

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:**Foreign banks easing credit lines, fuel suppliers lowering risk premiums**

- Foreign banks begin easing line-of-credit backup to local banks and fuel suppliers lowering risk premiums as spinoffs from a steady rise in remittance into Bangladesh, sources say, as April receipt sets a record. The country received USD 2.75 Bn worth of remittances in the just- passed month of April, billed second-largest monthly receipt by the country after March 2025, according to official statistics.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/foreign-banks-easing-credit-lines-fuel-suppliers-lowering-risk-premiums-1746382778>

ADB signals budget-support credit to BD

- A signal comes from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) about considering 'letter of comfort' from the IMF to extend budget-support finance to Bangladesh. ADB Vice President Yingming Yang gave the indication in a meeting with Finance Adviser of the interim government Dr Salehuddin Ahmed Sunday on the sidelines of the 58th ADB annual meeting in the Italian city.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/adb-signals-budget-support-credit-to-bd-1746382860>

Experts call for predictable tax policy, unified VAT

- Business leaders and policy experts in Bangladesh have urged the interim government to adopt predictable tax policies and accelerate digitalisation of the tax system in order to foster investor confidence and drive sustainable economic growth. They made these recommendations at a pre-budget seminar titled "Fiscal Issues for National Budget 2025-26 to Foster Economic and Business Growth" at the Sheraton Dhaka yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/experts-call-predictable-tax-policy-unified-vat-3886976>

Investors oppose plan to merge Bepza with other investment agencies

- Investors operating in Bangladesh's Export Processing Zones have voiced strong opposition to the government's plan to merge the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) with other investment promotion agencies under a single umbrella authority.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/investors-oppose-plan-merge-bepza-other-investment-agencies-1133696>

Tax-free income ceiling may go up in next budget

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is considering a modest increase in the tax-free income limit in the upcoming budget, after two years, to provide relief to individual taxpayers amid high inflation. According to NBR sources, the revenue authority is considering raising the limit by up to BDT 50,000 for the fiscal year 2025-26. Currently, the tax-free income limit is BDT 350,000 for general individual taxpayers, BDT 400,000 for women and senior citizens (above 65 years), BDT 475,000 for physically challenged persons, and BDT 500,000 for war-wounded freedom fighters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/tax-free-income-ceiling-may-go-next-budget-1132861>

LC openings, settlements both cross USD 6 Bn mark in March

- The opening and settlement of import letters of credit (LCs) in March of the current fiscal year both surpassed the USD 6 Bn mark, showing an increase compared to the same month of the previous year. Experts have attributed the increase in opening and settlement of import LCs to rising dollar inflow in the banking sector from higher remittances and exports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/lc-openings-settlements-both-cross-6b-mark-march-1133646>

Meeting with IMF today to break deadlock

- The government and the International Monetary Fund are set to meet again today for another round of negotiations over the release of the fourth and fifth tranches of a USD 4.7 Bn loan programme. The two sides will meet virtually to break the deadlock over the issue of liberalising the exchange rate, which has been holding up the authorisation of the two instalments, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/meeting-imf-today-break-deadlock-3886871>

Sector & Industries:**INSURANCE | Life insurers fail to pay BDT 43.74 Bn in claims in 2024**

- Life insurance companies in the country failed to settle approximately 34% of claims in 2024, leaving outstanding payments of **BDT 43.74 Bn** roughly according to data from the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA).

<http://tbsnews.net/economy/life-insurers-fail-pay-tk4374cr-claims-2024-1133621>

RMG | Investment at stake as gas crisis chokes textile, RMG factories

- The country's flagship textiles and readymade garments (RMG) industries are reeling from a crippling gas crisis, threatening an estimated USD 70 Bn in investments amid mounting global trade uncertainty over new US tariffs. Production in many textile mills has slumped to just 30 to 40% of capacity, as gas pressure plummets across key industrial zones, including Narayanganj, Gazipur, Bhulta, Maona, and Tongi, according to manufacturers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/investment-stake-gas-crisis-chokes-textile-rmg-factories-3886981>

BANK | 20 banks' capital shortfall jumps BDT 1.18 Tn in Dec – in just three months

- Due to a sharp increase in non-performing loans in the banking sector, the capital shortfall of 20 banks rose to BDT 1.72 Tn in December 2024 – in just three months, according to a central bank report. Compared to the previous September quarter's BDT 532.53 Bn shortfall, the overall shortfall increased by BDT 1.19 Tn in the December quarter, during which four more banks fell into capital shortfall, the Capital Conservation Buffer of Banks under Basel III report said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/20-banks-capital-shortfall-jumps-tk118-lakh-crore-dec-just-three-months-1133701>

Stocks:**OLYMPIC | Olympic Industries reports 10% revenue surge in Jul-Mar**

- Olympic Industries, the country's leading branded biscuit manufacturer, has reported a 10% growth in revenue in the first nine months of the current fiscal year compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. During the July to March period, its revenue jumped to BDT 21.43 Bn, up from BDT 19.41 Bn in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/olympic-industries-reports-10-revenue-surge-jul-mar-1133596>

BSC | BSC to float tenders soon to buy two bulk carriers

- The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) plans to float tenders in a couple of weeks to buy two bulk carriers from China with its own funds. "I am ready with tender documents. Waiting for the ministry's approval to float," BSC Managing Director Commodore Mahmudul Malek told The Financial Express. He also said a plan is there to seek proposals from the shipbuilders who have near-ready ships so that they can supply vessels without a long delay. According to him, the BSC plans to buy solid bulk carriers to carry products like coal and fertiliser.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bsc-to-float-tenders-soon-to-buy-two-bulk-carriers-1746383194>

SUMITPOWER | Summit Power's Q3 profit slumps 43%

- Summit Power, the leading private-sector electricity producer, said its profit slumped 43% in the third quarter of fiscal year 2024-25 due to the non-renewal of a power purchase agreement by government agencies. Its earnings per share (EPS) fell to BDT 0.39 in January–March of the current financial year, down from BDT 0.69 in the same period a year ago, the company said in a filing with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/summit-powers-q3-profit-slumps-43-3886931>

ACI | ACI logs BDT 4.45 Bn loss in Shwapno, foods, plastics, healthcare

- ACI PLC's pre-tax loss rose by 20% year-on-year to BDT 4.45 Bn in its retail chain Shwapno, as well as its foods, consumer plastics, and healthcare businesses during the July-March period of FY24-25. However, the conglomerate posted a pre-tax profit of BDT 4.87 Bn from its pharmaceuticals, animal health, consumer brands, crop care and public health, motors, pure flour, salt, and flexible packaging segments, up from BDT 3.77 Bn a year earlier.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aci-logs-tk445cr-loss-shwapno-foods-plastics-healthcare-1133656>

MEGHNACEM | Meghna Cement incurs BDT 780 Mn loss in nine months

- Meghna Cement Mills, a concern of Bashundhara Group, incurred substantial losses in the first nine months of FY25, with most of the losses occurring in the third quarter (January to March), according to its financial statement. The company's unaudited report shows that during the July to March period of the current fiscal year, the company incurred a loss of BDT 790 Mn, while the per-share loss was BDT 24.95.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/meghna-cement-incurs-tk78cr-loss-nine-months-1133636>

EXCHANGE | Yields on T-bills fall slightly-

- Yields on treasury bills (T-bills) fell slightly Sunday as banks expressed willingness to invest their excess liquidity in short-term securities. The cut off yield, generally known as interest rate, on the 91-Day T-bills came down to 11.61% on the day from 11.64% of the previous level while the yield on 182-Day T-bills fell to 11.80% from 11.87% from earlier level.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/yields-on-t-bills-fall-slightly-1746383406>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 56.04	(USD 15.39)	-21.55%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 59.09	(USD 15.30)	-20.57%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,256.41	USD 647.93	24.84%
DSEX	4,956.25	-260.19	-4.99%
S&P 500	5,686.67	-220.27	-3.73%
FTSE 100	8,596.35	475.34	5.85%
BSE SENSEX	80,501.99	2,302.06	2.94%
KSE-100	114,113.94	-1,145.06	-0.99%
CSEALL	15,851.74	-92.87	-0.58%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 121.66 BDT

1 GBP = 161.66 BDT

1 Euro = 137.88 BDT

1 INR = 1.44 BDT

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