

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:**Bangladesh to sign first-ever EPA with Japan on Friday**

- Bangladesh is stepping into a new phase of trade diplomacy as it signs its first Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan on Friday, a deal meant to preserve duty-free market access after the country's graduation from the least developed country club later this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-sign-first-ever-epa-japan-tomorrow-4098446>

LC opening for imports edges up in July-December

- Imports posted only a modest recovery in H1FY26 as businesses remained cautious amid political uncertainty, weak demand and lingering stress in the banking sector, according to Bangladesh Bank data. Opening of LCs rose by 2.96% to USD 35.83 Bn, compared with USD 34.8 Bn in H1FY25. Analysts said the current rise in imports mainly reflects a normalisation from that low base rather than a broad-based revival. Many manufacturers are operating below capacity as domestic demand stays weak and access to working capital remains constrained.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/trade-commerce/290165/lc-opening-for-imports-edges-up-in-july-december>

BB buys USD 171 Mn, total purchases hit USD 4.32 Bn in FY2025-26

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) purchased an additional USD 171 Mn from 16 commercial banks on Wednesday as part of ongoing efforts to stabilise the country's foreign exchange market.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-buys-171m-total-purchases-hit-432b-in-fy2025-26>

Bangladesh must cut logistics costs, close policy gaps to stay trade-competitive: AmCham

- Bangladesh risks losing its trade competitiveness unless it urgently reduces high logistics costs, closes policy implementation gaps, and accelerates private-sector-led infrastructure development, experts warned at a focus group discussion organised by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-must-cut-logistics-costs-close-policy-gaps-stay-trade-competitive-amcham-1352186>

BD stands to lose in EU, US mkts amid India tariff deals

- Bangladesh is destined to face break-neck competition both in US and EU markets with India emerging as a major competitor with double advantages of Washington-proposed tariff cutback and trade deal with the 27-nation European bloc.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bd-stands-to-lose-in-eu-us-mkts-amid-india-tariff-deals>

External debt almost doubles in just over three years

- Bangladesh's external debt has nearly doubled in just over three years, driven by a surge in emergency budget financing in the post-Covid period and a sharp devaluation of the local currency that inflated the value of dollar-denominated obligations.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/external-debt-almost-doubles-just-over-three-years-4098436>

Ctg port grinds to a halt as workers strike over NCT lease

- Bangladesh's main port in Chattogram has been at a complete standstill for 28 hours, due to an indefinite workers' strike over lease out of a key terminal to UAE-based DP World.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ctg-port-grinds-halt-workers-strike-over-nct-lease-4097896>

Gold climbs back near USD 5,100

- Gold prices bounced back to hover near USD 5,100 on Wednesday, underpinned by safe-haven demand as renewed US-Iran geopolitical tensions added to bullion's appeal a day after it posted its best day in more than 17 years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/gold-climbs-back-near-5100-4098361>

Oil extends gains

- Oil prices extended gains on Wednesday after the US shot down an Iranian drone and armed Iranian boats approached a US-flagged vessel in the Strait of Hormuz, rekindling fears of an escalation in tensions between Washington and Tehran.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oil-extends-gains-4098351>

Interim govt to leave funds for new pay scale

- The interim administration will keep budgetary provisions for implementing the new pay scale for public employees, even though the task itself will fall onto the next elected government, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/interim-govt-leave-funds-new-pay-scale-4098426>

Sector & Industries:**RMG | No decision as finance ministry meets stakeholders on duty-free yarn imports**

- The finance ministry held a meeting with textile millers and knitwear makers to resolve the stalemate regarding the removal of the duty-free benefit on yarn imports. After the meeting, BTMA President said the finance ministry avoided taking a decision by seeking 10 more working days, which means millers may need to consult the new government.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-decision-finance-ministry-meets-stakeholders-duty-free-yarn-imports-4097581>

TELECOM | BTRC drops plan to cut SIM limit to five

- Bangladesh's telecom regulator has withdrawn a proposal to reduce the maximum number of SIM cards per national identity (NID) from 10 to five following opposition from two mobile operators, reigniting debate over regulatory neutrality and the competitive consequences of policy interventions in the telecom sector. Had the five-SIM limit been enforced, consumer behaviour would likely have shifted towards retaining primary connections while discarding secondary SIMs, consolidating active subscribers in favour of the dominant operator.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/btrc-drops-plan-to-cut-sim-limit-to-five-1770228951>

TOBACCO | Tobacco costs Bangladesh more than twice it earns, health official says

- Bangladesh earns about BDT 400 Bn a year in revenue from the tobacco sector, but the wider costs linked to tobacco use amount to around BDT 870 Bn annually, a senior health official has said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/health/tobacco-costs-bangladesh-more-than-twice-it-earns-health-official-says>

FUEL & POWER | Power rate cut at state firms to save BDT 1.19 Bn a year

- The government will save around BDT 1.19 Bn annually in electricity purchases thanks to a reduction in tariff rates by 10 to 21 paisa per kilowatt for three public-sector plants.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/power-rate-cut-state-firms-save-tk-119cr-year-4098431>

FUEL & POWER | Purchase Committee approves power purchase proposals from three power plants

- The government on Tuesday approved power purchase proposals from three major combined cycle power plants at re-determined levelised tariffs, aiming to ensure grid stability while optimising electricity generation costs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/purchase-committee-approves-power-purchase-proposals-from-three-power-plants>

FUEL & POWER | LPG: Cylinder gas shortage unlikely to ease soon

- The shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), widely used as a cooking fuel, is unlikely to be resolved in the near future. Although initiatives were taken to boost supply ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, traders have failed to import LPG in line with their commitments. Instead, imports have declined by 21,000 tonnes within a month.

<https://en.prothomalo.com/business/local/q2la3dd8kn>

BANK | Govt's net bank borrowing jumps nearly fivefold

- The interim government's net borrowing from the banking system rose almost fivefold in the first seven months of the current FY 2025-26, as spending raced ahead of sluggish revenue collection.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govts-net-bank-borrowing-jumps-nearly-fivefold-4098451>

BANK | Govt unwilling to avoid exposure of more unpalatable statistics

- Worried about the possible erosion of public confidence in the banking sector and market reactions, the Financial Institutions Division (FID) insists on not doing the asset-quality review (AQR) of state-owned banks (SoBs) now. The review was proposed under the Financial Sector Support Project II (FSSP II), a USD 400 Mn scheme to be funded by the World Bank (WB) and implemented by the Bangladesh Bank. However, upon the FID's insistence, the World Bank has agreed to revise the review requirement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-unwilling-to-avoid-exposure-of-more-unpalatable-statistics-1770228482>

Stocks:**RAKCERAMIC | RAK Ceramics posts BDT 395.9 Mn loss in 2025 despite 10.56% revenue growth**

- RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited has reported a loss of BDT 395.9 Mn for 2025, even as its revenue grew by 10.56%, mainly due to higher manufacturing costs, prolonged disruption in gas supply until June, and rising finance expenses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rak-ceramics-posts-tk3959cr-loss-2025-despite-1056-revenue-growth-1352261>

PUBALIBANK & BRACBANK | Pubali Bank, bKash launch automated cash service

- Pubali Bank PLC has signed a partnership agreement with the country's leading mobile financial service (MFS) provider, bKash Limited, to launch 24/7 automated cash management services for bKash agents, distributors and partners across the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/pubali-bank-bkash-launch-automated-cash-service-4098401>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 64.44	USD 7.01	12.21%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 69.46	USD 8.61	14.15%
Gold Spot*	USD 5,019.26	USD 678.26	15.62%
DSEX	5,266.68	401.34	8.25%
S&P 500	6,882.72	-16.10	-0.23%
FTSE 100	10,402.34	470.96	4.74%
BSE SENSEX	83,817.69	-975.89	-1.15%
KSE-100	187,959.40	13,905.10	7.99%
CSEALL	23,734.50	1,110.19	4.91%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.15 BDT****1 GBP = 166.76 BDT****1 Euro = 144.19 BDT****1 INR = 1.35 BDT**

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