

*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:****IMF agrees to release USD 1.3 Bn in June for Bangladesh as disagreement over exchange rate flexibility resolved**

- Bangladesh Bank has finally reached an agreement with IMF (International Monetary Fund) over the implementation of greater exchange rate flexibility after a series of meetings conducted by the central bank's Governor Ahsan H Mansur. Now, IMF has agreed to release USD 1.3 Bn of the USD 4.7 Bn loan package in June, which was previously withheld due to disagreement over the implementation of greater exchange rate flexibility through a crawling peg, confirmed a senior executive of Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bb-get-imf-loan-disagreement-over-exchange-rate-flexibility-resolved-1141071>

**Bepza secures USD 480 Mn investment this fiscal year so far**

- The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) has secured investments totalling USD 480 Mn from 32 local and foreign companies across all export processing zones in the country as of May 13 this fiscal year. The information was shared at a lease agreement signing ceremony between Bepza and Qingdao Dongfang Packaging Technology Limited, a Chinese company, to establish a packaging and accessories manufacturing industry in the Ishwardi EPZ.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bepza-secures-480-million-investment-fiscal-year-so-far-3893731>

**Govt's bank borrowing target may shrink in next budget**

- The government is planning to significantly reduce its bank borrowing target in the upcoming fiscal year as it aims to narrow the budget deficit by scaling down the overall budget size. The target is set to be slashed by nearly 25% in the budget for FY26, dropping to BDT 1.04 Tn. The budget deficit for the outgoing fiscal year is also likely to shrink by around BDT 300 Bn to BDT 2.26 Tn, according to a finance ministry official.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2025-26/news/govts-bank-borrowing-target-may-shrink-next-budget-3894101>

**Govt set to nearly halve power subsidies in FY 2026**

- The government is set to halve the power subsidy for the next fiscal year (FY2025-26) to reduce the financial burden on the exchequer. A substantial payment already made to clear the outstanding bills accumulated over the last couple of years for purchasing electricity from the independent power producers and an efficient power-sector- management plan apparently helped the government to go for the cutback.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-set-to-nearly-halve-power-subsidies-in-fy-2026-1747161062>

**BD-Japan FOC to focus on CA's May 28 Japan visit**

- The upcoming visit of Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus to Japan will get the top priority in the Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) between the two countries on May 15 in Tokyo. Professor Yunus is likely to attend the Nikkei Forum to be held in Tokyo on May 29. He is likely to have a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister on May 30, before departing for home the same day, foreign ministry sources said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-japan-foc-to-focus-on-cas-may-28-japan-visit-1747161115>

**SME Foundation for introducing Preferential Tax Regimes for SMEs**

- The Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Foundation has proposed for rolling out Preferential Tax Regimes or clusters for the SME entrepreneurs in the country to ensure their further flourish. They also demanded of the government to keep annual turnover of up to BDT 10 Mn outside the purview of VAT, fixing BDT 35,000 as specific tax per month for annual turnover of BDT 1 Mn to BDT 20 Mn, fixing BDT 75,000 as specific tax per month for annual turnover in between BDT 20 Mn to BDT 30 Mn and BDT 1, 50,000 as specific tax per month for annual turnover in between BDT 30 Mn to BDT 50 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/sme-foundation-introducing-preferential-tax-regimes-smes-1141346>

**Beyond the split: real tax reform needed to unlock Bangladesh's development**

- The decision to dissolve the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and form two new divisions—Revenue Policy Division and Revenue Management Division—is a bold and timely move. This reform has the potential to modernise Bangladesh's tax administration, increase revenue, and make the system more efficient.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/beyond-the-split-real-tax-reform-needed-unlock-bangladeshs-development-3893671>

**SME Foundation seeks BDT 5 Bn special allocation in upcoming budget**

- The SME Foundation has called for a dedicated allocation in the upcoming national budget for the fiscal year 2025-26, highlighting its specialised role in supporting small and medium enterprises across the country. It seeks BDT 5 Bn in allocation to support the development of SME clusters through access to heavy machinery.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sme-foundation-seeks-tk500cr-special-allocation-upcoming-budget-1141616>

**Sector & Industries:****BANK | Govt control over Grameen Bank reduced**

- The government has issued an ordinance amending the Grameen Bank Act 2013, curtailing its control over Grameen Bank and extending the work area of the microcredit institution to urban areas. The Grameen Bank Act 2013 significantly expanded the government oversight over the bank's operations, with the government appointing the chairman and not the board member.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-control-over-grameen-bank-reduced-3893551>

**BANK | ALS becomes key tool for banks amid liquidity crunch**

- A liquidity-feeding derivative called Assured Liquidity Support (ALS) has become highly popular among commercial banks as the instrument holds mammoth share of the central bank's special liquidity facilities, officials and bankers said. ALS is a kind of overnight borrowing facility provided by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) for the primary dealer (PD) banks, helping them meet their cash reserve ratio (CRR) requirement with the central bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/als-becomes-key-tool-for-banks-amid-liquidity-crunch-1747161174>

**BANK | Sonali Bank launches payment switch system**

- Sonali Bank PLC has added a new feather to its digital transformation activities by introducing its own payment switch system in a bid to make all kinds of online transactions faster, reliable and cost-effective. In a press release issued on Tuesday, the country's largest commercial bank stated that the new system will enable it to preserve transaction-related information in a more effective way while it will also reduce costs for both the lender and its customers in providing and maintaining debit, credit, pre-paid and virtual cards.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/sonali-bank-launches-payment-switch-system-1747161250>

**REAL ESTATE | Govt plans to align official land price with market rates**

- The government plans to regularly update the official land price, aligning with the market rates to eliminate the gap between the actual sale price and the deed value of immovable properties, including land and flats. The Revenue Implementation Division, formerly the National Board of Revenue (NBR), has formulated a draft policy in this regard.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-plans-align-official-land-price-market-rates-1141781>

**RMG | Protectionism, apparel export overreliance key barriers**

- Protectionist policies and overdependence on apparel exports are among the major internal challenges preventing Bangladesh from joining multilateral trade blocs, said Albert Park, chief economist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Speaking at an event on the sidelines of the 58th ADB Annual Meeting held recently in the Italian city of Milan, he said it is not that other countries are unwilling to sign trade agreements with Bangladesh.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/protectionism-apparel-export-overreliance-key-barriers-1747160646>

**MFS | bKash posts BDT 1.32 Bn profit in three months**

- bKash, the country's leading mobile financial service provider and a subsidiary of BRAC Bank, reported a significant 88% year-on-year growth in profit, reaching BDT 1.32 Bn in the first three months of this year. According to its financial statement for the January-March quarter, bKash posted a net revenue of BDT 16.37 Bn, which was 35% higher from the same time a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bkash-posts-tk132cr-profit-three-months-1141146>

**Stocks:****BRACBANK | BRAC Bank's net profit jumps 47% in Q1**

- BRAC Bank PLC, one of the leading private commercial banks in the country, posted higher profits in the first quarter of its financial year 2025, driven by increased investment and interest income. The private lender's net profit rose 47% year-on-year to BDT 4.86 Bn in the January-March quarter, according to its financial statements.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/brac-banks-net-profit-jumps-47-q1-3893561>

**WALTONHIL | Walton expands footprint in Sri Lanka**

- Walton Hi-Tech Industries has expanded its brand presence in Sri Lanka by launching retail outlets through its authorised distributor, Monik Trading Private Limited. According to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Tuesday (13 May), Walton signed a 10-year Global Distributorship Agreement with Monik Trading in December last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/walton-start-business-sri-lanka-1140776>

**EXCHANGE | Five-year bond yield falls fast**

- The yield on Five-Year Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs) fell significantly on Tuesday as banks were more inclined to invest their excess liquidity in the risk-free securities. The cut-off yield, generally known as interest rate, on the BGTBs came down to 11.99% on the day from 12.39% earlier, according to auction results. To partially meet its budget deficit, the government borrowed BDT 50 Bn through issuance of BGTBs on the day, exceeding the pre-auction target of BDT 35 Bn

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/five-year-bond-yield-falls-fast-1747161348>

**EXCHANGE | Tough start to 2025 for MNCs as costs and energy shortages bite**

- Most listed multinational companies (MNCs) on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) began 2025 on a weak note, reporting profit declines in the first quarter, largely due to high inflation, as well as ongoing energy and foreign exchange shortages. According to DSE data, 10 out of the 13 listed MNCs have released their financial statements for the January–March period. Of these, six reported a drop in profits, while two posted losses. Only two companies managed to register profit growth during the quarter.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/tough-start-2025-mncs-costs-and-energy-shortages-bite-1141281>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 63.27	(USD 8.16)	-11.42%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 66.22	(USD 8.17)	-10.98%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,234.76	USD 626.28	24.01%
DSEX	4,874.58	-341.86	-6.55%
S&P 500	5,886.55	-20.39	-0.35%
FTSE 100	8,602.92	481.91	5.93%
BSE SENSEX	81,148.22	2,948.29	3.77%
KSE-100	118,575.89	3,316.89	2.88%
CSEALL	15,916.17	-28.44	-0.18%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.44 BDT****1 GBP = 161.55 BDT****1 Euro = 135.85 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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