

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:**Shipments to USA jump on both counts**

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the United States, its single-largest market, recorded a double-digit growth both in value and volume during the first quarter of 2025. The country's readymade-garment exports fetched USD 2.22 Bn from the US market during the January-March period of 2025, marking 26.66% growth from USD 1.75 Bn in the corresponding period of 2024, according to the data released on Tuesday by OTEXA, an affiliate of the US Department of Commerce. In terms of quantity, shipments came to 733.98 Mn square metres of apparel in a 25.24% growth over 586.04 Mn square metres in the corresponding period of 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/shipments-to-usa-jump-on-both-counts-1746644660>

PMI indicates softer pace of economic expansion

- Bangladesh's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slowed in April, falling 8.8 points from the previous month to 52.9, signaling a softer pace of economic expansion. The latest reading reflects weaker growth across manufacturing, construction, and services sectors, although agriculture posted a stronger rate of expansion. A PMI above 50 indicates expansion, 50 suggests no change, and below 50 signals contraction. April's reading, while still in expansionary territory, marks the lowest since October 2025, when the current growth trend began.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pmi-indicates-softer-pace-of-economic-expansion-1746644732>

From next FY, parliament takes control of tax exemptions, capped at 5 years

- Starting from the next fiscal year, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the finance ministry will no longer have the authority to grant exemptions on tax, VAT, or customs duties. This power will now rest solely with the parliament. Additionally, any new exemptions granted will no longer be open-ended — they will be limited to a maximum term of five years. In the absence of parliament, exemptions granted during the interim period will require cabinet approval and will be valid for no more than one year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/next-fy-parliament-takes-control-tax-exemptions-capped-5-years-1136766>

Export proceeds of USD 7.6 Mn stuck in Russia: BKMEA

- Export proceeds amounting to around USD 7.6 Mn owed to 14 Bangladeshi exporters have been stuck in Russia for at least one year as Russian importers are facing a US dollar shortage, according to Mohammad Hatem, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/export-proceeds-76m-stuck-russia-bkmea-3889176>

Forex reserves drop to USD 25.68 Bn after ACU payment

- Bangladesh made a routine payment equivalent to USD 1.88 Bn to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) against imports during the March-April period of the current calendar year, officials said. Despite making such a high volume of overseas payments, the country's foreign exchange (forex) reserve still over USD 20 billion (USD 20.29 Bn in exact) in accordance with IMF BPM6 calculation on Wednesday from USD 22.06 Bn a day ago, according to the central bank latest statistics.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/forex-reserves-drop-to-2568b-after-acu-payment>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Banks see sluggish deposit growth as high inflation weighs on savers**

- Banks have registered sluggish growth in deposits throughout the current fiscal year as elevated inflation and an economic slowdown have squeezed the scope for many to save, even though the interest rate has risen. Also, a falling appetite for loans from the private sector, political uncertainties, and affluent people switching to investing in treasury bills and bonds have further diminished deposit growth, said several bankers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-see-sluggish-deposit-growth-high-inflation-weighs-savers-3889456>

Stocks:**RECKITT BEN | Reckitt Benckiser's Q1 profit remains almost unchanged**

- Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) PLC, one of the leading multinational companies operating in the country, reported higher profits and revenue in the first quarter of the financial year 2025. The company posted a marginal 1% year-on-year rise in profit to BDT 153.3 Mn in the first quarter of this financial year, according to its financial statements published today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reckitt-benckisers-q1-profit-remains-almost-unchanged-3888836>

LHB | LafargeHolcim Bangladesh reports BDT 8.51 Bn revenue in Q1 2025

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh PLC, a frontline building material solutions provider, reported that its revenue grew by 3% to reach BDT 8.51 Bn in January-March quarter of 2025. In a statement issued on Wednesday (7 May), the multinational said its profits declined by 16% year-on-year to BDT 1.39 Bn during the quarter, primarily attributable to elevated energy cost and softening in cement prices.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/lafargeholcim-bangladesh-reports-tk851cr-revenue-q1-2025-1136656>

EXCHANGE | Chief adviser to sit with stakeholders on Sunday to address capital market crisis

- Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus will sit with stakeholders of the country's capital market, which has been experiencing prolonged volatility and causing significant financial losses for general investors, on Sunday to address the ongoing crisis and determine a way forward. In light of the ongoing crisis, the government is now taking high-level initiatives to stabilise the market and restore investor confidence, officials say.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/chief-adviser-sit-stakeholders-sunday-address-capital-market-crisis-1136641>

EXCHANGE | Yields on BGTBs decline

- The yield on two-year Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs) dropped significantly on Tuesday as banks expressed increased interest in investing their excess liquidity in the securities. The cut off yield, generally known as interest rate, on the BGTBs came down to 11.97% on the day from 12.18% earlier, according to auction results. The government borrowed BDT 45 Bn through issuing the BGTBs on the day to partially meet its budget deficit.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/yields-on-bgtbs-decline>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 58.36	(USD 13.07)	-18.30%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 61.36	(USD 13.03)	-17.52%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,402.57	USD 794.09	30.44%
DSEX	4,802.42	-414.02	-7.94%
S&P 500	5,631.28	-275.66	-4.67%
FTSE 100	8,559.33	438.32	5.40%
BSE SENSEX	80,746.78	2,546.85	3.26%
KSE-100	110,009.03	-5,249.97	-4.55%
CSEALL	15,841.60	-103.01	-0.65%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.59 BDT****1 GBP = 162.27 BDT****1 Euro = 137.71 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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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
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Rakibul Hasan	Research Associate	rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
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
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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

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