seminar titled "Economic Corridor and Logistics Development in Bangladesh: Investment Opportunities" in Dhaka today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/economic-corridors-can-equally-benefit-all-countries-region-planning-adviser-1152096>

FY26 budget: Black money whitening in real estate to stay – but with 5x taxes

- The government is considering a significant increase in taxes on undeclared wealth, known as black money, invested in the housing sector, with rates potentially rising by up to five times the current levels. The change in tax rates will be made in the upcoming national budget, scheduled to be proposed by the finance adviser on 2 June, to discourage the use of black money in real estate and bring tax rates closer to market values, according to officials at the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/fy26-budget-black-money-whitening-real-estate-stay-5x-taxes-1152556>

Legal amendments ready for BB autonomy: Governor

- Necessary legal amendments are soon for central bank's autonomy and also for downsizing commercial banks' directorships under sweeping reforms that also envisage nationalisation of incurably ailing banks. Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur unveils this plan of action in an exclusive interview with The Financial Express (FE), dwelling at length on other far-reaching recast of the country's banking sector.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/legal-amendments-ready-for-bb-autonomy-governor-1748283134>

Planning Adviser stresses Ctg port's potential as 'strategic trade hub'

- Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud has underscored the potential of Chittagong Port as a strategic hub for trade and commerce for regions, especially for India's northeastern region. He said the port could facilitate the export of goods from that area while also enabling the import of raw materials, which could be processed in Bangladesh for further export.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/planning-adviser-stresses-ctg-ports-potential-as-strategic-trade-hub-1748283601>

BD-China trade confce on June 1

- A daylong 'Bangladesh-China Conference on Investment and Trade' will be held on June 1 at "Biniyog Bhaban" (Investment Building) in the city, reports BSS. Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) are going to jointly organise the event. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is scheduled to inaugurate the conference as the chief guest while China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao is also expected to join the event.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bd-china-trade-confce-on-june-1-1748279564>

Ctg port gridlocked as NBR protests cause pile-up

- Although the National Board of Revenue (NBR) resumed regular operations yesterday after nearly two weeks of protests and work abstentions, ship and container congestion has once again gripped the Chattogram Port, triggering concern among businesses over potential delays in cargo handling and increased logistics costs. NBR officials, who had been protesting since May 14, returned to work yesterday following government assurances that their demands over the NBR reform ordinance would be met.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ctg-port-gridlocked-nbr-protests-cause-pile-3904071>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | 6 troubled banks to be merged by July, govt to take ownership**

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday announced plans to merge six financially weakened banks by July this year due to irregularities and loan fraud. The central bank will temporarily place these banks under government ownership to stabilise the sector. "Banks that have been audited will be merged," Governor Mansur told a television channel yesterday. The audited banks are First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, Exim Bank, and National Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/6-troubled-banks-be-merged-july-govt-take-ownership-1152391>

FUEL & POWER | Petrobangla refutes claims on industrial gas crisis

- Petrobangla has issued a clarification in response to what it described as "misleading and confusing" statements made by representatives of various associations regarding gas supply to industrial establishments. The state-run oil, gas, and mineral corporation issued the statement a day after textile and garment industry owners claimed that many mills are on the verge of shutting down, as they are unable to operate even at minimum capacity due to an acute gas crisis.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/petrobangla-refutes-claims-industrial-gas-crisis-3903811>

INSURANCE | IDRA ramps up scrutiny on life insurers amid soaring unpaid claims

- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has instructed 15 life insurance companies to submit detailed information on claim settlements and related bank accounts in a bid to intensify its supervision of the sector, which is grappling with a significant rise in unpaid policyholder dues. The IDRA asked the companies to submit data on claims paid during 2022, 2023 and 2024, along with bank statements linked to those transactions within seven working days, officials familiar with the matter told TBS.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/idra-ramps-scrutiny-life-insurers-amid-soaring-unpaid-claims-1152496>

BANK | BB bars 19 banks from dividend payouts

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has barred 19 listed banks from paying dividends, citing their fragile financial health. To the lenders, BB issued letters on May 21 that cited Section 22 of the Bank Company Act, 1991, which prohibits ailing lenders from distributing dividends. However, the banking regulator has allowed most of these banks to defer provisions against their non-performing loans (NPLs).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-bars-19-banks-dividend-payouts-3904226>

BANK | 20 NBFIs may lose licence

- Twenty non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) with high levels of defaulted loans and an inability to repay depositors may lose their licences. The NBFIs are: CVC Finance, Bay Leasing, Islamic Finance, Meridian Finance, GSP Finance, Hajj Finance, National Finance, IIDFC, Premier Leasing, Prime Finance, Uttara Finance, Aviva Finance, Phoenix Finance, Peoples Leasing, First Finance, Union Capital, International Leasing, BIFC, Fareast Finance, and FAS Finance.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/twenty-nbfis-may-lose-licence-3904421>

BANK | Conventional banks outperform Islamic counterparts

- Bangladesh's banking sector witnessed steady growth from January 2024 to January 2025, with key financial indicators like deposit, investment, and asset of conventional banks outperforming Islamic ones. According to the latest Bangladesh Bank (BB), though both segments showed positive trends, conventional banks remained a competitive edge in most areas than that of the Shariah-based ones. The volume of total deposit with the banking system rose by 8.40% to reach to BDT 19.05 Tn during January, 2024 to January 2025 over that of BDT 17.57 Tn during the corresponding period of last fiscal.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/conventional-banks-outperform-islamic-counterparts-1748283864>

RMG | RMG exports may drop USD 2 Bn this year

- Bangladesh's RMG exports may suffer this calendar year owing to an increase in tariffs in the US, the possibility of a reduction in shipments to India, and energy shortages, according to a forecast by Bloomberg Economics. It said the headwinds could lower garment exports by USD 2 Bn in 2025. The country fetched USD 38.48 Bn from RMG exports in 2024, according to data compiled by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). Overall earnings from apparel account for over 80% of total exports.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rmg-exports-may-drop-2b-year-3904256>

SERVICE, REAL ESTATE | InterContinental incurs BDT 230 Mn loss in Jan-Mar

- Bangladesh Services Ltd (BSL), the state-owned owner of InterContinental Dhaka, reported a loss of BDT 225.9 Mn in the January-March quarter of the current fiscal year, according to a stock exchange filing today. The hotel and tourism firm incurred a per-share loss of BDT 2.31 for the quarter, a 354% increase from the BDT 0.54 loss per share reported during the same period last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/intercontinental-incurs-tk23cr-loss-jan-mar-1152446>

TELECOM | Reforming the telecom licensing policy: loose ends that need tightening

- The proposed Telecommunication Network & Licensing Regime Reform Policy 2025 marks a welcome shift toward a more streamlined, modern telecom ecosystem in Bangladesh. It includes several forward-thinking provisions but also contains critical ambiguities that must be resolved for the policy to drive sustainable, inclusive sectoral growth. A standout progressive clause is Section 7.2.7, which permits access network service providers (ANSPs) to share both active and passive infrastructure. This is a sensible, cost-efficient move: network sharing reduces redundant capital expenditure and eases pressure on foreign reserves by limiting repeat infrastructure imports and real estate usage.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reforming-the-telecom-licensing-policy-loose-ends-need-tightening-3903901>

Stocks:**DESCO | Desco to issue 2.38 Mn preference shares**

- Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (Desco) has received regulatory approval to issue over 2.38 Mn irredeemable non-cumulative preference shares in favour of the government. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), through a letter, gave its consent for the issuance of the preference shares at a face value of BDT 10 each, according to a filing on the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/desco-issue-2381-lakh-preference-shares-3903876>

EXCHANGE | Asset managers' last-ditch effort to keep investors with pooled funds

- The country's mutual fund (MFs) industry is in a tight spot as unitholders, frustrated over no return and persistent erosion in the equity market, have increasingly been withdrawing their investments. The disinterest shown in open-ended funds has raised concerns among fund managers as investors have already turned away from close-ended funds for loss of faith in them after repeated financial frauds.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/asset-managers-last-ditch-effort-to-keep-investors-with-pooled-funds-1748279150>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.35	(USD 10.08)	-14.11%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.61	(USD 9.78)	-13.15%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,342.79	USD 734.31	28.15%
DSEX	4,719.39	-497.06	-9.53%
S&P 500	5,802.82	-104.12	-1.76%
FTSE 100	8,717.97	596.96	7.35%
BSE SENSEX	82,176.45	3,976.52	5.09%
KSE-100	118,221.12	2,962.12	2.57%
CSEALL	16,496.24	551.63	3.46%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 121.83 BDT

1 GBP = 165.36 BDT

1 Euro = 138.86 BDT

1 INR = 1.43 BDT

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