

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:**Returns on forex reserve investments at 6-yr high**

- The Bangladesh Bank says income from reserve investments stood at USD 639.53 Mn during FY25 while the country's gross foreign-exchange reserves amounted to USD 31.8 Bn as of June 30, 2025.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/returns-on-forex-reserve-investments-at-6-yr-high-1778346167>

Next BDT 3.0 Tn ADP gets final shape today

- A BDT 3.0 Tn Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the next fiscal year is getting final consideration with several-fold increases in education and health allocations with the focus on human-capital development.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/next-BDT-30t-adp-gets-final-shape-today>

Family Card beneficiaries to rise to 4.1 Mn in FY27

- The government has decided to expand the Family Card programme to 4.1 Mn beneficiaries from FY27 as part of its broader effort to strengthen the social-safety net as per the ruling party's pre-election pledges.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/family-card-beneficiaries-to-rise-to-41m-in-fy27>

BB issues unified guidelines for outward remittances

- Bangladesh Bank issued a consolidated circular, introducing a unified regulatory framework for governing outward remittances related to transportation services. The new directive aims to streamline foreign exchange operations, enhance compliance clarity, and reduce procedural fragmentation across multiple earlier instructions.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bb-issues-unified-guidelines-for-outward-remittances>

WB tags revoking of the Bank Resolution Act amendments

- The new government's move to give back the troubled banks to the former owners, who allegedly looted billions from the banks, has seriously irked the IMF and the World Bank, according to officials.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/wb-tags-revoking-of-the-bank-resolution-act-amendments-1>

BR to buy 30 locomotives with AIIB support

- The government is set to procure 30 railway engines with financial support from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to strengthen the fleet of Bangladesh Railway (BR). Under the plan, 30 diesel-electric locomotives for metre-gauge tracks will be procured at an estimated cost of BDT 28.28 Bn. Of the total, BDT 19.99 Bn is expected to come from AIIB loans, while the rest will be financed by the government.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/br-to-buy-30-locomotives-with-aiib-support-1778346204>

Negotiation on comprehensive co-op deal with UAE begins tomorrow

- Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are opening negotiations on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) deal for expanding bilateral trade and investment.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/negotiation-on-comprehensive-co-op-deal-with-uae-begins-tomorrow>

Bangladesh moves to sign FTA with S Korea

- Commerce Minister said Bangladesh is moving forward with discussions to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with South Korea to boost exports and strengthen bilateral trade ties. Bangladesh exports goods USD 600 Mn to South Korea, while imports USD 2.4 Bn. Bangladesh mainly exports apparel items, including sweaters, T-shirts and non-knit men's suits, while importing refined petroleum products, pesticides and coated flat-rolled iron from South Korea.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bangladesh-moves-to-sign-fta-with-s-korea-1778346708>

Sector and Industries:**BANK | Rescheduling shows gains but pushes banking stress into future**

- Bankers and economists said that although the financial indicators show a massive improvement in performance, the so-called gains carry serious risks as banks deferred interest payments for two years by locking bad loans under a long-term rescheduling policy spanning 10 years, including a two-year grace period.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/rescheduling-shows-gains-pushes-banking-stress-future-1434596>

BANK | Startup investment co launching on May 12

- The widely-discussed Bangladesh Startup Investment Company (BSIC), owned by 39 commercial banks, will officially be launched on Tuesday next with no concrete decision over the use of foreign bank funds. The proposed company will have authorised capital of BDT 20 Bn, although it will begin operations with an initial paid-up capital of BDT 4.25 Bn. The board will be chaired by Managing director and CEO of City Bank, and represented by Eastern Bank, Mutual Trust Bank (MTB), Sonali Bank, and Pubali Bank as sponsor shareholders.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/startup-investment-co-launching-on-may-12>

PHARMA | 65% of healthcare needs unmet as out-of-pocket costs soar: BIDS

- Nearly two-thirds of Bangladeshis who needed healthcare in 2024 could not access it, largely because of high out-of-pocket costs, according to a study by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). The study found that on average, Bangladeshi households spent BDT 3,454 per month on healthcare in 2024, accounting for 11% of total household expenditure. Medicines and diagnostic services were the largest cost drivers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/65-healthcare-needs-unmet-out-pocket-costs-soar-bids-4170346>

PORT | Bida proposes 80% off-dock unloading to ease Ctg Port congestion

- Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has proposed gradually allowing 80% of import goods to be cleared through private Inland Container Depots (ICDs), in a move aimed at reducing congestion at Chattogram Port and improving logistics efficiency. According to BIDA, both import and export activities are largely handled through off-docks in most countries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-proposes-80-dock-unloading-ease-ctg-port-congestion-1433786>

CONSUMER DURABLES | ACs, refrigerators may become costlier in FY27

- The government is considering withdrawing concessional import facilities for raw materials used in manufacturing refrigerators and air-conditioners in the upcoming FY27 budget. This could significantly increase the prices of the two household appliances and put pressure on local industries. They say the interim government has already doubled the VAT on refrigerators and air-conditioners in the FY26 budget to 15% from the previous 7.5%.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/acs-refrigerators-may-become-costlier-in-fy27>

NBFI | Near entire loans of 8 NBFIs now defaulted

- Default loan ratios of FAS Finance, People's Leasing and Financial Services, International Leasing and Financial Services, Aviva Finance, Union Capital, Fareast Finance, Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company and GSP Finance ranged 95%-100% as of December 31, 2025. Bangladesh Bank data showed that classified loans of 30 NBFIs stood at BDT 232.64 Bn in Dec'25 against their total outstanding loans of BDT 569.74 Bn.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/299256/near-entire-loans-of-8-nbfis-now-defaulted>

TELECOM | Number of mobile, internet subscribers rise

- Bangladesh witnessed a moderate recovery in both mobile and internet subscriptions in March 2026 after several months of gradual decline. The number of mobile subscribers reached 186.06 Mn in March, up from 185.80 Mn in January and 185.84 Mn in February. Mobile internet users numbered 114.22 Mn in January, declined to 113.50 Mn in February and rebounded to 114.85 Mn in March.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/telecom/299264/number-of-mobile-internet-subscribers-rise>

ENERGY | Govt approves draft offshore PSC to boost oil, gas exploration

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Thursday approved the draft of 'Bangladesh Offshore Model Production Sharing Contract (PSC) 2026' aimed at accelerating offshore oil and gas exploration in the country.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-approves-draft-offshore-psc-to-boost-oil-gas-exploration>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | Pressure grows on BSEC to allow loan clearance with IPO proceeds**

- Amid liquidity stress in banks due to a high volume of bad loans and the repayment burden on businesses caused by high interest rates, entrepreneurs and top bank officials at a meeting with the regulator last month insisted that restrictions on using IPO proceeds to repay loans and rescheduled loans be withdrawn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/pressure-grows-on-bsec-to-allow-loan-clearance-with-ipo-proceeds-1778341334>

EXCHANGE | BSEC sets out rules for converting closed-end mutual funds

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has issued a directive setting out how existing closed-end mutual funds can be converted into open-end ones. In an order issued on May 7, the regulator outlined the conversion process.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsec-sets-out-rules-converting-closed-end-mutual-funds-4171591>

EXCHANGE | DSE seeks safeguards for shareholders in Islamic bank mergers

- Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) urged Bangladesh Bank to protect general shareholders during the merger process of five troubled Islamic banks, warning that investors could lose ownership stakes without fair compensation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-seeks-safeguards-shareholders-islamic-bank-mergers-1434496>

BRACBANK | BRAC Bank's digital onboarding boosts SME banking access

- BRAC Bank PLC's digital onboarding platform is transforming how small and medium enterprises (SMEs) access banking services in Bangladesh by simplifying the account-opening process for entrepreneurs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/brac-banks-digital-onboarding-boosts-sme-banking-access-4171656>

ROBI | Robi profit skyrockets 85% to BDT 2.32 Bn in Q1 on data surge, cost discipline

- Robi Axiata PLC has reported a stellar start to 2026, with its net profit after tax skyrocketing by 85% year-on-year to reach BDT 2.32 Bn in Q1'26. The company said EBITDA grew 21.6% YoY, with the margin improving by 5.9 percentage points, driven by cost discipline.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/robi-posts-85-profit-growth-q1-1432836>

BSC | Shipping Corp profit falls over 15pc after ship purchase with FDR savings

- Bangladesh Shipping Corporation posted a 15.61% year-on-year decline in profit to BDT 637.60 Mn in Q3 of FY26 as interest income fell following the use of savings from fixed deposits to acquire new ships. Earnings per share slid to BDT 4.08 in the January-March quarter from BDT 4.95 in the same quarter a year earlier.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/shipping-corp-profit-falls-over-15pc-after-ship-purchase-with-fdr-savings-1778341607>

RINGSHINE | Crisis-hit Ring Shine Textiles seeks PM meeting to protect investors

- Some foreign shareholders and owners of Ring Shine Textiles Limited – a company operating in Bangladesh since 1997 – have written to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman seeking a meeting to present the firm's ongoing crisis and request government support to protect the interests of public shareholders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/crisis-hit-ring-shine-textiles-seeks-pm-meeting-protect-investors-1434476>

PREMIERBAN | Premier Bank secures BDT 11.44 Bn in fresh deposits in 26 workdays

- Premier Bank has mobilised BDT 11.44 Bn in fresh deposits within 26 working days since April 1 this year under its "Deposit & Recovery Campaign 2026", according to a press release. The bank also reported around BDT 5.23 Bn in cash recovery between January and April 2026.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/premier-bank-secures-tk-1144b-in-fresh-deposits-in-26-workdays>

SIBL | Ex-owners unlikely to regain SIBL control as merger continues

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has decided in principle to reject a bid by former owners of troubled Social Islami Bank PLC to reclaim control, according to top BB officials. They said the application submitted by former owners is "inconsistent" and "lacks sufficient information", and had sought 10 years to repay the bank's dues to the central bank, which is "not acceptable".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ex-owners-unlikely-regain-sibl-control-merger-continues-4170371>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 95.42	USD 37.99	66.15%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 101.29	USD 40.44	66.46%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,715.25	USD 374.25	8.62%
DSEX	5,234.10	368.76	7.58%
S&P 500	7,398.93	500.11	7.25%
FTSE 100	10,233.07	301.69	3.04%
BSE SENSEX	77,328.19	-7,465.39	-8.80%
KSE-100	171,115.81	-2,938.49	-1.69%
CSEALL	23,063.98	439.67	1.94%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.76 BDT****1 GBP = 167.34 BDT****1 Euro = 144.74 BDT****1 INR = 1.30 BDT**

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