

*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 trade court blocks tariffs in major setback for Trump**

- A US federal court on Wednesday blocked most of Donald Trump's sweeping import tariffs from going into effect, ruling that the president had overstepped his authority with the across-the-board global levies. The opinion marks a significant setback to the Republican leader as he bids to redraw the US trading relationship with the world by forcing governments to the negotiating table through tough new tariffs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-trade-court-blocks-tariffs-major-setback-trump-3906246>

**Historic dollar fall needed to eliminate US trade deficit**

- If the United States is to significantly reduce or, whisper it, eliminate its trade deficit, the dollar will probably have to weaken a lot. How much is unclear, though, as history shows large dollar declines are rare and have unpredictable consequences for trade. Reducing the US trade deficit is the key goal of President Donald Trump's economic agenda because he believes it reflects decades of other countries "ripping off" America to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars annually.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/historic-dollar-fall-needed-eliminate-us-trade-deficit-3906061>

**Macro:****Private investment sinks to five-year low**

- Private investment as a percentage of the gross domestic product has slumped to its lowest level in five years, stoking fears over waning business confidence and a slowdown in job creation. Private investment dropped to 22.48% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the fiscal year (FY) 2024–25 from 23.96% the year before, according to provisional data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) on Tuesday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/private-investment-sinks-five-year-low-3906091>

**Businesses set for relief as interim govt eyes major tax & fine cuts**

- Businesses grappling with high operational costs in Bangladesh may soon receive significant relief as the interim government plans substantial reductions in import misdeclaration fines and a cap on interest for tax-related legal disputes. These measures, set to be unveiled in the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal year budget early next month, aim to ease the burden on businesses and improve the country's "ease of doing business" ranking.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businesses-set-relief-interim-govt-eyes-major-tax-fine-cuts-1154311>

**Bangladesh seeks deeper strategic, economic ties with South Korea**

- Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Anisuzzaman Chowdhury today (28 May) underscored the need for sustained diplomatic engagement and deeper strategic ties between Bangladesh and South Korea, highlighting the broad spectrum of cooperation shaping the future of bilateral relations. He made the remarks while addressing a seminar titled "Bangladesh-South Korea Relations: Pathways for Future Cooperation" organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium as part of its Country Lecture Series (CLS).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-seeks-deeper-strategic-economic-ties-south-korea-1154181>

**Bangladeshi cos expecting increased costs due to tariffs, yet extremely optimistic about int'l growth: HSBC survey**

- Due to the tariffs, Bangladeshi businesses have experienced a lower-than-average cost increase to date and are expecting a notably lower short and long-term cost increase, but optimism reigns about their international growth, an HSBC survey has found. In the HSBC's 2025 Global Trade Pulse Survey, it was also found that the mean average expected impact on revenue to a Bangladeshi business due to supply chain delays or interruption was 5% higher than the global average.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshi-cos-expecting-increased-costs-due-tariffs-yet-extremely-optimistic-about>

**Economy is showing signs of a gradual recovery: MCCI**

- Bangladesh's economy is showing signs of a gradual recovery, though GDP growth remains under pressure, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has said in their latest report. "Export earnings and remittance inflows are helping to stabilise the foreign exchange reserves and revitalise the rural economy - factors which are contributing positively to macroeconomic stability" –MCCI said in its latest review revealed today (28 May) for the third quarter (January to March) of the current fiscal year (FY25).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/economy-showing-signs-gradual-recovery-mcci-1153896>

**New budget commutes trade penalties, cuts essentials' taxes**

- Multiple trade-facilitation measures like corporate-tax variables to promote capital market, commuting penalties for trade offences and cut-down tax rates for pharmaceuticals and other essentials are envisaged in the new budget. The current interim government is set to cut corporate tax for publicly-listed companies on the capital market by 2.5% in the upcoming budget, widening the much-demanded tax gap to 7.5% between listed and non-listed companies.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-budget-commutes-trade-penalties-cuts-essentials-taxes-1748456327>

**Bangladesh, Argentina eye deeper trade ties through joint ventures**

- There is immense potential in Bangladesh, and both Argentina and Bangladesh must actively explore avenues for joint ventures particularly in energy, agribusiness, medical technology, and the cotton trade, said Marcelo Carlos Cesa, ambassador of Argentina to Bangladesh. He stressed the importance of a structured and sustained engagement between the two nations to identify new opportunities in trade, investment, and sectoral collaboration.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/bangladesh-argentina-eye-deeper-trade-ties-through-joint-ventures-3905731>

**BD sees lower cost increase from tariff**

- Bangladeshi businesses have experienced a lower-than-average cost increase from tariffs and expect significantly smaller cost increases in both the short and long terms, according to HSBC's 2025 Global Trade Pulse Survey. The survey, which gathered insights from over 5,700 international firms across 13 markets, including 250 companies in Bangladesh, found that the mean average expected impact on revenue to a Bangladeshi business due to supply chain delays/interruption is 5.0% higher than the global average.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-sees-lower-cost-increase-from-tariff-1748456641>

**How termination of USDA-funded trade facilitation project will affect Bangladesh**

- The Bangladesh Trade Facilitation (BTF) project, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), was terminated effective 13 June, raising concerns among government agencies and private sector stakeholders. This will hamper the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) measures aimed at streamlining trade and attracting foreign investment. The project implementation agency, Land O'Lakes Venture37, which has been providing technical assistance for trade facilitation since 2020, has notified all the government agencies about the termination through email.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-termination-usda-funded-trade-facilitation-project-will-affect-bangladesh-1154291>

**Bangladesh youth unemployment rate to stay high**

- Youth unemployment in Bangladesh will continue to be high -- more than double the national unemployment rate -- with university graduates being the hardest hit, according to the World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) report released yesterday by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Bangladesh's unemployment rate rose to 4.63% in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024–25, as a growing number of job seekers failed to secure employment, according to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), published recently.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-youth-unemployment-rate-stay-high-3905616>

**Sector & Industries:****MFS | Google Pay likely coming to Bangladesh soon**

- After years of anticipation, people in Bangladesh may soon get official access to Google's digital payment services without depending on workarounds. Fintech industry sources told TBS that Google is preparing to launch Google Wallet – commonly known as Google Pay – in Bangladesh within the next month. With the rollout, Android smartphones will soon serve as fully functional wallets, eliminating the need to carry cards – often referred to as "plastic money". From air travel to shopping and cinema, mobile phones will become the gateway to a wide array of contactless transactions, fundamentally reshaping the way Bangladeshis pay.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/tech/google-pay-likely-coming-bangladesh-soon-1153526>

**TANNERY | Tanners may get slight tariff relief on chemicals**

- The government is considering reducing customs duty on seven imported tanning chemicals in the upcoming national budget, offering slight relief to the country's struggling tannery sector. At present, only 27 tanners benefit from bond facilities designed to support the domestic leather industry. Around 100 others operate without such privileges and face higher and varied duties on chemical imports, according to finance ministry sources.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tanners-may-get-slight-tariff-relief-chemicals-3906076>

**TEXTILE | Singaporean Air8 to provide export financing service in textile sector with Bangladesh Garments**

- In a strategic move to strengthen financial access for the textile and garment sector, the Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association (BGBA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Air8, a cross-border supply chain finance platform. The partnership aims to enhance export financing and working capital solutions for Bangladeshi textile exporters, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aviation/singaporean-air8-provide-export-financing-service-textile-sector-bangladesh>

**BANK | Banks still shy away from spot market forex trade**

- Commercial banks still go slow in trading foreign exchange (forex) in the interbank spot market even during the current free-floating regime, which is increasing their net open position (NOP) significantly. Complying with a condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) given as part of its USD 4.70 Bn lending package, the Bangladesh Bank left the exchange rate on the market with an undisclosed band on May 14 this year, hoping this will make the interbank forex spot market vibrant.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/banks-still-shy-away-from-spot-market-forex-trade-1748456870>

**BANK | Banks, MFS providers and PSOs told to employ AI to detect online gambling**

- The Bangladesh Bank has directed banks, mobile financial service (MFS) providers, payment system operators (PSOs) and payment service providers (PSPs) to deploy artificial intelligence (AI)-based technologies to bolster their ability to detect and analyse illicit online gambling activities. In a notice issued today, the central bank expressed concern over the alarming rise of online betting sites, warning that such enterprises are increasingly associated with social degradation and criminal conduct.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-mfs-providers-and-psos-told-employ-ai-detect-online-gambling-3905816>

**BANK | Banks' Tier-1 CRAR falls below 0.5% in second half of 2024: Cenbank**

- Banks' Tier-1 capital to risk-weighted asset ratio (CRAR) recorded a significant decline to 0.48% in the second half of the year 2024 compared to the first half, trailing behind the regulatory requirement of 6%. Due to a sharp increase in non-performing loans in the banking sector, the capital shortfall of 20 banks rose to BDT 1.72 Tn in December 2024 – in just three months, according to the central bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-tier-1-crar-falls-below-05-second-half-2024-cenbank-1154031>

**Stocks:****TRUSTBANK | Trust Bank to issue BDT 8 Bn bond**

- Trust Bank PLC will issue a bond worth BDT 8 Bn to bolster its capital base, the company said in a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website yesterday. The decision to float the bond was approved at a board meeting held on May 27 and is subject to approval from the relevant regulatory authorities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trust-bank-issue-tk-800cr-bond-3905471>

**BERGERPBL | Berger Paints rights share subscription starts 15 July**

- Public subscription for the right shares of Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited is set to start on 15 July and continue till 3 August. To identify the shareholders eligible for the right shares, the company has fixed the record date on 29 June. Those who hold the company's shares till the record date will be the eligible shareholders, says officials familiar with the matter.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/berger-paints-rights-share-subscription-starts-15-july-1154146>

**DHAKABANK | Dhaka Bank declares 10% dividend for 2024**

- Dhaka Bank has recommended paying a 5% cash and 5% stock dividends to its shareholders for the year 2024. The bank announced the dividend at a meeting held today (28 May), according to the source. To approve the dividend and audited financial statement, the bank will conduct the annual general meeting on 31 July, and the record date is 25 June.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-bank-declares-10-dividend-2024-1154141>

**TAKAFULINS, UNIONINS | Takaful, Union insurance to pay 10% cash dividends**

- General insurance companies -- Takaful Islami Insurance and Union Insurance Company - have declared 10% cash dividends each for their investors for 2024. While Takaful Islam Insurance showed a slight year-on-year decline in annual profit, Union Insurance secured a slight jump in its earnings. The earnings per share (EPS) of Takaful fell to BDT 1.46 for 2024 from BDT 1.47 for the previous year, according to the price sensitive information published on Wednesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/takaful-union-insurance-to-pay-10pc-cash-dividends-1748452302>

**NRBCBANK | NRBC Bank's profit drops 96% in 2024**

- The NRBC Bank has reported that its consolidated earnings per share dropped by 96% in 2024. According to the bank's price-sensitive statement that was approved at a board meeting held today (28 May), its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 0.08 in 2024, which was BDT 2.40 in the previous year. Due to the profit slump, the bank has recommended not to pay any dividend to its shareholders for the last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/nrbc-banks-profit-drops-96-2024-1154151>

**ICB | ICB seeks provisioning relief to ensure dividends for mutual fund investors**

- The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), the trustee of the highest number of mutual funds in the country, has urged the government and the capital market regulator to allow relaxations in maintaining provisions against unrealised losses for the mutual funds. ICB, the trustee of 62 mutual funds, has proposed that at least 25% of the profit earned by mutual funds in the current fiscal year be kept as provisioning, while the remaining 75% be distributed as dividends among the unit holders for the interest of investors who have poured money into the funds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-seeks-provisioning-relief-ensure-dividends-mutual-fund-investors-1154216>

**EXCHNAGE | Regulations approved for first commodity exchange**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved rules and regulations necessary to run commodity exchange markets, paving the way for the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) to launch the country's first such trading entity soon. A commodity exchange determines and enforces rules and procedures for trading standardised commodity contracts and related investment products.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/regulations-approved-first-commodity-exchange-3906041>

**EXCHNAGE | BSEC to punish 44 firms over shareholding rule violation**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is going to take action against 44 listed companies whose sponsors and directors have failed to jointly retain the minimum 30% shareholding required by law. In response to this non-compliance, the stock market regulator will appoint independent directors to the boards of the companies in question.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsec-punish-44-firms-over-shareholding-rule-violation-3906071>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 62.59	(USD 8.84)	-12.38%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 65.64	(USD 8.75)	-11.76%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,270.57	USD 662.09	25.38%
DSEX	4,615.41	-601.04	-11.52%
S&P 500	5,888.55	-18.39	-0.31%
FTSE 100	8,726.01	605.00	7.45%
BSE SENSEX	81,312.32	3,112.39	3.98%
KSE-100	118,332.91	3,073.91	2.67%
CSEALL	16,712.87	768.26	4.82%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 122.20 BDT****1 GBP = 164.25 BDT****1 Euro = 137.52 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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