

*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:****Trade war de-escalation: US, China reach deal to slash tariffs**

- The United States and China have agreed to temporarily slash reciprocal tariffs in a deal that surpassed expectations as the world's two biggest economies seek to end a damaging trade war that has stoked fears of recession and roiled financial markets. The US will cut extra tariffs it imposed on Chinese imports in April this year to 30% from 145% and Chinese duties on US imports will fall to 10% from 125%, the two countries said yesterday. The new measures are effective for 90 days.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/trade-war-de-escalation-us-china-reach-deal-slash-tariffs-3892816>

**Macro:****Bangladesh divides tax authority in IMF-backed reform**

- Bangladesh's interim government has dissolved the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and replaced it with two new divisions under the finance ministry, in a move to modernise tax administration and boost revenue collection. The restructuring, enacted through an ordinance last night, follows a key condition set by the International Monetary Fund to separate tax policy from administration. The Washington-based lender has long urged reforms to increase Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio, one of the lowest in Asia.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-divides-tax-authority-imf-backed-reform-3893396>

**Remittance crosses USD 25 Bn this fiscal year**

- Remittance inflow in the first ten months and eleven days of this fiscal year surpassed USD 25 Bn, breaking all previous records. Between July last year and May 11 this year, Bangladesh received USD 25.45 Bn in remittances, up 28% year-on-year, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/remittance-crosses-25b-fiscal-year-3893096>

**World Bank signals USD 500 Mn budget support for Bangladesh amid IMF uncertainty**

- Despite uncertainty over the release of the fourth and fifth tranches of the International Monetary Fund's USD 4.7 Bn loan programme, Bangladesh has received a positive signal from the World Bank for USD 500 Mn in budget support.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/world-bank-signals-500m-budget-support-bangladesh-amid-imf-uncertainty-1140711>

**Labour reform tied to tariffs, market access progresses fast**

- Bangladesh plans to complete labour-law amendment by June next year, a high-level meet with diplomats of key western countries was told Monday, as they noted this issue is linked to market access, trade decisions and tariffs. The diplomats remind that labour reform is a must for successful LDC graduation, scheduled for next year, and sought 'accountability for past violations' of labour law.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/labour-reform-tied-to-tariffs-market-access-progresses-fast-1747073418>

**Govt to form trade expert pool**

- The government is set to form a trade expert pool (TEP) to preserve the required knowledge and experiences gained from trade-data analysis and negotiations, sources said. The commerce ministry has already started working on this. Its FTA wing will carry out the task. The much-expected pool will be constituted under the Regional Trade Agreement (RTA) framed by the ministry in June 2022. The provision for setting up such a pool is mentioned in the agreement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-to-form-trade-expert-pool-1747073990>

**Tax-free income limit may rise to BDT 0.38 Mn**

- The government is planning a series of measures in the upcoming national budget to alleviate the tax pressure on individuals and businesses, including raising the tax-free income threshold and relaxing certain compliance requirements. The revenue authority is considering increasing the tax-free income limit for individual taxpayers to BDT 375,000, up from the current BDT 350,000, according to finance ministry officials familiar with the matter.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tax-free-income-limit-may-rise-tk-375-lakh-3893356>

**More woes for businesses as govt plans almost doubling minimum tax**

- Despite widespread criticism from both local and international investors, the interim government is set to increase the mandatory minimum tax levied on company turnover to 1% from existing 0.6% in the upcoming budget. Insiders suggest that the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is pursuing this unpopular measure due to its limitations in curbing tax evasion and pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to boost revenue collection.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/more-woes-businesses-govt-plans-almost-doubling-minimum-tax-1140731>

**Sector & Industries:****RMG | Local RMG to remain competitive even if tariffs rise**

- Bangladesh should improve garment quality and delivery speed amidst intense competition in global supply chains arising from US President Donald Trump's recent reciprocal tariffs, said some international traders today. Bangladesh has the opportunity to retain its competitive edge due to its large-scale production capacity, something international clothing retailers and brands always take into consideration, they said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/local-rmg-remain-competitive-even-if-tariffs-rise-3893116>

**FUEL & POWER | NWPGL to set up two solar plants with 140MW capacity**

- North West Power Generation Company Ltd (NWPGL) plans to set up two solar power plants with a combined electricity- generation capacity of 140 megawatts as part of the government's effort to enhance the share of clean power in energy mix, say officials concerned. Of the two plants, the 80-MW Padma Solar Power Plant will be built on land located in Zajira upazila of Shariatpur and Shibchar upazila of Madaripur, while the other project, the 60-MW Payra Solar Power Plant, will be established in Kalapara in Patuakhali.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nwpgcl-to-set-up-two-solar-plants-with-140mw-capacity-1747073901>

**HEALTHCARE | BB raises overseas medical treatment expense limit**

- Bangladesh Bank has raised the limit of funds to be sent abroad for medical treatment expenses from USD 10,000 to USD 15,000, reports UNB. The foreign exchange policy department of the central bank on Monday, through a circular confirmed this. The new directive allows individuals to send up to USD 15,000 for this purpose without prior approval from the central bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-raises-overseas-medical-treatment-expense-limit-1747073941>

**PHARMACEUTICAL | Despite April decline, pharma exports maintain upward trend**

- Bangladesh's pharmaceutical exports rose by 3.46% year-on-year in the first ten months of the current fiscal year, despite a sharp drop in April due mainly to holidays in key markets and US aid cuts hurting merchandise shipments. Pharmaceutical exports fell by 34.25% year-on-year in April, slipping from USD 18.16 Mn to just USD 11.94 Mn, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data.

<https://thedailystar.net/business/news/despite-april-decline-pharma-exports-maintain-upward-trend-3893341>

**TELECOM | Starlink gets 90-day waiver to operate without local gateway**

- The internet regulator in Bangladesh has granted Starlink permission to supply bandwidth from outside the country for 90 days. This decision comes after Starlink requested the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to grant a temporary waiver, as the company's 90-day deadline to launch services in Bangladesh would expire before a local gateway could be established.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/starlink-gets-90-day-waiver-operate-without-local-gateway-3893346>

**Stocks:****EBL | Eastern Bank to issue BDT 8 Bn bond**

- Eastern Bank, a private sector lender, has decided to raise BDT 8 Bn through issuing bonds for the tenure of seven years, aiming to enhance its capital base. According to its price-sensitive statement, the floating rate non-convertible subordinate bond aimed at raising regulatory capital (tier-2) is expected to help the bank fulfil its Basel-III requirements.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-bank-issue-tk800cr-bond-1140686>

**IDLC | IDLC Finance's Q1 profit rises 43%**

- IDLC Finance PLC, one of the leading non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), saw a rise in profit in the first quarter of 2025. The NBFIs consolidated profit rose 43% year-on-year to BDT 507.1 Mn in Q1. IDLC had earlier reported a 32% annual rise in profit to BDT 2.00 Bn in 2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/idlc-finance-q1-profit-rises-43-3892946>

**EXCHANGE | Stock market to remain open on next two Saturdays ahead of Eid**

- In line with the government's decision to keep offices open on Saturdays, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) will operate on the next two Saturdays ahead of the upcoming Eid vacation. As a result, the stock market will remain open on 17 May and 24 May — both regular weekly holidays — according to a disclosure published on the DSE website today (12 May).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/stock-market-remain-open-next-two-saturdays-ahead-eid-1140336>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.77	(USD 9.66)	-13.52%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.74	(USD 9.65)	-12.97%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,229.81	USD 621.33	23.82%
DSEX	4,921.56	-294.89	-5.65%
S&P 500	5,844.19	-62.75	-1.06%
FTSE 100	8,604.98	483.97	5.96%
BSE SENSEX	82,429.90	4,229.97	5.41%
KSE-100	117,297.73	2,038.73	1.77%
CSEALL	15,916.17	-28.44	-0.18%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.35 BDT****1 GBP = 159.95 BDT****1 Euro = 134.71 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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