

*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:****Separation of revenue policy and enforcement this month, takes effect next FY: NBR chair**

- NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan has announced that the separation of revenue policy and enforcement will take place this month through a presidential ordinance, with the change taking effect in the next fiscal year, starting in July, to ensure independent operations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/lack-good-governance-not-tax-rates-main-barrier-investment-nbr-chairman-1091116>

**Bangladesh imports over five times its exports to Saarc nations**

- Bangladesh continues to grapple with a significant trade imbalance with Saarc countries as import payments far exceed exports, according to the latest Bangladesh Bank (BB) report. The report, covering fiscal year (FY) 2023-24, shows Bangladesh's total import payments to Saarc nations stood at USD 9.76 Bn while export earnings from the region reached only USD 1.74 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-imports-over-five-times-its-exports-saarc-nations-3846631>

**Deadline for company tax return submission extended to 30 April amid low response**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has extended the deadline for companies to submit their income tax returns until 30 April 2025. The deadline was previously extended twice by the revenue authority, with the final extension setting it to 16 March.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/deadline-company-tax-return-submission-extended-30-april-amid-low-response-1090726>

**Commodity prices are dropping, expected to decline further: Commerce Adviser**

- Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin said on Monday that the prices of daily essentials are now on a downward trend from being stable and are expected to decline further. He was speaking at a gathering of imams and khatibs after Iftar at the Jamia Madania Baridhara auditorium, organised by Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh Dhaka Metropolitan on Wednesday evening.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/commodity-prices-are-dropping-expected-to-decline-further-commerce-adviser>

**Sector & Industries:****BANK | Moody's cuts banking outlook to negative**

- Moody's Ratings has downgraded Bangladesh's banking system outlook from "stable" to "negative", citing rising asset risks and worsening economic conditions. "Structural risks to banks' asset quality, such as lax regulations and poor corporate governance, will persist," the US credit rating agency said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/moodys-cuts-banking-outlook-negative-3845906>

**LIFE INSURANCE | Stakeholders raise alarm as 10 life insurers running without CEOs**

- Of the 35 life insurance companies in the country, 10 are operating without permanent chief executive officers (CEOs) and are being run by acting executives, stakeholders said, raising concerns about this leadership gap. At a seminar titled "Insurance Sector Reforms and What We Can Do" at the IDRA office, they attributed the issue to many companies being granted licenses for political reasons without developing a skilled workforce to support them.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stakeholders-raise-alarm-10-life-insurers-running-without-ceos-1091186>

**Stocks:****LHB | LafargeHolcim's sales, profits dropped last year**

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh saw a drop in sales and profits in 2024 amid the political changeover and a challenging macroeconomic environment. In 2024, the net sales of the cement producer stood at BDT 27.54 Bn, a 3% decrease from the previous year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lafargeholcims-sales-profits-dropped-last-year-3846226>

**BEXIMCO | HC cancels appointment of receiver for managing Beximco Group cos**

- "Considering the interests of thousands of employees, the High Court decided that the firms of the Beximco Group of Companies would be operated under their own management, subject to the supervision of relevant departments of the government, including Bangladesh Bank and other statutory bodies, and properly complying with the law," HC said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lafargeholcims-sales-profits-dropped-last-year-3846226>

**NRBBANK, NRBCBANK | BB reconstitutes board of three private banks**

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) today reconstituted the board of directors of three private commercial banks. The commercial lenders are: NRB Commercial Bank, NRB Bank, and Meghna Bank, a top official of the BB familiar with the development told The Daily Star.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-reconstitutes-board-three-private-banks-3846146>

**SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma vice chairman eyes shares worth BDT 330 Mn**

- Ratna Patra, vice chairman of Square Pharmaceuticals, today expressed her willingness to purchase 1.5 Mn shares of the company, valued at close to BDT 330 Mn at the current market price. Also a sponsor of the company, Ratna plans to acquire the shares at the prevailing market price in both the public and block markets through the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) within the next 30 working days.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/square-pharma-vice-chairman-eyes-shares-worth-tk-33-crore-3845991>

**EXCHANGE | Fifth sukuk oversubscribed by three times as govt raises BDT 30 Bn**

- The government yesterday received a huge response from investors centring its initiative to raise BDT 30 Bn through sukuk, a Shariah-compliant bond, to fund the construction of bridges to connect rural roads. In an auction of 7-year bonds, Bangladesh Bank (BB) received bids worth BDT 109.25 Bn from Shariah-based banks and financial institutions, conventional banks, provident funds, and individual investors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/fifth-sukuk-oversubscribed-three-times-govt-raises-tk-3000cr-3846201>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 67.74	(USD 3.69)	-5.17%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 71.06	(USD 3.33)	-4.48%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,945.79	USD 337.31	12.93%
DSEX	5,216.07	-0.38	-0.01%
S&P 500	5,599.30	-307.64	-5.21%
FTSE 100	8,540.97	419.96	5.17%
BSE SENSEX	74,029.76	-4,170.17	-5.33%
KSE-100	114,084.54	-1,174.46	-1.02%
CSEALL	15,861.14	-83.47	-0.52%

**Exchange Rates**

**1 US Dollar = 121.56 BDT**

**1 GBP = 157.63 BDT**

**1 Euro = 132.42 BDT**

**1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

#### Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	<a href="mailto:salim@bracepl.com">salim@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	<a href="mailto:fahim.hassan@bracepl.com">fahim.hassan@bracepl.com</a>	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	<a href="mailto:hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com">hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com">foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com">smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 228
Rakibul Hasan	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com">rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 229
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com">tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com</a>	01730 701 733

#### International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	<a href="mailto:bappi@bracepl.com">bappi@bracepl.com</a>	01730 357 991
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### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

[www.bracepl.com](http://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](mailto:research@bracepl.com)