

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:**PM targets tax, credit, logistics to unlock investment**

- Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has initiated a reform drive aimed at removing longstanding barriers to investment and improving the ease of doing business, signalling a policy shift towards a more facilitative economic environment. A key approach under consideration is benchmarking reforms against peer economies such as Sri Lanka and Indonesia, with the aim of adopting tested solutions rather than developing new frameworks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/node/1402301>

Surging freight costs threaten exports, stoke inflation fears

- Shipping costs are rising fast as capacity tightens and risks mount in the Gulf. Industry insiders say the combined impact could push overall logistics costs up by around 25%, raising import bills, squeezing exporters' margins and, ultimately, feeding into consumer inflation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/surging-freight-costs-threaten-exports-stoke-inflation-fears-1401376>

Cenbank moves for gradual devaluation to manage fuel shock

- Bangladesh Bank has allowed a gradual depreciation of the taka against the dollar since March to cope with the sharp rise in global energy prices following the Iran war, backtracking from its earlier stance of maintaining the exchange rate through intervention.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-moves-gradual-devaluation-manage-fuel-shock-1401996>

Deposit up to BDT 0.5 Mn may get excise duty relief in next FY

- Around 10 Mn small and middle-income bank depositors may receive tax relief on deposits of up to BDT 0.5 Mn in the upcoming fiscal year. Currently, bank deposits between BDT 0.3-0.5 Mn are subject to an excise duty of BDT 150. An official estimate by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) suggests that the waiver of excise duty could result in a revenue loss of BDT 5.0 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/deposit-up-to-tk-05m-may-get-excise-duty-relief-in-next-fy-1775323519>

BD's trade surplus with EU widens

- The surplus in Bangladesh's trade in goods and services with the European Union rose by nearly 10% in FY25, underpinned by robust export growth, particularly in goods, despite rising outflows in services.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bds-trade-surplus-with-eu-widens-1775323733>

Govt to buy 3 more spot LNG cargoes by early May

- Bangladesh is eyeing to buy three more liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes from the spot market by early May amid the persistent Middle East crisis and Strait of Hormuz disruptions. If these tenders become successful, the country's total LNG spot cargo buys for this year will reach 14 so far and 12 of them after the commencement of the war.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-to-buy-3-more-spot-lng-cargoes-by-early-may>

Bangladesh, Japan advance Dhaka airport third terminal negotiations at fresh high-level talks

- Bangladesh and Japan held the second high-level meeting to advance negotiations on the operation and maintenance of the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/aviation/news/bangladesh-japan-advance-dhaka-airport-third-terminal-negotiations-fresh-high-level-talks-4142586>

Businesses want uncut energy supply

- Businesses today demanded that the government ensure an uninterrupted supply of energy, ease regulations and open the third terminal to improve the business environment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-want-uncut-energy-supply-4143206>

Shops to shut at 6pm, govt signals possible adjustment before Eid-ul-Azha

- The government has urged businesses to support energy-saving measures while signalling possible adjustments ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. The decision has been taken for three months to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during the summer and irrigation season, amid global uncertainties affecting fuel supply.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/shops-to-shut-at-6pm-govt-signals-possible-adjustment-before-eid-ul-azha>

Govt advances Boeing purchase, eyes Airbus leasing strategy

- The government is moving to finalise a 14-aircraft Boeing purchase while pursuing interim Airbus leasing to bridge a five-year delivery gap, as part of a broader fleet modernisation and capacity expansion plan for Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/govt-advances-boeing-purchase-eyes-airbus-leasing-strategy-1775318567>

Transparency, labour rights major investment obstacles

- The US government has identified a lack of transparency in Bangladesh as a major obstacle to investment and raised concerns about labour rights.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/transparency-labour-rights-major-investment-obstacles-4142131>

Sector & Industries:

RMG | Bangladesh's exports to US fall 8.5% in Jan-Feb, Vietnam, Indonesia see growth

- Apparel imports by the United States declined significantly in 2MCY26, falling by 8.53% year-on-year. Bangladeshi exporters primarily attribute the steep decline in exports to tariffs imposed by the Trump administration in mid-last year. Exports from China and India fell even more sharply while exports from Vietnam and Indonesia increased.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-exports-us-fall-85-jan-feb-vietnam-indonesia-see-growth-1402716>

RMG | Rising raw material, freight costs squeeze RMG industry

- Bangladesh's apparel industry is coming under mounting pressure as rising yarn and cotton prices, coupled with higher freight costs and longer lead times, continue to erode profit margins. Sector leaders warn if the situation persists, many mills could lose competitiveness on the global market, where buyers remain highly price-sensitive.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/rising-raw-material-freight-costs-squeeze-rmg-industry>

MFS | Nagad posts highest-ever transaction in Q1

- Leading mobile financial service (MFS) provider Nagad's transactions increased 21% year-on-year to BDT 1.11 Tn, the highest ever by the operator in Q1'26.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nagad-posts-highest-ever-transaction-q1-4142191>

BANK | Banks regain forex strength as market liquidity recovers: BB

- The banking sector has shown notable improvement in foreign exchange management and market liquidity, with both net open position (NOP) and net foreign exchange holding posting positive trends despite recent import-related pressure, according to the Bangladesh bank (BB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-regain-forex-strength-market-liquidity-recovers-bb-4142116>

BANK | Liquidity boost for Islamic banks as BB plans interbank market

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has initiated steps to launch an Islamic Interbank Money Market by June this year, aiming to improve liquidity management for Shariah-based banks. The central bank has reportedly reviewed and analysed the successful models of Islamic interbank money markets in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Bahrain.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/liquidity-boost-for-islamic-banks-as-bb-plans-interbank-market>

TELECOM | Internet subscriptions hit 3-yr low, cell phone users edge up in Feb

- The number of total internet subscribers declined to 128.27 Mn in February 2026, down from 128.99 Mn in January. Industry insiders suggest that tighter SIM regulations, reduced multi-SIM usage, and market saturation might have contributed to the decline in mobile internet subscriptions. Analysts say the divergence between declining internet users and stable mobile subscriptions suggests that while SIM ownership remains high, active internet usage is under pressure, possibly due to affordability concerns, data pricing, and changing consumption patterns.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/internet-subscriptions-hit-3-yr-low-cell-phone-users-edge-up-in-feb-1775318553>

ENERGY | LPG: Omera tops imports, US largest source

- Four companies account for 76% of the total liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) imported into the country each year. These are Omera Petroleum of East Coast Group, Petromax LPG of the Netherlands, Meghna Fresh LPG of Meghna Group, Jamuna Spacotech Joint Venture, and BM Energy (BD).

<https://en.prothomalo.com/business/local/t6llpnd9gl>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | DSE cuts trading hours by 30 minutes amid fuel crisis**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has announced a reduction in its daily trading hours by 30 minutes in response to the ongoing fuel crisis, aligning its operational schedule with a government directive aimed at conserving energy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-cuts-trading-hours-30-minutes-amid-fuel-crisis-1402316>

EXCHANGE | Auditors flag 'going concern' threat for 37 listed companies

- A growing number of listed companies are facing serious questions over their financial viability after auditors raised "going concern" warnings for 37 firms, highlighting deep-rooted vulnerabilities within the capital market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/auditors-flag-going-concern-threat-37-listed-companies-1402596>

CITYBANK | City Bank, UNDP partner to boost green bonds, climate finance

- City Bank PLC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to accelerate climate finance in Bangladesh, with a strategic focus on developing the country's emerging green and thematic bond market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/city-bank-undp-partner-boost-green-bonds-climate-finance-4142236>

EBL | Eastern Bank partners with Shanta Life to roll out bancassurance services

- Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) and Shanta Life Insurance PLC have jointly launched bancassurance products and services, enabling customers to access life insurance solutions directly through banking channels.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/eastern-bank-partners-shanta-life-roll-out-bancassurance-services-4143556>

CRAFTSMAN | Prilink Securities to sell 0.7 Mn Craftsman Footwear shares worth BDT 23.5 Mn

- Prilink Securities, a brokerage firm at the Dhaka Stock Exchange, plans to sell 0.7 Mn shares of SME-listed Craftsman Footwear and Accessories, a shoe manufacturer and exporter, worth BDT 23.5 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/prilink-securities-sell-7-lakh-craftsman-footwear-shares-worth-tk235cr-1401256>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 111.54	USD 54.11	94.22%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 109.03	USD 48.18	79.18%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,676.76	USD 335.76	7.73%
DSEX	5,219.74	354.40	7.28%
S&P 500	6,582.69	-316.13	-4.58%
FTSE 100	10,436.29	504.91	5.08%
BSE SENSEX	73,319.55	-11,474.03	-13.53%
KSE-100	150,398.70	-23,655.60	-13.59%
CSEALL	21,117.42	-1,506.89	-6.66%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.88 BDT

1 GBP = 162.21 BDT

1 Euro = 141.57 BDT

1 INR = 1.32 BDT

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