

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.

International:**India, Pakistan agree to ceasefire**

- US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a fourth day of strikes and counter-strikes against each other's military installations. Pakistan's foreign minister also said both countries had agreed to a ceasefire "with immediate effect" and India's foreign ministry said it would start at 5:00pm Indian time (1130 GMT).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/world/india-pakistan-conflict/news/india-pakistan-agree-ceasefire-3891386>

Macro:**Over 200 firms seek BB policy support**

- Over 200 companies, including large industrial conglomerates, defaulted businesses, loss-incurring concerns, and small businesses, have applied to the Bangladesh Bank for policy support, especially loan restructuring and rescheduling facilities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/over-200-firms-seek-bb-policy-support-3892616>

US seeks written tariff reduction proposals from Bangladesh

- The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has requested written proposals from Bangladesh regarding its commitment to reduce import duties on American goods. USTR Jamieson Greer praised Bangladesh's initiative to narrow the trade gap with the US and responded to the country's move to begin negotiations on US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariff policy, according to a USTR letter to Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin on May 7.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-seeks-written-tariff-reduction-proposals-bangladesh-3891911>

IMF loan: Deadlock broken

- The government is set to reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund over the exchange rate issue that has been holding up the release of the fourth and fifth tranches of the USD 4.7 Bn loan programme soon. Both the parties have moved from their rigid position and made concessions from their respective sides, The Daily Star has learnt from the Bangladesh Bank and finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/imf-loan-deadlock-broken-3891631>

Food, fertilisers, raw materials: NBR plans advance tax on 200 duty-free imports

- In a move poised to disrupt supply chains and drive up costs, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) plans to impose a 2% Advance Income Tax (AIT) at the import stage on around 200 previously tax-exempt products. The measure, aimed at phasing out exemptions and boosting tax compliance, is expected to generate an additional BDT 20 Bn in revenues.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/food-fertilisers-raw-materials-nbr-plans-advance-tax-200-duty-free-imports-1139906>

Budget should draw clear roadmap for smooth LDC GRADUATION

- The upcoming national budget must outline a comprehensive roadmap to prepare for the country's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) club in 2026, prioritising tariff rationalisation, tax reform, and sustainable fiscal policies, according to a leading business leader. In an interview with The Daily Star, Zaved emphasised fiscal measures that support compliant labour practices, sustainable business models, and alignment with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards -- key considerations for the post-LDC landscape.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2025-26/news/budget-should-draw-clear-roadmap-smooth-ldc-graduation-3892621>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Govt can now temporarily take over banks**

- The government and Bangladesh Bank can take temporary control of any scheduled bank if needed by issuing share transfer orders in line with the Bank Resolution Ordinance 2025. The ordinance states that the share transferee must be a government entity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-can-now-temporarily-take-over-banks-3892626>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | CA rolls out five-step plan to bolster stock market**

- Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has issued five key directives, including the offloading of government stakes in state-run and multinational companies, to increase the availability of quality scrips in the market. He gave the directives yesterday during a meeting titled "Development and Strengthening of the Capital Market" at the State Guest House Jamuna.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ca-rolls-out-five-step-plan-bolster-stock-market-3892641>

IDLC | IDLC Finance profit jumps 44% over treasury income in Jan-Mar

- IDLC Finance PLC, a leading non-bank financial institution (NBF), reported a 44% rise in profit for the January-March quarter of this year, primarily driven by strong returns from investments in government securities, commonly known as treasury bonds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/idlc-finance-profit-jumps-44-over-treasury-income-jan-mar-1139181>

RENATA | IFC, Renata partner to boost Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry

- In a landmark move to strengthen access to affordable and quality medicines, improve public health, and support economic growth, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group has committed a USD 58 Mn long-term loan to Renata PLC, a leading pharmaceutical company in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ifc-renata-partner-boost-bangladeshs-pharmaceutical-industry-1138086>

BATBC | BATBC Q1 profit drops 23%

- British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company Ltd (BATBC) saw its profit drop in the first quarter of 2025 due to declining sales. The leading tobacco producer reported a 23% year-on-year decline in profit to BDT 3.18 Bn in the January-March quarter.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/batbc-q1-profit-drops-23-3892586>

LINDEBD | Linde Bangladesh posts 17% decline in Q1 profit

- Linde Bangladesh Ltd's profit fell in the first quarter of 2025 due to lower sales and higher operating expenses. The company posted a profit of BDT 80.5 Mn in the January-March quarter, down 17% year-on-year, according to its financial statement.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/linde-bangladesh-posts-17-decline-q1-profit-3892581>

EXCHANGE | Minimum BDT 10,000 can be invested in 6th govt Sukuk

- The government is offering an opportunity for Shariah-compliant investors to earn 10.5% secured annual return alongside supporting critical infrastructure projects in Rajshahi division. The smallest amount one can invest in the asset-backed Islamic instrument is BDT 10,000 and the interested investors will have to apply to buy the units of RDIRWSP Socio-Economic Development Sukuk, the 6th government Sukuk in Bangladesh, on 18-19 May.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/minimum-tk10000-can-be-invested-6th-govt-sukuk-1139876>

EXCHANGE | Foreign experts to be brought in for reforming stock market; report submission within three months

- In a bid to reform the stock market effectively, the government has decided to bring in a team of foreign experts. These experts, with no vested interest in Bangladesh's capital market, will be tasked with delivering actionable reform recommendations within three months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/foreign-experts-be-brought-reforming-stock-market-report-submission-within-three>

EXCHANGE | Regulator rejects govt bid to take over BDT 15 Bn investor funds

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has refused a request from the finance ministry to transfer approximately BDT 15 Bn held in the Capital Market Stabilisation Fund (CMSF) to the state treasury. The amount includes BDT 6.32 Bn in cash and BDT 9.13 Bn in unclaimed stock dividends belonging to general investors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/regulator-rejects-govt-bid-take-over-tk1500cre-investor-funds-1139786>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.34	(USD 10.09)	-14.13%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.20	(USD 10.19)	-13.70%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,271.90	USD 663.42	25.43%
DSEX	4,902.28	-314.17	-6.02%
S&P 500	5,659.91	-247.03	-4.18%
FTSE 100	8,554.80	433.79	5.34%
BSE SENSEX	79,454.47	1,254.54	1.60%
KSE-100	107,174.64	-8,084.36	-7.01%
CSEALL	15,916.17	-28.44	-0.18%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.53 BDT****1 GBP = 161.46 BDT****1 Euro = 136.57 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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