

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:**Govt likely to relax fuel purchase caps from today**

- The government is set to ease restrictions on fuel lifting for vehicles from Sunday, amid mounting pressure on refuelling stations ahead of the Eid travel rush, while authorities insist that adequate supplies will be maintained throughout the holiday period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/environment/natural-resources/energy/news/govt-likely-relax-fuel-purchase-caps-today-4128766>

IMF Loan: Bangladesh may get next tranche in June

- Bangladesh could receive a USD 1.3 Bn tranche from its loan programme with the International Monetary Fund by June if the new government moves ahead with reforms to make the dollar exchange rate more market-based, strengthen revenue collection, reduce subsidies, and address weaknesses in the banking sector. A three-member high-level IMF delegation is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on March 23 for a two-day visit.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/imf-loan-bangladesh-may-get-next-tranche-june-4128866>

Oil stays above USD 100, stocks slide tracking Mideast war

- Oil prices stayed over USD 100 per barrel Friday while stock markets slid, with no end in sight to disruption in crude supplies as war rages on in the Middle East.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/oil-stays-above-100-stocks-slide-tracking-mideast-war-4128371>

Bangladesh among 16 nations facing new US unfair-trade probes

- US administration on Wednesday (11 March) said it was launching two new trade investigations into excess industrial capacity in 16 major trading partners and into forced labor, to rebuild tariff pressure after the US Supreme Court tore down much of Trump's tariff program last month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/world/bangladesh-among-16-nations-facing-new-us-unfair-trade-probes-1384531>

US probes Bangladesh's export incentives, BGMEA 'uncomfortable'

- President of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) described Bangladesh's inclusion in the investigation as "uncomfortable" and "without logical basis". He added that export incentives in Bangladesh are minimal, while questions might arise about agricultural subsidies, the US itself heavily subsidises its farmers, whereas Bangladesh primarily subsidises fertilisers. Former member of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission told that the incentives fall within the WTO policy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/us-initiates-trade-investigation-bangladesh-and-major-exporters-1385396>

Shipping costs spiral as Iran war prompts new surcharges

- Bangladeshi exporters and importers are facing higher shipping costs as major global carriers introduce war-related surcharges following the US-Israel war on Iran. The extra fees, ranging from USD 500-USD 4,000 per container, threaten to push up export prices, delay deliveries, and disrupt trade flows to the Middle East and other markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/shipping-costs-spiral-iran-war-prompts-new-surcharges-4128606>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/freight-rates-triple-middle-east-crisis-cuts-air-cargo-capacity-1386266>

Trade deficit widens 17.4% in July-January

- Bangladesh's trade deficit, the gap between what it buys and sells abroad, widened by 17.44% in the July-January period of fiscal year 2025-26, due mainly to higher imports and weaker export earnings.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/trade-deficit-widens-174-july-january-4127556>

US dollar hovers near 2026 highs as oil's rise spurs hawkish central bank bets

- The dollar extended its gains on Thursday to hold near its strongest levels this year as surging crude prices threatened to spur inflation and force central banks to adopt more hawkish policy stances.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-dollar-hovers-near-2026-highs-oils-rise-spurs-hawkish-central-bank-bets-4127006>

Individuals raise stakes in Treasury bills, bonds

- Individual investment in government treasury bills and bonds has grown steadily from just 0.3% to 0.83% of outstanding, as savers seek safer instruments and better interest rates amid limited investment options and uncertainty in the financial system. Total investment in T-bills and bonds reached BDT 7.27 Tn by December 2025.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/293972/individuals-raise-stakes-in-treasury-bills-bonds>

Family cards could reduce poverty to 11.3%

- The government's "Family Card" programme, which will provide BDT 2,500 a month to poor and vulnerable households, could reduce the country's poverty rate by more than 7 percentage points if carried out effectively.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/family-cards-could-reduce-poverty-113-4127561>

Eid sales surge despite temporary slowdown

- Clothing sales at fashion retailers started off strong before facing a slowdown over the last few days this Eid-ul-Fitr season amid broader economic uncertainty triggered by the United States and Israel's war on Iran.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/eid-sales-surge-despite-temporary-slowdown-4128636>

Sector & Industries:**NBFI | Crisis-hit People's Leasing seeks BDT 7.5 Bn stimulus from govt for revival**

- Crisis-hit People's Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (PLFS) has formally sought a financial stimulus of BDT 7.50 Bn from the government to complete its restructuring process and resume full-scale operations. Among the proposed restructuring measures include converting existing liabilities into interest-free principal payments over a specified period, exploring the conversion of depositor claims into company equity, and restarting SME and collateral-based lending to generate fresh revenue. According to the company, approximately BDT 2.0 Bn has been recovered from defaulting borrowers since July 2021, and around BDT 840 Mn has already been repaid to nearly 1,900 depositors.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/crisis-hit-peoples-leasing-seeks-tk-75b-stimulus-from-govt-for-revival>

STEEL & CEMENT | Rod prices jump BDT 10,000 per tonne in 10 days, cement up BDT 25 per bag

- Over the past 10 days, steel rod prices have risen by up to BDT 10,000 per tonne, while cement prices have increased by BDT 20-25 per bag, according to market data. Industry players say higher import costs – particularly for scrap and freight – driven partly by tensions in the Middle East, along with a gradual increase in construction activity after the national election are pushing prices upward.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rod-prices-jump-tk10000-tonne-10-days-cement-tk25-bag-1384486>

ENERGY | Nat'l grid receiving 8.0mmcf gas from Srikail fifth well

- Bangladesh's national gas grid Saturday started receiving around 8.0 Mn cubic feet per day (mmcf) of natural gas from onshore Srikail-5 hydrocarbon well. According to BAPEX, this well is expected to supply gas for around 10 years, with estimated natural gas reserve of 40 Bn cubic feet (Bcf) and 28 Bcf is considered extractable.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/natl-grid-receiving-80mmcf-gas-from-srikail-fifth-well-1773507989>

ENERGY | Rooppur Power Plant Unit-1: Fuel loading to begin April 7

- Fuel loading at Unit-1 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) is scheduled to begin on April 7, marking a major milestone toward starting electricity production at Bangladesh's first nuclear facility by mid-year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/rooppur-power-plant-unit-1-fuel-loading-begin-april-7-4128921>

ENERGY | Islamic Development Bank agrees to lend USD 1.0 Bn

- An Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) mission has assured Bangladesh of providing USD 1.0 Bn in loan for setting up a 3.0-million-tonne-capacity oil refinery, officials say and hope it would cut import dependence for petroleum fuels. The loan is expected to be approved at the IsDB board next month and would sign a deal in June this year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/islamic-development-bank-agrees-to-lend-10b-1773507809>

RMG | Bangladeshi garments fetch over 10% higher prices in EU than US

- Bangladeshi apparels are fetching over 10% higher prices in European markets on average compared to the United States, even for similar products, according to a recent study. On average, leading exporters fetch 5-18% higher prices in the EU than the US for 10 major apparel products.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladeshi-garments-fetch-over-10-higher-prices-eu-us-4128621>

RMG | Apparel exporters' raw-material costs surge 32pc, export loss looms

- Bangladesh's textile manufacturers, apparel exporters and global buyers alike feel mounting financial pressure under chain effects of the Middle East turmoil that disrupts major shipping routes and hikes freight, container shortages, energy, and cost of raw material like man-made fibre (MMF) and other synthetic textile materials.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/apparel-exporters-raw-material-costs-surge-32pc-export-loss-looms>

TEXTILE | USDA cuts Bangladesh's cotton import forecast

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has lowered its projection for Bangladesh's cotton imports, citing reduced domestic use of the key raw material for the textile industry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/usda-cuts-bangladeshs-cotton-import-forecast-4127541>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | DSE certifies 11 more brokerages to launch own order management systems**

- Certificates were handed over at a ceremony at the DSE Tower on 11 March, where DSE Managing Director Nuzhat Anwar presented the FIX certifications to representatives of the brokerage houses

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-certifies-11-more-brokerages-launch-own-order-management-systems-1386901>

EXCHANGE | Foreigners prefer Square Pharma, BRAC Bank in February, but pull back from Olympic, GP

- Foreign investors increased their exposure to several blue-chip stocks in February, particularly in the banking and pharmaceutical sectors, while pulling back from companies including Olympic Industries, Grameenphone (GP) and DBH Finance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/foreigners-prefer-square-pharma-brac-bank-february-pull-back-olympic-gp-1385561>

REGULATOR | DSE certifies 11 more brokerages to launch own order management systems

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is working to introduce a comprehensive framework to define and regulate public interest companies (PICs). According to the proposed structure, entities dealing directly with public funds or securities, such as banks, financial institutions, insurance companies, stockbrokers, stock dealers and merchant banks, would automatically fall under the PIC category regardless of capital size. Public limited companies with paid-up capital exceeding BDT 50 Mn, private limited companies with capital above BDT 150 Mn, companies with annual revenue exceeding BDT 1 Bn, and companies borrowing BDT 200 Mn or more from banks or other public sources, may also be classified as PICs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bsec-prepares-new-rules-to-regulate-public-interest-companies>

NAVANAPHAR | BSEC steps in amid turmoil at Navana Pharma

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has ordered an investigation into allegations that the board of Navana Pharmaceuticals was forcefully taken over during a contentious meeting in January by several individuals, including sponsor shareholder Sayeed Ahmed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsec-steps-amid-turmoil-navana-pharma-4127546>

Stock and Commodities*

| Index Name | Close Value | Value Change YTD | % Change YTD |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Crude Oil (WTI)* | USD 98.71 | USD 41.28 | 71.88% |
| Crude Oil (Brent)* | USD 103.14 | USD 42.29 | 69.50% |
| Gold Spot* | USD 5,019.49 | USD 678.49 | 15.63% |
| DSEX | 5,368.40 | 503.06 | 10.34% |
| S&P 500 | 6,632.19 | -266.63 | -3.86% |
| FTSE 100 | 10,261.15 | 329.77 | 3.32% |
| BSE SENSEX | 74,563.92 | -10,229.66 | -12.06% |
| KSE-100 | 153,866.17 | -20,188.13 | -11.60% |
| CSEALL | 21,692.55 | -931.76 | -4.12% |

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.83 BDT****1 GBP = 162.61 BDT****1 Euro = 140.82 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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