

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:**Trump says Iran talks could resume over next two days**

- US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that Iran talks could resume in Pakistan over the next two days, according to an interview with the New York Post.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/world/us-israel-war-iran/news/trump-says-iran-talks-could-resume-over-next-two-days-4151706>

Bangladesh to receive USD 2 Bn assistance from IMF, WB amid Middle East crisis

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have pledged additional financial assistance to Bangladesh beyond regular budget support to help offset deficits caused by the Middle East war.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-receive-2bn-assistance-imf-wb-amid-middle-east-crisis-4151541>

Bangladesh's economy to grow 4.7% in FY26, slow further to 4.3% in FY27: IMF

- Bangladesh's inflation is now expected to rise to 9.2% in FY26, higher than the earlier estimate of 8.9%. However, the global lender projects inflation to decline sharply to 6% in FY27.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-economy-grow-47-fy26-slow-further-43-fy27-imf-1411496>

BB to introduce two reference rates

- From April 15, Bangladesh Bank is launching two money-market reference rates to help stakeholders understand the trend in interest rates. For BOFR, overnight and one-week tenures will be published while DOMMR will be released based on transaction data of overnight, 1-week, 1-month, and 3-month tenures.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bb-to-introduce-two-reference-rates>

Minister: GDP base year calculation to change next fiscal year

- The base year of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) calculation will be changed in the next fiscal year. The fiscal year FY26 is being set as the new base year. As a result, it is believed that the statistical size of the country's economy may become even larger.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/407680/minister-gdp-base-year-calculation-to-change-next>

Govt catapults revenue target to BDT 6.95 Tn to achieve lofty ends

- An elevated target of collecting BDT 6.95 Tn as revenue has been set for the upcoming fiscal year to achieve new government's lofty budgetary ends like enhancing GDP growth, taming wayward inflation and advancing the economy towards a trillion-dollar mark.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-catapults-revenue-target-to-BDT-695t-to-achieve-lofty-ends-1776104572>

Interest payments, subsidies, incentives to swallow big pies

- Interest payments, subsidies, incentives and cash loans could gobble up big pies of the next budget as the government earmarks over BDT 2.59 Tn for this and officials predict higher energy costs could bloat the figure.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/interest-payments-subsidies-incentives-to-swallow-big-pies-1776104336>

Bangladesh races for urea supply bypassing Hormuz

- Bangladesh is scrambling to secure urea imports after an international tender floated last month failed to attract any bidders, with the Aman paddy due for planting in June. The urgency follows the shutdown of five of the country's six urea factories because of gas supply concerns after the US-Israel war on Iran.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-races-urea-supply-bypassing-hormuz-4151121>

PM to launch pre-pilot of 'Farmer Card' distribution today

- Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will inaugurate the 'Farmer Card' distribution in 11 upazilas of 10 districts across the country under the pre-piloting phase as part of the implementation of ruling BNP's election pledges.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pm-to-launch-pre-pilot-of-farmer-card-distribution-today-1776104738>

Health cards to be launched by June: Health minister

- Health and Family Welfare Minister said health cards will be launched by June this year as part of the government's efforts to strengthen healthcare services. A PID handout mentioned that allocation for the health sector will be increased in the upcoming national budget to ensure overall development.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/health/health-cards-be-launched-june-health-minister-1411531>

Sector and Industries:**RMG | Garment exporters urge NBR to allow local 'free of cost' raw material sourcing**

- Readymade garment manufacturers have urged the government to remove restrictions on sourcing raw materials free of cost (FOC) from local suppliers. Industry leaders said that while exporters are now allowed to import raw materials from abroad on an FOC basis under a recent policy change, no such provision exists for sourcing the same materials locally.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/garment-exporters-urge-nbr-allow-local-free-cost-raw-material-sourcing-1411021>

ENERGY | Crude oil shortage forces Eastern Refinery to halt production

- Production at Eastern Refinery Limited, the country's only state-owned oil refinery, has been halted due to a shortage of crude oil, officials said. The refinery usually processes around 4,500 tonnes of crude oil daily, producing about 13 types of fuel, including octane, petrol, diesel and furnace oil.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/crude-oil-shortage-forces-eastern-refinery-to-halt-production>

TELECOM | Starlink in Bangladesh: Blazing fast, but few can afford

- Bangladesh's Starlink service is currently among the most responsive in Asia-Pacific, but high package prices make it unaffordable for ordinary households, according to a new report by Ookla.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/starlink-bangladesh-blazing-fast-few-can-afford-4151116>

Stocks:**BANKASIA | Bank Asia, SME Foundation sign Agreements**

- Bank Asia and SME Foundation recently signed two agreements aimed at providing SME entrepreneurs with access to financing on easy and affordable terms.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bank-asia-sme-foundation-sign-agreements-1776096653>

ISLAMIBANK | Control issues emerge at Islami Bank

- Fresh instability has gripped Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC as latest wave of unrest centers on a sudden shake-up of the board of directors and deepening internal divisions. Sources indicate that a director perceived as being aligned with the Jamaat-e-Islami ideology was recently removed from the board. In their place, new members have been inducted who are widely viewed as being close to the controversial S Alam Group.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/407725/control-issues-emerge-at-islami-bank>

UCB | UCB One More than just banking

- United Commercial Bank PLC (UCB) has launched its new integrated digital banking platform, “UCB One.” This platform will provide all types of banking services quickly and easily. Previously customers have been enjoying digital services through the Unet app. From now on, the app will automatically turn into UCB One.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/banks/407725/control-issues-emerge-at-islami-bank>

EXCHANGE | Multinational dividends plunge BDT 43.40 Bn in 2025 as earnings take a hit from macro headwinds

- Multinational companies faced an unprecedented squeeze on profitability, which saw their collective dividend distributions plummet by 46% compared with the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/multinational-dividends-plunge-tk4340cr-2025-earnings-take-hit-macro-headwinds>

EXCHANGE | Investor losses top BDT 5 Bn, recovery plan for scam-hit brokers remains unclear

- Investors have continued to endure partial or complete erosion of their assets, with total claimed losses surpassing BDT 5 Bn as of March due to scams and embezzlement by brokers. Sources at the Dhaka bourse said that BDT 0.25 Bn of the refunds came from the protection fund, with the remainder recovered from the brokers.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/investor-losses-top-tk-5b-recovery-plan-for-scam-hit-brokers-remains-unclear>

REGULATOR | BSEC asks brokers for data on margin rule extension request

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has sought information from the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) to evaluate its request for extending the deadline for complying with new margin rules by three months.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsec-asks-brokers-data-margin-rule-extension-request-4151056>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 91.43	USD 34.00	59.20%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 94.79	USD 33.94	55.78%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,839.69	USD 498.69	11.49%
DSEX	5,230.37	365.03	7.50%
S&P 500	6,967.39	68.57	0.99%
FTSE 100	10,609.06	677.68	6.82%
BSE SENSEX	76,847.57	-7,946.01	-9.37%
KSE-100	165,634.84	-8,419.46	-4.84%
CSEALL	22,128.66	-495.65	-2.19%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.94 BDT****1 GBP = 166.89 BDT****1 Euro = 145.04 BDT****1 INR = 1.31 BDT**

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