

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:****Govt to seal US trade deal on Monday to reduce tariff**

- Bangladesh is scheduled to sign a trade agreement with the United States on Monday aimed at reducing reciprocal tariffs, with commitments to import more American goods to narrow a trade imbalance heavily favouring Bangladesh. Under the proposed agreement, the US will not levy tariffs on garment items made from American raw materials such as cotton and exported to American markets, according to Commerce Secretary.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-seal-us-trade-deal-monday-reduce-tariff-4100416>

**Food grain imports surge 42% in first half of FY26**

- Bangladesh's food grain imports surged 42% year-on-year to 4.2 Mn tonnes in H1FY26 owing to higher imports, particularly by the private sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/food-grain-imports-surge-42-first-half-fy26-4099301>

**ADB may provide USD 300 Mn in 2nd tranche for delayed Dhaka-Sylhet highway**

- The USD 2.69 Bn road project has faced prolonged delays and is now scheduled for completion in December 2026, though meeting the deadline appears increasingly unlikely.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/adb-may-provide-300m-in-2nd-tranche-for-delayed-dhaka-sylhet-highway>

**Bangladesh Bank buys another USD 196 Mn from commercial banks**

- Bangladesh Bank purchased USD 196.50 Mn from 16 commercial banks on February 05, continuing its efforts to stabilise the foreign exchange market and support remittances and exports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-bank-buys-another-196m-commercial-banks-1352906>

**Business leaders warn economic fallout, urge CA Yunus' intervention as Ctg Port crisis deepens**

- Major business associations have appealed to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus for urgent personal intervention to defuse the escalating crisis at Chattogram Port, warning that an indefinite strike planned from tomorrow could trigger severe economic fallout just four days before the national election.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/business-leaders-warn-economic-fallout-urge-ca-yunus-intervention-ctg-port-crisis-deepens>

**Cash outside banks surges ahead of national polls**

- Bangladesh Bank data showed that currency outside banks rose by BDT 410 Bn within two months, reaching BDT 3.10 Tn at the end of January from BDT 2.69 Tn in November last year. Bankers said that election-related spending played a major role, as candidates increasingly relied on cash to meet campaign expenses. Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit on January 11 instructed to submit cash transaction reports for any deposit or withdrawal of BDT 1.0 Mn or more in a single day.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/290297/cash-outside-banks-surges-ahead-of-national-polls>

**Sector & Industries:****BANK | BB rolls out BDT 225 Bn refinancing for CMSMEs**

- Bangladesh Bank has launched three refinancing facilities totalling BDT 225 Bn to expand low-cost credit for micro, small and medium enterprises, aiming to support industrial growth, boost investment and create jobs. All three facilities will be financed from Bangladesh Bank's own funds. BB has capped the customer-level interest or profit rate at 7%, while provide refinancing to participating banks and finance companies at 1%-2%.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/290512/bb-rolls-out-tk-22500-crore-refinancing-for-cmsmes>

**BANK | Ministry defers BB law reform, leaves it to elected govt**

- The finance ministry has halted proposed amendments to the Bangladesh Bank Order of 1972, describing the changes as politically sensitive and leaving the final decision to a future elected government, officials said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/ministry-defers-bb-law-reform-leaves-it-to-elected-govt-1770483955>

**PHARMACEUTICALS | Allergy drugs emerge as Bangladesh's fastest-growing pharma category**

- Sales of prescription allergy drugs have surged more than any other types of medicine since the Covid-19 pandemic. Revenues from these drugs climbed to around BDT 12 Bn in the first nine months of last year, a 72% rise from the same period of 2021, according to IQVIA.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/allergy-drugs-emerge-bangladesh's-fastest-growing-pharma-category-4100501>

**TELECOMMUNICATION | BTRC seeks legal advice as GP, Robi want arbitration**

- Bangladesh's telecom regulator is seeking legal advice on arbitration proposals from the county's two largest mobile operators to resolve a dispute over BDT 134.47 Bn in audit claims.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/btrc-seeks-legal-advice-gp-robi-want-arbitration-4099286>

**INSURANCE | IDRA pushes deep reforms to strengthen insurance sector**

- As part of the reform drive, IDRA has initiated amendments to three existing laws - the Insurance Act 2010, the IDRA Act and the Insurance Corporations Act 2019. At the same time, proposals have been made for three new laws: the Insurers Resolution Act, the Actuaries Act and the Chartered Insurance Institute Act.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/idra-pushes-deep-reforms-to-strengthen-insurance-sector-1770481387>

**ENERGY | Energy giants' tax arrears hit revenue drive, expose deep governance gap**

- State-owned energy giants BPC and Petrobangla have accumulated over BDT 330 Bn in unpaid import duties and taxes. The mounting arrears have raised serious concerns within the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and highlighting deeper weaknesses in financial discipline and governance within the energy sector.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/energy-giants-tax-arrears-hit-revenue-drive-expose-deep-governance-gap-1770484578>

**ENERGY | Govt cuts VAT, tax to ease local LPG supply**

- The council of advisers on Thursday approved a proposal to waive the 7.5% VAT and 2.0% advance tax existing on LPG at the local production and trading stages while retaining only a 7.5% VAT at the import stage.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/Power-Energy/290306/govt-cuts-vat-tax-to-ease-local-lpg-supply>

**Stocks:**

**NRBCBANK | NRBC Bank contributes BDT 70.5 Mn to startup investment fund**

- NRBC Bank PLC has contributed more than BDT 70.5 Mn to Bangladesh Bank as part of initiatives aligned with the central bank's directives on the formation and operation of Bangladesh Startup Investment Company PLC.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/nrbc-bank-contributes-tk-705-crore-startup-investment-fund-4099211>

**FORTUNE | FID seeks list of ICB employees involved**

- The Financial Institutions Division (FID) has asked the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to provide a list of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) employees allegedly involved in the manipulation of stock price of Fortune Shoes Ltd.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/fid-seeks-list-of-icb-employees-involved>

**KAY&QUE | Starlink deal opens new revenue stream for Kay & Que**

- Kay & Que (Bangladesh) has become the sales agent for Starlink Satellite Internet Service in Bangladesh, a move expected to increase the company's revenue and income in the coming quarters.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/starlink-deal-opens-new-revenue-stream-for-kay-que>

**ASIATICLAB | Asiatic Labs' half-year profit surpasses FY25 earnings**

- Asiatic Laboratories has posted an impressive 86% year-on-year growth in profit to BDT 164 Mn in the second quarter of FY26, driven by higher sales amid a stable forex market.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/asiatic-labs-half-year-profit-surpasses-fy25-earnings>

**UTTARAFIN | BB reconstitutes UFIL board amid financial turmoil**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has dissolved the existing board of directors of Uttara Finance and Investments Limited and formed a new board to rescue the struggling non-bank financial institution (NBFI) from deep-rooted loan irregularities.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-bank-reconstitutes-ufil-board-amid-financial-turmoil>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 63.55	USD 6.12	10.66%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 68.05	USD 7.20	11.83%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,964.36	USD 623.36	14.36%
DSEX	5,234.38	369.04	7.59%
S&P 500	6,932.30	33.48	0.49%
FTSE 100	10,369.75	438.37	4.41%
BSE SENSEX	83,580.40	-1,213.18	-1.43%
KSE-100	184,129.58	10,075.28	5.79%
CSEALL	23,801.96	1,177.65	5.21%

**Exchange Rates**

**1 US Dollar = 122.24 BDT**

**1 GBP = 166.41 BDT**

**1 Euro = 144.48 BDT**

**1 INR = 1.35 BDT**

## IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

**Analyst Certification:** Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

**Disclaimer:** Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

**Compensation of Analysts:** The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

**General Risk Factors:** BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

#### Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foysal Ahmed, CFA	Research Analyst	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Analyst	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

#### International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
----------------------	-----	-------------------	---------------

### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

[www.bracepl.com](http://www.bracepl.com)

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142  
 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212  
 Phone: + (88)-02-222282446-47  
 Fax: + (88)-02-222282452  
 E-Mail: [research@bracepl.com](mailto:research@bracepl.com)

