

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:**Growth jumps by 4.48% in second quarter, but poor left more vulnerable**

- Bangladesh's economic growth has increased by 4.48%, a huge jump from the growth of 1.96% registered in the first quarter of last year. Compared to the second quarter last year, the growth is still seen – from 4.47% to 4.48%, according to a report released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) report today (8 April) on Bangladesh's economic growth in the second quarter (October-December) of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-economic-growth-slightly-rises-448-fy2024-25-second-quarter-1110766>

Shift focus from US to Asian markets to cut the risk of export fall: economists

- Bangladesh should consider shifting its focus from the United States to Asian markets, particularly India and China, in order to offset the risks of export loss due to tariff hikes by the Trump administration, economists said today. The country enjoys more than USD 6 Bn worth of trade surplus with the USA, and a portion of the export could be affected if local exports face higher tariffs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shift-focus-us-asian-markets-cut-the-risk-export-fall-economists-3866336>

Inflation inches up to 9.35% in March

- Inflation in Bangladesh increased slightly to 9.35% in March, driven by an increase in non-food prices, according to data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) today. In February, the price pressure was at 9.32%. In March, non-food prices spiralled to 9.70% compared to 9.38% in February, indicating rising costs of goods and services such as clothing, healthcare, education, and transport.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-inches-935-march-3866411>

US loses cotton market share in Bangladesh

- The United States is losing its market share in cotton exports to Bangladesh amid concerns about logistics and the lengthy shipment duration for American cotton, according to a recent report by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Bangladesh's millers imported 7.8 Mn bales of cotton in the marketing year (MY) 2023-24, beginning in August. Of that, the share of US cotton, a key raw material for the country's apparel industry, was 9%. A year ago, in MY23, the share of cotton imported from America was 10%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-loses-cotton-market-share-bangladesh-3866891>

WB identifies four sectors ripe for reform

- Bangladesh has the potential to attract significant investment and generate millions of jobs by carrying out key reforms in four promising sectors -- green readymade garments (RMG), housing for the middle class, paint and dyes, and digital financial services, according to a new report by the World Bank Group. Although not the only drivers of growth, these industries were singled out for their capacity to stimulate investor confidence, both domestic and international, and to signal that Bangladesh is ready to do business, the report said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wb-identifies-four-sectors-ripe-reform-3866886>

Green shoots in economy

- Bangladesh's economy started showing signs of a turnaround in the second quarter of the fiscal year, official statistics show, although economists caution that Trump's tariff measures are likely to slow down the momentum. Between October and December last year, Bangladesh's GDP expanded by about 4.5% to BDT 8868 Bn, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the state agency for collecting data on demographics, the economy and other facts.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/green-shoots-economy-3866796>

China keen to set up SEZ in Mongla

- China has expressed interest in establishing a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mongla to expand trade relations and increase investment flows, according to the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida). Chowdhury pointed to Mongla's location near the seaport, referring to it as a gateway for maritime and export-linked industries.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/china-keen-set-sez-mongla-3866671>

Investors seek policy continuity, conducive business climate

- Seeing robust potential in Bangladesh, foreign investors have called on the interim government to ensure policy consistency and uphold its commitment to fostering a more predictable and business-friendly environment. Investors also stressed that the government should intensify its efforts to attract foreign investment by offering more competitive incentives and adopting investor-friendly policies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/investors-seek-policy-continuity-conducive-business-climate-3866231>

South Korean businesses set to make significant investment in Bangladesh

- South Korean businesses are set to make significant investments in Bangladesh following the interim government's efforts to create a new era of hope for foreign investors. A delegation of Korean investors, led by Youngone Corporation Chairman Kihak Sung, made the announcement during a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/south-korean-businesses-set-make-significant-investment-bangladesh-3866616>

Investment SUMMIT 2025: Bangladesh signs MoU with NASA for space exploration

- Bangladesh has become the 54th country to sign the Artemis Accords, an international space exploration agreement by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States. The Artemis Accords, established by NASA in 2020, are a set of non-binding agreements aimed at promoting peaceful, cooperative, and transparent exploration of outer space, particularly focusing on activities related to the Moon, Mars, and other celestial bodies.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-investment-summit-2025/news/investment-summit-2025-bangladesh-signs-mou-nasa-space-exploration-3866476>

Top US firms commit to champion growing Bangladesh-US economic partnership in meeting with CA

- Leading US investors in Bangladesh, represented by the US-Bangladesh Business Council, expressed their commitment to champion a growing Bangladesh-US economic partnership and to help catalyze and support mutually beneficial commercial relations between the two nations. The meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the Bangladesh Investment Summit, focused on strengthening trade and investment ties between the two countries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/top-us-firms-commit-champion-growing-bangladesh-us-economic-partnership-meeting-ca-1111241>

BD open to China, India bets on Teesta project

- China, India or anyone else can be engaged for implementing the long-awaited Teesta river-management project as Bangladesh now takes an open position on bets in this regard. "Bangladesh government takes an open position on Teesta issue. In this case, cooperation with India is also possible as it is possible with China. Nothing is barred," Foreign Affairs Adviser of the interim government Touhid Hossain said Tuesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-open-to-china-india-bets-on-teesta-project-1744131861>

Govt looks to amicable solution

- Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed on Tuesday said the government is expecting an amicable solution of the complications created over imposition of 'reciprocal tariff' by the Trump administration. "We responded positively. We hope we will cooperate (with them) and they will also cooperate (with us)," he said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-looks-to-amicable-solution-1744131947>

Private credit growth keeps falling in recent months

- The private-sector credit growth continues plummeting, painting not an encouraging picture for the economy largely dominated by the private sector. Apart from persisting energy crisis in the industrial hubs coupled with latest labour unrest and depreciation of the local currency against the American greenback, the existing business uncertainty stemming from the recent mass uprising made private entrepreneurs cautious on expansion of their businesses, according to them.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/private-credit-growth-keeps-falling-in-recent-months-1744132443>

Paul Krugman slams US tariffs on Bangladeshi clothing

- Nobel Prize-winning American economist Paul Krugman has opposed the US decision to impose tariffs on imports of clothing from Bangladesh, calling it a wrong move, reports UNB. "Putting high tariffs on imports of clothing from Bangladesh is exactly what you shouldn't be doing. That's the kind of thing that is disruptive, raises the cost of living for American consumers, does nothing to make us more secure," Krugman, who specialises in trade, told The New York Times during a recent interview.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/paul-krugman-slams-us-tariffs-on-bangladeshi-clothing-1744133084>

Public-private consolidation vital to face US tariff impact

- Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), a private sector think tank, has called for stronger public-private consolidation to safeguard the country's interests in response to the potential shock from the recently announced US tariff hikes. BUILD also emphasised conducting a comprehensive review of tariff implications involving government, private sector stakeholders, and trade experts.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/public-private-consolidation-vital-to-face-us-tariff-impact-1744127496>

BRICS-backed bank to lend USD 1 Bn this yr to Bangladesh

- The New Development Bank established by the BRICS has planned to raise its lending to Bangladesh development projects to USD 1 Bn this year, a senior official of the Shanghai-based multilateral lender said yesterday. Vladimir Kazbekov, a vice president of the NDB, said the bank has approved USD 320 Mn for the implementation of the Expanded Dhaka City Water Supply Resilient project, but this year it wants to more than triple the funding in view of Bangladesh's development needs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/brics-backed-bank-lend-1b-yr-bangladesh-3866691>

Sector & Industries:**FUEL & POWER | Govt to procure 2 cargos of LNG, 12 Mn litres soybean oil**

- The government today (8 April) approved separate proposals for procuring two cargos of LNG, 12.0 Mn litres of soybean oil, and 50,000 tonnes of non-Basmati boiled rice to meet the growing demand for the country. The approvals came from the 14th meeting of the Advisers Council Committee on Government Purchase held at the Cabinet Division Conference Room at Bangladesh Secretariat with Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed in the chair.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-procure-2-cargos-lng-120cr-litres-soybean-oil-1110691>

BANK | Can 'bridge banks' act as a 'financial ambulance' for ailing banks?

- Bangladesh's banking sector, once celebrated for its contribution to economic growth, is currently facing a crisis. The sharp increase in non-performing loans (NPLs), severe liquidity issues, and persistent governance scandals have placed several banks on the brink of failure. This precarious situation not only threatens the stability of the financial system but also undermines public trust. In such a challenging environment, the concept of "bridge bank" emerges as a potential solution.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/can-bridge-banks-act-financial-ambulance-ailing-banks-3866846>

BANK | US tariffs: Banks in Bangladesh to be among worst hit in Asia, says Moody's

- Banks in Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Thailand are predicted to be the hardest hit in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region due to increased import tariffs imposed by the United States, according to a Moody's ratings report. The higher tariffs are more negative, on a relative basis, for banks in Vietnam, Thailand and Bangladesh because of their economies' higher reliance on exports to the US compared with other economies in the region, the report states. In these three countries, a moderation in exports to the US will hurt economic growth, straining loan growth for banks and hurting loan quality, it adds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/us-import-tariffs-banks-bangladesh-vietnam-thailand-be-worst-hit-asia-1110371>

ENERGY | Dhaka urges Finnish enterprises to invest in clean energy

- Bangladesh has urged Finnish enterprises to invest in Bangladesh, particularly in sectors such as clean energy, green tech, innovation and digital services, e-commerce and textiles, reports BSS. The call was made at the fourth round of Bilateral Consultations held at the foreign service academy in the capital on Tuesday, said a foreign ministry statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dhaka-urges-finnish-enterprises-to-invest-in-clean-energy-1744127797>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | BB extends tenure of BDT 2 Bn stock market fund**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) issued a circular on Tuesday extending, till the end of 2026, the tenure of a BDT 2 Bn fund that each bank was individually allowed to create in order to make investments in the stock market. Back in February 2020, Bangladesh Bank allowed banks to form the special funds, some of them by taking low-interest loans from the central bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-extends-tenure-tk-200cr-stock-market-fund-3866866>

RENATA | Renata launched 13 products in Europe, Australia, Canada, UK in 2024

- Renata PLC, a leading local pharmaceutical company, launched 13 new products in the highly-regulated markets of Europe, Australia, Canada, and the UK in 2024. The launches are a testament to Renata's vision of developing world-class, high-quality medication and becoming a revered pharmaceutical company on a global scale, the pharmaceutical manufacturer said in a statement today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/renata-launched-13-products-europe-australia-canada-uk-2024-3866581>

NEWLINE | DSE inspection finds New Line Clothings headquarters, factory closed

- A Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) inspection team has found that New Line Clothings headquarters and factory in Gazipur were completely shut down. The textile firm, which was listed on the bourse in 2019, has not officially disclosed the closure. The DSE published the findings on its website today, prompting a 4.44% drop in New Line Clothings' share price, which closed at BDT 8.60.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-inspection-finds-new-line-clothings-headquarters-factory-closed-1111206>

EXCHANGE | Task force suggests separate auditors' panel for IPO proposals

- Task force of the capital market has recommended criteria for individual auditors to be eligible to examine financial statements that issuers submit with IPO proposals; the main objective is to make them answerable for any misconduct. It said auditors would have to score at least 60 on a scale of 100 to be on the list of auditors' panel from where companies will hire a relevant person for auditing their pre-IPO (initial public offering) financial accounts.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/task-force-suggests-separate-auditors-panel-for-ipo-proposals-1744128237>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 57.54	(USD 13.89)	-19.45%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 60.93	(USD 13.46)	-18.09%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,004.39	USD 395.91	15.18%
DSEX	5,185.83	-30.61	-0.59%
S&P 500	4,982.77	-924.17	-15.65%
FTSE 100	7,910.53	-210.48	-2.59%
BSE SENSEX	74,227.08	-3,972.85	-5.08%
KSE-100	115,532.43	273.43	0.24%
CSEALL	15,127.71	-816.90	-5.12%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.48 BDT****1 GBP = 155.89 BDT****1 Euro = 133.78 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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