

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:**Octane, Petrol and Kerosene prices raised by BDT 5 per litre; Diesel unchanged**

- Under the new rate, diesel will continue to be sold at BDT 115 per litre at the consumer level. The price of octane has been set at BDT 145 per litre, petrol at BDT 140 per litre and kerosene at BDT 135 per litre.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/octane-petrol-and-kerosene-prices-raised-by-tk-5-per-litre>

IMF confirms Bangladesh govt's request for new programme

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that the Bangladesh government has requested a new IMF-supported programme as discussions continue over the country's reform agenda and policy priorities. In a statement, IMF Mission Chief for Bangladesh said the IMF staff are currently engaged in talks with the Bangladeshi authorities regarding the proposed programme.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/imf-confirms-bangladesh-govts-request-for-new-programme>

Govt may reimpose 20% tax on offshore loan interest

- The government is considering reintroducing a 20% income tax on interest payments for offshore loans in the upcoming budget, according to officials at the National Board of Revenue.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/oiffshore-banking/govt-may-reimpose-20-tax-offshore-loan-interest-1449086>

ADB offers USD 5.0 Bn in dev aid

- An incremental assistance package announced by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) would fetch Bangladesh USD 5.0 Bn over next five years and increase the subsequent annual aid by 20%.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/adb-offers-50b-in-dev-aid>

Govt eyes USD 51.0 Bn reserves in FY27

- The government expects the country's gross foreign currency reserves to hit a record USD 51.4 Bn by the end of next fiscal year, provided that remittance inflow is strong and interest rates high.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-eyes-51b-reserves-fy27-4186996>

Govt gunning for 6.5% growth next year

- The government is setting a high growth target for the next fiscal year, banking on the possibility of stability returning to the Middle East by June next year and the expansionary fiscal and monetary policies being pursued.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-gunning-65pc-growth-next-year-4186106>

Bangladesh eyes greater energy security with BDT 36 Bn investment plan

- According to a list of proposed projects under the power and energy sector, the government has taken initiatives worth over BDT 36.0 Bn to help meet the country's growing demand for electricity and fuel amid rapid industrialisation, urbanisation and expanding economic activities.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-eyes-greater-energy-security-with-tk-36b-investment-plan>

BD import policy incompatible with new EU, US trade rules

- Bangladesh's import policy in the making appears at odds with emerging trade requirements in the EU and USA as it proposes allowing apparel exporters to qualify for incentives with a minimum 30% local value addition.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-import-policy-incompatible-with-new-eu-us-trade-rules-1780250684>

Budget focuses on economic recovery, restoring investor confidence

- Predictable policies, improving liquidity flows and rebuilding investor confidence dominates the upcoming national budget as Bangladesh navigates a challenging economic landscape marked by inflation, sluggish investment and financial-sector vulnerabilities.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/budget-focuses-on-economic-recovery-restoring-investor-confidence-1780251092>

BIFPCL seeks urgent BDT 6.32 Bn fund

- Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Limited (BIFPCL) has requested the government to urgently release BDT 6.32 Bn, warning that delays could jeopardise its ability to meet lender obligations and trigger substantial financial penalties, sources say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bifpcl-seeks-urgent-tk-632b-fund-1780244980>

US cotton plan considers Bangladesh a key market

- Bangladesh is expected to play a significant role in a new US initiative aimed at boosting American cotton exports, as the Trump administration links potential tariff benefits for Bangladeshi apparel exports to the use of US cotton and textile inputs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/us-cotton-plan-considers-bangladesh-key-market-4187586>

Bangladesh sees sharp decline in foreign aid commitments

- Bangladesh saw a sharp decline in foreign aid commitments in 10MFY26, even as the government's external debt repayment burden continued to rise, reflecting growing pressure on the country's fiscal and external financing position. Foreign assistance commitments dropped 34% YoY to USD 2.81 Bn during July-April of FY26. The fall was driven mainly by lower project assistance commitments, particularly loans from development partners.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-sees-sharp-decline-foreign-aid-commitments-4183586>

External sector may face tough times by end of FY26: Bangladesh Bank

- The central bank has warned that Bangladesh may face mounting external-sector pressures by the end of FY26 amid global trade tensions, geopolitical uncertainties and potential tariff shocks.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/external-sector-may-face-tough-times-by-end-of-fy26-bb>

Govt's bank borrowing crosses annual target in nine months

- The government's net borrowing from the banking sector in 9MFY26 has crossed the full-year target by more than BDT 220 Bn, due mainly to weak revenue collection.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govts-bank-borrowing-crosses-annual-target-nine-months-4184651>

Sector and Industries:**ENERGY | Offshore bid docs go on sale**

- State-run Petrobangla starts selling bidding documents and data packages for Bangladesh's latest offshore exploration round, marking a key step in the government's efforts to attract international oil companies (IOCs) to explore 26 hydrocarbon blocks in the Bay of Bengal amid rising energy demand and declining domestic gas reserves.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/offshore-bid-docs-go-on-sale-1780250880>

BANK | Bank deposits grow 11.76% on higher rates, remittances

- Bangladesh Bank data showed that total deposits stood at BDT 20.32 Tn at the end of March, up from BDT 18.18 Tn a year earlier. Well-run institutions such as City Bank, BRAC Bank, Pubali Bank, Prime Bank, Shahjalal Islami Bank, Eastern Bank and Mutual Trust Bank have seen strong inflows.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/301180/bank-deposits-grow-1176pc-on-higher-rates-remittances>

BANK | Why interbank rates frequently hit 13% this May

- From the first week of the month through 24 May, Bangladesh's call money rates remained in double digits. Bangladesh Bank data showed average overnight rates hovering between 9.90% and 10.19%, while the maximum rate repeatedly touched 13%, gradually spreading across multiple maturities as the month progressed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/why-interbank-rates-frequently-hit-13-may-1449111>

STEEL | VAT on steel rods may rise by 10%

- The National Board of Revenue is considering raising the specific tax – a form of value-added tax (VAT) – on mild steel (MS) products and related items by around 10% at the production stage. Specific tax on MS products manufactured from re-rollable scrap currently stands at BDT 1,700 per tonne, which may be increased by BDT 170.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/vat-steel-rods-may-rise-10-1451351>

TELECOM | RFL bets on telecom equipment after phone push

- Just four years after entering mobile phone manufacturing, RFL is now expanding into local production of telecom service-related equipment, including routers and vehicle tracking devices (VTDs). The group has received preliminary approval from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to locally manufacture and assemble the products under its electronics arm, RFL Electronics Limited.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rfl-bets-telecom-equipment-after-phone-push-4187581>

CONSUMER | Chest freezers outperform fridges in shifting Eid demand pattern

- Sales of electronics and home appliances improved ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, with some companies meeting their pre-set targets, supported by steady demand across key product categories and rising customer activity before holiday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/chest-freezers-outperform-fridges-shifting-eid-demand-pattern-4185891>

Stocks:**BESTHLDNG | BSEC orders special audit into Best Holdings over BDT 30 Bn fund utilisation**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has launched a special audit into Best Holdings PLC, the parent company of Le Méridien Dhaka, to examine how it utilised funds raised through various public and private channels.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-orders-special-audit-best-holdings-over-tk3000cr-fund-utilisation-1451306>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank's rollercoaster: Shareholder euphoria turns to anxiety amid boardroom turmoil

- In the weeks following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, Islami Bank's shares staged a dramatic rally, rising 116% within a month to BDT 70.4 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/islami-banks-rollercoaster-shareholder-euphoria-turns-anxiety-amid-boardroom-turmoil>

ISLAMIBANK | Khurshid Alam appointed Islami Bank chairman

- Bangladesh Bank has appointed Md Khurshid Alam as the new chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC, hours after M Zubaidur Rahman resigned from the post. Khurshid Alam was appointed deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank in February 2024 on a three-year contractual term.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/khurshid-alam-appointed-islami-bank-chairman-1447906>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 89.43	USD 32.00	55.72%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 93.04	USD 32.19	52.90%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,529.83	USD 188.83	4.35%
DSEX	5,335.87	470.53	9.67%
S&P 500	7,580.06	681.24	9.87%
FTSE 100	10,409.28	477.90	4.81%
BSE SENSEX	74,775.74	-10,017.84	-11.81%
KSE-100	173,962.81	-91.49	-0.05%
CSEALL	22,310.80	-313.51	-1.39%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.74 BDT****1 GBP = 165.10 BDT****1 Euro = 142.94 BDT****1 INR = 1.29 BDT**

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