

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:**Fitch cuts Bangladesh outlook to negative**

- Fitch Ratings has revised Bangladesh's credit outlook to 'Negative' from 'Stable', warning that rising external vulnerabilities, weak reforms, persistent banking sector fragility and governance weaknesses were eroding the country's ability to absorb economic shocks. Fitch Ratings affirmed Bangladesh's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating at 'B+' but downgraded the outlook, signalling increased risks over the medium term.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/299678/fitch-cuts-bangladesh-outlook-to-negative>

Govt Sukuk oversubscribed twelve times

- Investors submitted bids worth BDT 726 Bn against only BDT 59.0 Bn worth of Bangladesh government Sukuk bonds auctioned on Tuesday, making the offering oversubscribed by around 12.30 times as individuals and financial institutions increasingly shifted toward risk-free investment instruments amid weak private sector confidence.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/299675/govt-sukuk-oversubscribed-twelve-times>

NBR plans wealth tax revival

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is set to place a series of tax proposals before Prime Minister, including reintroducing a wealth tax, doubling the tax on export cash incentives, and imposing a new advance tax on some vehicles in the upcoming fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nbr-plans-wealth-tax-revival-4175161>

Govt undertakes BDT 20.28 Bn railway rehabilitation project to modernise western zone rail network

- The government has undertaken a big initiative to rehabilitate and maintain critical railway infrastructures in Bangladesh Railway's western zone to ensure safer and faster train movement, improve passenger and freight services, and strengthen regional rail connectivity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-undertakes-tk2028cr-railway-rehabilitation-project-modernise-western-zone-rail>

Govt approves BDT 343.47 Bn Padma Barrage Project

- The barrage, which has an estimated price tag of BDT 504.43 Bn at Rajbari's Pangsha, will store around 2,900 million cubic metres of water to strengthen water management in the south-western region.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/govt-approves-tk34347cr-padma-barrage-project-1437876>

Govt under heavy pressure from LNG subsidies

- Subsidy demand for just the first two months after the conflict started equals to the BDT 80 Bn allocated for the whole fiscal year. Finance Division officials said that as invoices for spot market LNG must be paid within 15 to 17 days of delivery, subsidy payments have to be released quickly.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-under-heavy-pressure-Ing-subsidies-1438696>

Sector and Industries:**BANK | BB cuts penal interest on overdue loans**

- Bangladesh Bank has reduced the maximum penal interest rate on overdue loans and loan instalments to 0.5% from 1.5% to support investment and boost productivity amid ongoing global economic challenges.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-cuts-penal-interest-overdue-loans-4175121>

BANK | Banks ride Treasury gains to stronger Q1 profits

- While interest income grew during the period, interest payments to depositors and lenders also jumped due to higher deposit rates, squeezing net interest income. In such a situation, higher gains from T-bonds and T-bills offset the decline in net interest income and boosted lenders' profits.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/banks-ride-treasury-gains-to-stronger-q1-profits-1778689788>

BANK | No more bank-funded training for BB staff

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has imposed new restrictions on its officials' participation in training sessions, seminars, symposiums, and workshops organised or funded by banks, financial institutions, and other entities, aiming to strengthen transparency in the financial sector and prevent conflicts of interest.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/no-more-bank-funded-training-bb-staff-4175151>

TELECOM | Scrap SIM taxes, VAT on spectrum fees

- The GSMA, a global association of mobile operators, has urged Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue (NBR) to withdraw the 7.5% VAT imposed on spectrum payments and abolish SIM-related taxes in its proposals for the upcoming FY2026-27 national budget.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/pharma-sector-faces-post-ldc-challenges-4175156>

Stocks:**REGULATOR | New guidelines on capital increase, dividend account in capital market**

- According to the new decision, the obligation to jointly hold 30% shares in the case of a board of directors reconstituted by the regulatory body will no longer be an obstacle to capital increase or capital raising. In addition, it has been decided that 'A' category banks listed on the stock exchange will be able to maintain dividend accounts in their own banks from now on.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/410159/bsec-new-guidelines-on-capital-increase-dividend>

BRACBANK | bKash reports BDT 1.84 Bn profit in Jan-Mar

- bKash Limited has reported a 40% increase in net profit, reaching BDT 1.84 Bn, as revenue continued to grow strongly across successive quarters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bkash-reports-tk184cr-profit-jan-mar-1438551>

EBL | EBL posts 28% profit growth in Q1

- Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) posted a 28% YoY rise in consolidated profit in Q12026, driven by strong investment income, higher foreign exchange earnings and lower provisioning expenses.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/ebel-posts-28-profit-growth-q1-4175091>

UNITEDFIN | United Finance posts 31% growth in Q1 profit

- United Finance PLC has reported a strong start to the 2026 financial year, with its net profit after tax surging by 31% during the first quarter of the year ending 31 March.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/united-finance-posts-31-growth-q1-profit-1438556>

FORTUNE | Fortune Shoes officials fined BDT 72 Mn

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has fined the chairman, directors and several officials of Fortune Shoes Limited a total of Tk 7.2 crore for failing to distribute declared dividends.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fortune-shoes-officials-fined-tk-72cr-4175146>

PREMIERBAN | Exporters may not even be aware of LCs opened in their names, says BKMEA chief

- For many garment exporters linked to the BDT 105.00 Bn Premier Bank scandal, the shock may not be the fraud itself, but the discovery that it was carried out in their name, without their knowledge.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/corruption/premier-bank-scandal-exporters-may-not-even-be-aware-lcs-opened-their-names>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 100.96	USD 43.53	75.80%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 105.57	USD 44.72	73.49%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,690.52	USD 349.52	8.05%
DSEX	5,243.43	378.10	7.77%
S&P 500	7,444.25	545.43	7.91%
FTSE 100	10,325.35	393.97	3.97%
BSE SENSEX	74,608.98	-10,184.60	-12.01%
KSE-100	167,451.14	-6,603.16	-3.79%
CSEALL	22,920.32	296.01	1.31%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.70 BDT

1 GBP = 165.94 BDT

1 Euro = 143.72 BDT

1 INR = 1.28 BDT

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