

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:**Interim govt unveils its maiden BDT 7.9 Tn budget today**

- Post-uprising interim government is set to present today its maiden national budget worth BDT 7.9 Tn for the fiscal year 2025-26, avowedly aligned with reforms and income parity. With no functioning parliament existing following the July-August changeover, the budget will be presented at 3.00pm outside Jatiya Sangsad (national parliament) and broadcast simultaneously on state-run BTV and other private media outlets.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/interim-govt-unveils-its-maiden-tk-79t-budget-today-1748801657>

CA urges Chinese investors to build production hubs in BD

- Chief Advisor Prof Muhammad Yunus called upon Chinese investors to help transform Bangladesh into a "production hub" as a big band of entrepreneurs from Beijing, led by their commerce minister, are here exploring business prospects.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ca-urges-chinese-investors-to-build-production-hubs-in-bd-1748801749>

May sees second-highest remittance flow of USD 2.97 Bn

- Rising remittance inflows fetched Bangladesh USD 2.97 Bn in May, the second-highest monthly receipt in its history, giving a much-needed respite to the economy facing multipronged strains amid forex dearth in recent times.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/may-sees-second-highest-remittance-flow-of-297b-1748802044>

Several future tax rates to be outlined

- Several tax rates, both for individual and corporate taxpayers, would come in a prospective manner in the FY26 budget, with effect from July 2026 in a bid to help taxpayers properly plan their taxes. Individual taxpayers will enjoy an upward revision of their tax-free ceiling by BDT 25,000 from July 2026 on their income for the tax year 2025-26, officials said. This means they would enjoy the tax-free ceiling of BDT 3,75,000 for FY27 and FY28

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/several-future-tax-rates-to-be-outlined-1748802106>

A budget meant to fix, not to dream

- This year's national budget does not come from an elected government—it arrives from an interim administration, arguably the most technocratic Bangladesh has seen in recent memory. Unburdened by the usual political calculations, this government has the space—and perhaps the will—to confront hard truths. And in some places, signs of that resolve are beginning to show.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/budget-meant-fix-not-dream-1157471>

Reform in customs clearance, visa regime a must to boost FDI

- Reform in the customs clearance procedure and visa regime is imperative to boost the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) into Bangladesh, Park Young-sik, South Korea's Ambassador to Bangladesh, said on Sunday. He emphasised the urgent need for Bangladesh to undertake economic and policy reforms to attract higher levels of FDI, particularly in light of its impending graduation from least-developed country (LDC) status in 2026.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/reform-in-customs-clearance-visa-regime-a-must-to-boost-fdi-1748802467>

Advance tax on bus, truck, taxi to rise by up to 88%

- Advance tax on commercial vehicles such as buses and trucks is set to rise by as much as 88%, which could lead to higher transportation costs, according to industry insiders. Currently, advance tax on 13 types of commercially operated motor vehicles ranges from BDT 4,000 to BDT 37,500. According to sources in the finance ministry, the new rates could range from BDT 7,000 to BDT 50,000.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/advance-tax-bus-truck-taxi-rise-88-1157491>

Primary education to see funding cut, madrasah budget to rise

- While allocations for primary and mass education in the national budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 are set to decrease compared to both the original and revised budgets of the current fiscal year, the technical and madrasah education sector, along with secondary and higher education, will see increased funding.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/primary-education-see-funding-cut-madrasah-budget-rise-1157486>

Two questions, two ironies the budget must address

- In the forthcoming 2025-26 budget, two pressing questions warrant urgent attention: how to bolster domestic resource mobilisation and how to secure financing to mitigate post-Covid poverty and income losses. These questions are not merely fiscal but are deeply entwined with historical ironies and systemic failures that continue to haunt the nation's development trajectory. A third concern, whether the budget will offer a path out of the debt spiral, was discussed in this newspaper on May 25, 2025.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/two-questions-two-ironies-the-budget-must-address-3908706>

Govt spending in Bangladesh lowest among LDC graduating peers

- Bangladesh's public spending as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) is the lowest among nations on course to graduate from the least developed country (LDC) club. Economists say that this low level of expenditure, both operational costs and development outlays, could weaken the foundations of the country's transition and leave the economy vulnerable on several fronts once it loses LDC status.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-spending-bangladesh-lowest-among-ldc-graduating-peers-3909076>

Black money may still find its way into real estate

- The interim government is likely to retain the opportunity to invest undeclared wealth, commonly known as black money, in the real estate sector, albeit with a sharp increase in associated tax rates. Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed is likely to announce the new rate, which may potentially see a five-fold rise from current levels, while unveiling the national budget for the fiscal year 2025–26 today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/black-money-may-still-find-its-way-real-estate-3909056>

Budget for FY26: OTT platforms may get costlier

- The interim government is likely to impose a 10% supplementary duty on over-the-top (OTT) platform services in the upcoming budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 — a move that is expected to raise consumer costs and increase spending on paid streaming services.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/budget-fy26-ott-platforms-may-get-costlier-3908781>

TCB gets BDT 150 Bn from govt to offset its trade gap

- The government has provided Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) with BDT 150 Bn as subsidy to help offset its trade gap for current fiscal 2024-'25 on account of selling key essentials at subsidised rates.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/tcb-gets-tk150b-from-govt-to-offset-its-trade-gap>

Jobs drying up as private sector struggles to survive

- As companies scale back and fight for survival, Bangladesh's private sector – the lifeline of its labour market – is slowly fading. Inflation, currency swings, energy shortages, and political tensions have battered businesses for the last three years. The result: job losses are piling up quietly in a sector that employs nearly 95% of the entire workforce.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/jobs-drying-private-sector-struggles-survive-1156686>

Sector & Industries:**FUEL & POWER | Bapex finds gas presence at Jamalganj well**

- Fresh natural gas has been found in a well at Jamalganj of Madarganj Upazilla in Jamalpur district, an official of Bapex said on Sunday. "Bapex (Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company) discovered the presence of gas at Madarganj, Jamalpur during preliminary tests," Mohammad Mozammel Hoque, Drilling Superintendent and project director of Jamalpur-1 exploration well project, told BSS.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bapex-finds-gas-presence-at-jamalganj-well-1748802168>

BANK | 7.5 Mn more small depositors to gain excise duty exemption next fiscal

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is set to ease excise duty for small and middle-income bank depositors by raising the tax-free threshold from BDT 0.1 Mn to BDT 0.3 Mn in the upcoming fiscal year, benefiting additional 7.5 Mn depositors. Analysis of central bank data shows the total tax burden for these depositors will decrease by BDT 1.12 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/75-lakh-more-small-depositors-gain-excise-duty-exemption-next-fiscal-1156691>

TELECOM | Prices of local mobile phones may increase

- Local mobile phone manufacturers and assemblers are likely to face increased value-added tax (VAT) in the next fiscal year (FY2025-26), as the government plans to reduce certain facilities currently enjoyed by the sector. According to officials at the Ministry of Finance, companies involved in surface-mount technology (SMT) and general assembly processes may see VAT rates rise to 10% from the current 7.5%.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/prices-of-local-mobile-phones-may-increase>

Stocks:**FIRSTSBANK | First Security Islami Bank reports BDT 559.20 Bn in classified loans**

- First Security Islami Bank has reported that its total classified loans stood at BDT 559.20 Bn at the end of 2024, accounting for a staggering 92% of its total loan disbursement. The bank also disclosed a provision shortfall of BDT 478.62 Bn as of 31 December 2024, which led its board of directors to forgo declaring any dividend for the year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/first-security-islami-bank-reports-tk55920cr-classified-loans-1157421>

MERCANBANK | Mercantile Bank maintains good reputation amid turmoil

- The banking sector is currently going through one of its worst times. People are suffering, with some even failing to withdraw their own money, causing immense distress. However, Mercantile Bank stands as an exception in this situation, according to Mati Ul Hasan, the managing director of the private lender.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mercantile-bank-maintains-good-reputation-amid-turmoil-3909046>

IFIC | IFIC Bank slipped into losses in 2024

- IFIC Bank PLC reported losses in 2024 compared to a profit in the previous year, due to lower interest spreads and deteriorating asset quality, according to a price-sensitive information disclosure by the bank. The bank reported a consolidated net loss of BDT 1.21 Bn in 2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ific-bank-slipped-losses-2024-3908636>

UCB | UCB to offer rights share

- The United Commercial Bank (UCB), a leading private sector commercial bank, has announced a series of capital enhancement measures to strengthen its financial position. The bank's board has approved the issuance of one rights share for every two existing shares at an offer price of BDT 10 each. This move aims to boost UCB's core capital by raising fresh equity from existing shareholders, according to filing with the DSE.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ucb-to-offer-rights-share-1748804615>

SIBL | Social Islami Bank reports BDT 209.94 Bn provision shortfall

- Social Islami Bank has reported a provision shortfall of BDT 209.94 Bn as of 31 December 2024, prompting its board of directors to withhold any dividend declaration for the year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/social-islami-bank-reports-tk20994cr-provision-shortfall-1157406>

RUPALIBANK | Rupali Bank's profit slumped 82% in 2024

- Rupali Bank PLC's profit plummeted in 2024 due to declining operating income. The state-owned bank's profit dropped 82% year-on-year to BDT 112.2 Mn in 2024. The bank reported consolidated earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 0.23 for the year ending on December 31, 2024, down from BDT 1.28 (restated) a year earlier, according to a price-sensitive information disclosure.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rupali-banks-profit-slumped-82-2024-3908626>

EXCHANGE | T-bills witness sharp rise in yields ahead of Eid-ul-Azha

- The yields on treasury bills (T-bills) increased significantly on Sunday as banks expressed unwillingness to invest their excess liquidity in the securities ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha. The cut-off yield, generally known as interest rate, on the 91-day T-bills rose to 12.02% from 11.69% of the previous level while the yield on 182-day T-bills rose to 12.11% from 11.85%. However, the yield on 364-day T-bills reached 12.00% on the day from 11.75% earlier, according to the auction results.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/t-bills-witness-sharp-rise-in-yields-ahead-of-eid-ul-azha>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 62.58	(USD 8.85)	-12.39%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.41	(USD 9.98)	-13.42%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,308.85	USD 700.37	26.85%
DSEX	4,668.41	-548.04	-10.51%
S&P 500	5,911.69	4.75	0.08%
FTSE 100	8,772.38	651.37	8.02%
BSE SENSEX	81,451.01	3,251.08	4.16%
KSE-100	119,691.09	4,432.09	3.85%
CSEALL	16,854.86	910.25	5.71%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 121.94 BDT

1 GBP = 164.52 BDT

1 Euro = 138.83 BDT

1 INR = 1.43 BDT

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