

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:**IMF projects Bangladesh's GDP to rebound to 4.7% in fiscal 2026**

- The International Monetary Fund on Friday said Bangladesh's gross domestic product is expected to rebound to 4.7% in the fiscal year 2026, following a recent economic slowdown.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-projects-bangladeshs-gdp-rebound-47-fiscal-2026-1348331>

Bangladesh to seek 12-year trade grace for post-graduation era

- Bangladesh is set to seek a binding 12-year transition period to safeguard its export-oriented economy from post-LDC-graduation trade challenges in a high-stakes strategy to be placed at the upcoming WTO ministerial meet.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-to-seek-12-year-trade-grace-for-post-graduation-era>

BB's exchange rate framework incomplete: IMF

- Although the authorities say the foreign exchange rate is now fully market-determined, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has described the system as "incomplete".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bbs-exchange-rate-framework-incomplete-imf-4095156>

Bangladesh Bank bought nearly USD 4 Bn in FY26 so far

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has purchased a total of USD 3.93 billion from the interbank foreign exchange market so far in fiscal year 2025–26, reflecting continued intervention to manage dollar liquidity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-bank-bought-nearly-4-billion-fy26-so-far-4093591>

Impose tax on gifts, bequests: taskforce

- A national tax reform taskforce has recommended introducing a 1% levy on gifts and bequests as part of efforts to modernise Bangladesh's tax system and raise the tax-to-GDP ratio.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/impose-tax-gifts-bequests-taskforce-4093976>

Online VAT refunds pose new hurdles for businesses, with BDT 15 Bn in claims stuck

- Bangladesh's recent shift from a manual to an online value-added tax refund system, promoted by the National Board of Revenue as a move towards transparency and efficiency, has instead created new complications for businesses, leaving around BDT 15.0 Bn crore in refunds effectively stuck.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/online-vat-refunds-pose-new-hurdles-businesses-tk1500cr-claims-stuck-1348371>

Gold sees sharpest one-day fall, down BDT 15,746 per bhoori

- Gold prices in the Bangladesh market fell sharply again, with the price of 22-carat gold dropping by BDT 15,746 per bhoori (11.664 grams) in a single day, the Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajus) announced (31 January).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/gold-sees-sharpest-one-day-fall-down-tk15746-bhoori-1348566>

BB autonomy deadlocked as interim govt nears end

- With around two weeks left in office, the interim government has yet to pass two important banking reform laws that the central bank says are crucial for strengthening its oversight of the financial sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-autonomy-deadlocked-interim-govt-nears-end-4095151>

Foreign debt servicing rises to USD7.09 Bn

- Foreign debt servicing by the government and its guaranteed loans rose 17% to USD 7.09 Bn at the end of June in the last fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-debt-servicing-rises-709b-4095171>

Dollar gains

- The US dollar gained on Friday after former Federal Reserve Governor Kevin Warsh was selected to be the next Fed chair, and as the US currency recovered from a sharp selloff earlier in the week that analysts say was overdone in the short-term.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/dollar-gains-4095181>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Lenders stare at BDT 6.46 Bn loss after bank merger**

- At least five financial institutions risk losing assets following the recent bank merger, as shares held as collateral for loans they disbursed have been valued at zero.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/lenders-stare-at-tk-646b-loss-after-bank-merger>

BANK | Charge rational interest rate on loans

- Government's finance division wants fixing rational interest on loans from microfinance banks as it finds the rates irrationally high in case of microcredit, taken by small borrowers, sources have said. MoF specifically wants that the microfinance banks charge simple interest from borrowers instead of compound interest.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/charge-rational-interest-rate-on-loans>

BANK | Merged Islamic banks' clients getting maximum 9.5% profit

- Depositors in the five Islamic banks merged into the newly formed Sammilito Islami Bank will receive profits at market rates of up to 9.5%, says the regulator.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/merged-islamic-banks-clients-getting-maximum-95pc-profit>

FUEL & POWER | Govt cuts fuel prices by BDT 2 per litre for February

- The government has announced a BDT 2 per litre reduction in the prices of diesel, octane, petrol, and kerosene for February 2026, aiming to provide fuel at a relatively affordable price to consumers.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-cuts-fuel-prices-by-tk-2-per-litre-for-february>

PLASTIC | Tech, recycling drive plastic sector growth

- The country's plastic industry, long overshadowed by garments, is steadily expanding as manufacturers adopt new technologies, increase recycling, and diversify exports beyond traditional markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tech-recycling-drive-plastic-sector-growth-4095206>

TELECOM | Plan to reduce SIM limits deferred until after polls

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has halted its plan to reduce the number of mobile SIM cards registered under a single national identity (NID) card from 10 to five ahead of the upcoming national election.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/plan-reduce-sim-limits-deferred-until-after-polls-4095161>

Stocks:**SOUTHEASTB | Southeast Bank completes automation, centralisation of credit functions**

- Southeast Bank PLC recently hosted an event at its head office in Dhaka to mark the successful completion of the full centralisation and automation of its documentation and limit-loading functions.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/southeast-bank-completes-automation-centralisation-credit-functions-4095261>

SINGERBD | Singer Bangladesh steps up long-term investment drive

- Singer Bangladesh Limited has undertaken a series of major investments in recent years to strengthen its manufacturing base, expand exports and enhance consumer experience, as part of a long-term growth strategy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/press-releases/news/singer-bangladesh-steps-long-term-investment-drive-4094791>

BRACBANK | bKash receives BDT 200 Bn in remittances from expatriates in 2025

- Expatriates sent BDT 200 Bn in remittances to the bKash accounts of their loved ones in Bangladesh in 2025. A total of 4.1 million bKash accounts received the funds, nearly double the number recorded a year earlier, according to a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/bkash-receives-tk-20000cr-remittances-expatriates-2025-4093911>

SHAHJABANK | Shahjalal Islami Bank strikes remittance deal with Nagad

- Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC recently signed a remittance disbursement agreement with Nagad Limited to ensure that remittances sent by expatriates reach their beneficiaries quickly and seamlessly.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/shahjalal-islami-bank-strikes-remittance-deal-nagad-4092881>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 65.21	USD 7.78	13.55%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 69.32	USD 8.47	13.92%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,894.23	USD 553.23	12.74%
DSEX	5,154.31	288.97	5.94%
S&P 500	6,939.03	40.21	0.58%
FTSE 100	10,223.54	292.16	2.94%
BSE SENSEX	82,269.78	-2,523.80	-2.98%
KSE-100	184,003.60	9,949.30	5.72%
CSEALL	23,812.31	1,188.00	5.25%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.34 BDT
1 GBP = 167.47 BDT
1 Euro = 145.04 BDT
1 INR = 1.33 BDT

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