

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:**GDP growth rises to 4.50% in first quarter of FY26**

- Bangladesh's economic growth gained momentum in Q1'FY26, with point-to-point GDP growth at constant prices rising to 4.50%, up from 2.58% in Q1'FY25. Agricultural sector saw a 2.30% growth, Industrial sector recorded 6.97% growth, while services sector grew 3.67%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/gdp-growth-rises-450-first-quarter-fy26-1333491>

Rate high, rebate reduces overall tax incidence

- Bangladesh is transitioning into a ramped-up 15-% VAT regime amid some concerns, but a redeeming feature is the provision for rebate meant for reducing the overall tax incidence.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/rate-high-rebate-reduces-overall-tax-incidence-1768328051>

Mobile phone prices likely to fall as NBR slashes import taxes by 30%

- The government has reduced import taxes on finished handsets from about 62% to 43.43%, while import taxes on components used by local handset manufacturers were lowered from around 17% to nearly 12%. According to a NBR press release, the revised duty structure is expected to reduce the price by BDT 5,500 for imported finished mobile phone priced above BDT 30,000.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/mobile-phone-prices-set-fall-nbr-slashes-import-duty-1333056>

Current account deficit widens amid weak export growth

- Bangladesh's current account balance deteriorated further in 5MFY26, even though remittance inflows crossed USD 13 Bn, due mainly to a widening trade deficit caused by higher imports and weak export growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/current-account-deficit-widens-amid-weak-export-growth-1333631>

Bureaucratic resistance delays Bangladesh Bank reform

- The Bangladesh Bank's board approved a draft amendment to the Bangladesh Bank Ordinance 2025 in October is yet to be implemented, even after three months, due to delays in obtaining final approval from the finance ministry. The proposed changes to key appointments – particularly, the exclusion of government representatives from the central bank's board – have reportedly caused discontent among bureaucrats, contributing to the delay.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bureaucratic-resistance-delays-bangladesh-bank-reform-1332871>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Action looms against auditors of five merged banks**

- The government will take action against the auditors of five recently merged banks over allegations of manipulating financial statements that encouraged small investors to buy their shares from the stock market, Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed said on Tuesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/action-looms-against-auditors-of-five-merged-banks-1768327838>

FUEL & POWER | BPC, Petrobangla rack up BDT 340 Bn in unpaid fuel imports duty, hurting customs revenue target

- Petrobangla imported LNG under 408 bills of entry up to 30 November 2025. Duties amounting to BDT 16.1 Bn were paid against only 38 bills, while the remaining 370 consignments were cleared without payment

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bpc-petrobangla-rack-tk34000cr-unpaid-fuel-imports-duty-hurting-customs-revenue-target>

BANK | Sonali Bank turns BDT 59.49 Bn capital deficit into BDT 830 Mn surplus

- State-owned Sonali Bank PLC has successfully transformed its temporary capital shortfall into a surplus by combining stringent measures against defaulted loans with cautious lending and strengthened recovery efforts.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/sonali-turns-tk5949cr-capital-deficit-tk83cr-surplus-1332901>

BANK | Sonali Bank seeks BDT 66.00 Bn bond against unpaid loans to sugar corporation

- State-owned Sonali Bank has urged the government to issue bonds against unpaid loans to the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) to address the lender's capital shortfall.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/sonali-bank-seeks-tk-6600cr-bond-against-unpaid-loans-sugar-corporation-4080441>

RMG | Hanoi to overtake Dhaka as largest cotton importer: USDA

- Bangladesh is projected to import 8.0 Mn bales of cotton in the 2025-26 marketing year (MY26). This slowdown follows five consecutive months of negative growth in the country's RMG exports. The latest forecast suggests it may soon be overtaken by Vietnam. USDA data showed that in MY25, Bangladesh's cotton imports totaled 8.05 Mn bales, up from 7.57 Mn bales in MY24 and 7.0 Mn bales in MY23.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/apparel/288056/hanoi-to-overtake-dhaka-as-largest-cotton-importer-usda>

IT | Bangladesh sees first state-run freelancer ID management software

- Bangladesh today launched its first government-run freelancer ID management software, aiming to establish a transparent, secure, and harassment-free verification system for the country's growing freelance workforce. With the new card, registered freelancers are expected to more easily access banking services, loans, credit cards, financial incentives, and government and private training programmes.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh-sees-first-state-run-freelancer-id-management-software-4080081>

Stocks:**PUBALIBANK | Pubali Bank breaks record with over BDT 30 Bn operating profit**

- Pubali Bank has recorded an operating profit that exceeded BDT 30 Bn in 2025, marking a significant milestone in the bank's history.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/pubali-bank-breaks-record-with-over-tk-30b-operating-profit-1768323533>

BSC | BSC pays BDT 2.03 Bn to govt in loan repayment, dividends

- Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) has handed over a cheque for BDT 2.03 Bn to the government, covering loan installments and dividend payments related to six ship acquisition projects implemented under the Ministry of Shipping.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsc-pays-tk-203b-to-govt-in-loan-repayment-dividends-1768323507>

SILVAPHL | Post-IPO underperformance triggers asset inquiry into Silva Pharma

- BSEC has instructed Silva Pharmaceuticals to conduct a revaluation of its machinery and equipment purchased with IPO funds and to disclose the operational status of the factory building constructed using the same proceeds.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/post-ipo-underperformance-triggers-asset-inquiry-into-silva-pharma-1768323435>

EXCHANGE | BSEC okays draft prospectuses of three closed-end mutual funds

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved the draft prospectuses of three closed-end mutual funds, with a combined target size of BDT 750 Mn, marking a fresh boost for the capital market amid a slowdown in new product launches.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-okays-draft-prospectuses-three-closed-end-mutual-funds-1333606>

EXCHANGE | DSE foreign turnover slumps as global funds scale back exposure

- Foreign investors' trading activity on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) dropped sharply in 2025, with turnover falling to one of its lowest levels in recent years, reflecting cautious sentiment, year-end portfolio rebalancing and long-standing structural constraints in Bangladesh's capital market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-foreign-turnover-slumps-global-funds-scale-back-exposure-1333601>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 60.98	USD 3.55	6.18%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 65.32	USD 4.47	7.35%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,619.59	USD 278.59	6.42%
DSEX	4,946.67	81.33	1.67%
S&P 500	6,963.74	64.92	0.94%
FTSE 100	10,137.35	205.97	2.07%
BSE SENSEX	83,627.69	-1,165.89	-1.37%
KSE-100	183,951.52	9,897.22	5.69%
CSEALL	23,607.80	983.49	4.35%

Exchange Rates
1 US Dollar = 122.37 BDT
1 GBP = 164.43 BDT
1 Euro = 142.50 BDT
1 INR = 1.36 BDT

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