

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:**US to lower tariff for Bangladesh from 20% to 19%**

- The reciprocal tariff for Bangladesh to the USA has been marginally lowered at 19%. USA has granted duty-free or lower duty access to 2,500 Bangladeshi products, including pharmaceutical products, fisheries, particle board, and all kinds of food items. Bangladesh allowed 4,400 American products either duty-free or at lower duty. Garment items made from imported American cotton are allowed zero duty on export to the USA.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-lower-tariff-bangladesh-20-19-4102306>

Reserves cross USD 29 Bn under IMF method

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves crossed USD 29 Bn for the first time since the central bank began calculating the stock in line with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) method.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/reserves-cross-29b-under-imf-method-4102381>

BB keeps policy rate at 10% due to unmet inflation target, excessive govt borrowing

- Bangladesh Bank has continued a tight monetary stance as it sees several near-term inflation risks including upcoming national elections, Ramadan and implementation of a new national pay scale for government employees.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bb-unveils-monetary-policy-second-half-fy26-keeping-policy-rate-unchanged-10-1355671>

BB buys USD 209 Mn more to stabilise forex market

- Bangladesh Bank purchased USD 209 Mn from 19 commercial banks at a rate of BDT 122.30 on February 09.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-buys-209m-more-stabilise-forex-market-1356621>

Treasury-bill yields ease on liquidity glut

- Yields on treasury bills (T-bills) fell on Sunday as banks channelled excess liquidity into risk-free government securities amid subdued private sector credit demand ahead of the national polls.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/treasury-bill-yields-ease-on-liquidity-glut>

Japan EPA to cost Bangladesh BDT 200 Mn annually

- The newly signed Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan will cost Bangladesh less than BDT 200 Mn annually in forgone import duties on Japanese goods, while potentially delivering substantial benefits through expanded exports and labour mobility to the world's fifth-largest economy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/japan-epa-cost-bangladesh-tk-20cr-annually-4102371>

Major shift from roads to rail, water targeted by 2040

- A multimodal transportation plan has been finalised to guide all related agencies in implementing future infrastructure development projects aimed at improved connectivity for both passengers and freight. The plan is expected to reduce the modal share of roads by 65%, as well as increase the railway share by 20% and waterway by 15%, by 2040.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/major-shift-from-roads-to-rail-water-targeted-by-2040-1770657124>

Next govt must front-load economic reforms within first two years: Economists

- The next elected government must prioritise bold economic reforms starting from its very first day in office to sustain macroeconomic stability and reignite growth momentum, economists and policy analysts have said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/next-govt-must-front-load-economic-reforms-within-first-two-years-economists-1356836>

Sector & Industries:**TEXTILE | Govt, exporters, textile millers agree to boost incentives**

- Government officials, readymade garment (RMG) exporters and textile millers have reached a consensus, increasing the incentive for using local yarn to between 3.5%-5.0% from the existing 1.5%. Industry representatives also sought a 1.0% cash incentive for apparel exporters to help them remain competitive in the global market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/govt-exporters-textile-millers-agree-to-boost-incentives-1770655877>

RMG | RMG exports to non-traditional markets dip nearly 5%

- Garment exports to non-traditional markets decreased by 4.99% YoY to USD 3.77 Bn in the 7MFY26 due to weaker demand for apparel items, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rmg-exports-non-traditional-markets-dip-nearly-5-4102161>

BANK | Students can now open bank accounts until 25, enjoy credit cards

- Bangladesh Bank has raised the age limit for opening a 'Student Banking' account to 25 years, which was previously under 18 years of age, also previously known as 'School Banking'. Customers of Student Banking will also be able to obtain credit cards and loans are provided to students would carry the maximum interest rate of 7%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/students-can-now-open-bank-accounts-until-25-enjoy-credit-cards-1356781>

BANK | Banks sign NDAs with global consortiums to sue absconding money launderers abroad

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor said commercial banks have signed nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) with 12 global consortiums to file civil suits against absconding money launderers in foreign countries.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/banks-sign-ndas-with-global-consortiums-to-sue-absconding-money-launderers-abroad-bb-governor>

BANK | Moody's maintains negative outlook on banking sector

- Bangladesh's banking sector is facing mounting strains as weak growth, high inflation, and political uncertainty weigh on lenders' balance sheets, said Moody's, a leading global credit ratings and research agency.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/moodys-maintains-negative-outlook-banking-sector-4102391>

BANK | BB plans collateral audits in fraud crackdown

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) plans to directly inspect properties offered as collateral for loans exceeding BDT 500 Mn as BB Governor intensifies efforts to root out fraud and restore discipline to the crisis-hit banking sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-plans-collateral-audits-fraud-crackdown-4102376>

TOBACCO | Govt stops tobacco cultivation in Halda river basin

- The interim government has completely halted tobacco cultivation this year in Halda river basin area.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-stops-tobacco-cultivation-halda-river-basin-4102301>

INSURANCE | Move to equip IDRA with 'search and seizing' power

- The government has moved to give the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) 'search and seizing' powers in a bid to curb fraudulence, malpractice and irregularities in the insurance sector. The proposed amendments to the existing law have been put forward to the Ministry of Finance for the next course of action. At present, IDRA can request information from insurance companies or send inspection teams.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/move-to-equip-idra-with-search-and-seizing-power-1770655816>

Stocks:

EXCHANGE | Regulator plans crackdown on non-compliant sponsor-directors

- The securities regulator is set to take tough action against sponsor-directors who have yet to meet the minimum requirement of holding a 30 per cent joint stake in their listed companies. Currently, 35 listed entities remain non-compliant with the joint shareholding requirement of sponsor-directors, which was 23 back in August 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/regulator-plans-crackdown-on-non-compliant-sponsor-directors-1770655578>

BRACBANK | BRAC Bank rolls out Google Pay for Visa credit cards

- BRAC Bank PLC has launched Google Pay for its Visa credit cardholders, allowing customers to make fast, secure and contactless payments using Android smartphones at home and abroad.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/brac-bank-rolls-out-google-pay-visa-credit-cards-4102336>

EBL, CITYGENINS | EBL signs bancassurance agreement with City Insurance

- Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has signed a bancassurance agreement with City Insurance PLC to expand customer access to innovative insurance solutions through EBL's extensive banking network across the country.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/ebl-signs-bancassurance-agreement-with-city-insurance-1770655955>

EBL | StanChart, Eastern Bank partner to boost export financing

- Standard Chartered Bank has signed a master receivable purchase agreement with Eastern Bank PLC to launch export receivables finance for financial institutions/banks (RFFI) in Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/stanchart-eastern-bank-partner-boost-export-financing-4102311>

TRUSTBANK | Trust Bank signs MoU with Sheba.xyz to launch digital nano loan

- Trust Bank PLC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Sheba.xyz, one of the leading digital fintech platforms in Bangladesh, to introduce Digital Nano Loan facility.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/trust-bank-signs-mou-shebaxyz-launch-digital-nano-loan-4101376>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 64.43	USD 7.00	12.19%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 69.04	USD 8.19	13.46%
Gold Spot*	USD 5,019.98	USD 678.98	15.64%
DSEX	5,311.94	446.60	9.18%
S&P 500	6,964.82	66.00	0.96%
FTSE 100	10,386.23	454.85	4.58%
BSE SENSEX	84,065.75	-727.83	-0.86%
KSE-100	182,340.38	8,286.08	4.76%
CSEALL	23,754.26	1,129.95	4.99%

Exchange Rates
1 US Dollar = 122.14 BDT
1 GBP = 167.18 BDT
1 Euro = 145.43 BDT
1 INR = 1.34 BDT

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