

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:**Bangladesh Bank signals market-based exchange rate regime**

- Bangladesh Bank will switch to a market-based exchange regime, said BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur today. The central bank will allow the exchange rate of the dollar to be determined by market forces, moving away from the current system, the governor said. Speaking at a virtual briefing, he said the central bank expects the rate to remain stable due to strong inflows from exports and remittances. "We believe the time is right. The current account deficit is manageable, and our reserves have risen without external support," he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-bank-signals-market-based-exchange-rate-regime-3894431>

Bangladesh, Vietnam stress trade deal and economic partnership

- Emphasising the need for boosting bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Vietnam, Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Phan Thi Thang has called for the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, signing of trade agreements and building stronger economic partnerships between the two countries. Phan Thi Thang made the remarks today (14 May) while addressing the Vietnam-Bangladesh Business Forum 2025, organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at a hotel in Dhaka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-vietnam-stress-trade-deal-and-economic-partnership-1142236>

Bangladesh moves toward signing FTA with US

- Bangladesh is taking steps toward signing a zero-tariff deal or a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the USA in a bid to enhance bilateral trade and investment, according to sources. The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) on Monday formed a high-powered committee to prepare a draft deal and submit it to the commerce secretary within the next 15 days, they said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-moves-toward-signing-fta-with-us>

Ctg Custom House earns BDT 630 Bn in 10 months, sees 13.14% growth

- Chattogram Custom House, the country's largest customs station, collected BDT 628.19 Bn in revenue during the first ten months (July–April) of the current fiscal year, reflecting a 13.14% increase compared to the same period last year. In April alone, the custom house saw robust growth of 23.67%, collecting BDT 73.83 Bn – up from BDT 59.69 Bn in April of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-custom-house-earns-tk63000cr-10-months-sees-1314-growth-1142221>

IMF for immediate execution of new forex regime, revenue reforms

- On striking a delayed fund-release deal with Bangladesh, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) wants quicker implementation of an agreed new exchange-rate regime and tax reforms for boosting revenue generation. As the IMF desire for dos was made known Wednesday, the interim government here had already dissolved the revenue board to create two divisions as part of tax reforms early Tuesday and repealed the rules for forex for market-driven dollar-taka exchange rate.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/imf-for-immediate-execution-of-new-forex-regime-revenue-reforms-1747245516>

Bangladesh to get USD 3.5 Bn in June from global lenders: Governor

- Bangladesh will receive USD 3.5 Bn in external financing in June, including USD 1.3 Bn from the International Monetary Fund, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said. The remaining amount will come from the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), he said at a virtual media briefing today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-get-35b-june-global-lenders-governor-3894481>

Sector & Industries:**TELECOM | Reforming telecom taxation to accelerate digital inclusion and investment**

- Bangladesh's telecom sector has long been a key enabler of economic modernisation and digital inclusion. As the country advances toward its goal of becoming a trillion-dollar economy, this sector stands ready to play an even more transformative role. With its nationwide reach and growing digital capabilities, the industry continues to connect millions and support the development of a vibrant digital economy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reforming-telecom-taxation-accelerate-digital-inclusion-and-investment-3894716>

TELECOM | Decision to ban import, production suspended for three months

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has suspended its decision to ban the import, production, and marketing of single-band Wi-Fi routers, granting a three-month grace period in public interest. In a circular issued recently, the Spectrum Division of the BTRC stated that the directive -- originally scheduled to take effect from April -- has been put on hold until August 4.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/decision-to-ban-import-production-suspended-for-three-months-1747246117>

RMG | Bangladesh set to remain world's top cotton importer in MY26

- Bangladesh is on track to retain its status as the world's biggest cotton importer in the marketing year (MY) 2025-26, with imports projected to reach 8.5 Mn bales, according to a record-setting forecast by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For Bangladesh, the surge in cotton imports reflects the continued expansion of its ready-made garment (RMG) industry — the backbone of its export economy. In the first 10 months of FY25, Bangladesh's RMG exports grew 10.86% year-on-year to USD 30.25 Bn, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-set-remain-worlds-top-cotton-importer-my26-3894986>

CHEMICAL | Raise customs duty to protect local chemical industry: LSMAB

- Local manufacturers have the capacity to meet 100% of domestic demand for both chemicals, which are essential for making shampoo, hand wash, detergent, and dishwashing liquid, the LABSA and SLES Manufacturing Association of Bangladesh (LSMAB) said in a statement. Bangladesh mostly meets its demand for SLES through imports from India and China, and half of LABSA's demand through imports from India, the association said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/raise-customs-duty-protect-local-chemical-industry-lsmab-3894581>

BANK | Govt moves to probe graft allegations over ADB-funded project

- The interim government has taken steps to investigate alleged irregularities in the Capital Market Development Programme (CMDP), implemented by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), officials said. As part of the move, the Financial Institutions Division (FID) has formed a 3-member committee, headed by its joint secretary, to scrutinise the procurement and implementation processes of the project, funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), they said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-moves-to-probe-graft-allegations-over-adb-funded-project-1747245879>

RMG | Separate ministry needed to boost RMG exports

- The biennial election of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is scheduled to be held on May 31 to elect the executive committee of the trade body for the 2025-27 tenure. The BGMEA election is being contested by two major panels—Forum and Sammilito Parishad for 35 director posts. This time Mahmud Hasan Khan is contesting as the leader of Forum and Md Abul Kalam as leader of Sammilito Parishad. Refayet Ullah Mirdha of The Daily Star talked to them on their electoral pledges and priorities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/separate-ministry-needed-boost-rmg-exports-3895016>

AVIATION | Aviation sector can contribute 1.5% to GDP in five years

- Outgoing Executive Director of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) Group Captain Dr Muhammad Kamrul Islam believes that if the current progress in aviation and related sectors continues, it is possible for these industries to contribute 1.5% or more to the country's GDP within the next 5 to 7 years. He cited the increase passenger number, construction of the third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, the expansion of cargo handling capacity, the collaboration with over 39 international airlines, and other initiatives as key indicators of progress in the country's aviation sector.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/aviation-sector-can-contribute-15pc-to-gdp-in-five-years>

Stocks:**IPDC | IPDC Finance's profit up 98% on high investment income**

- IPDC Finance has reported a 98.8% year-on-year surge in profit to BDT 37 Mn for the first quarter through March this year, supported by high returns from investments in government securities. Investment income saw a sharp 134.8% year-on-year surge to BDT 239 Mn as earnings from government securities soared 208.8% to BDT 125 Mn in the quarter to March this year compared to the same quarter last year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ipdc-finances-profit-up-98pc-on-high-investment-income-1747241652>

BATASHOE | Bata Shoe profit jumps 100%, revenue grows 28% in Jan-Mar

- Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd reported a 100% year-on-year increase in profit and a 28% rise in revenue for the January-March quarter of 2025, compared to the same period in 2024. According to the company's unaudited financials published on its website, Bata posted a profit of BDT 368.3 Mn for the quarter, with earnings per share (EPS) of BDT 26.92. Revenue during the period rose to BDT 3.58 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bata-shoe-profit-jumps-100-revenue-grows-28-jan-mar-1142396>

SICL | Sikder Insurance declares 5% cash dividend

- Sikder Insurance Company, a concern of the Sikder Group, has recommended a 5% cash dividend for its general shareholders for 2024, according to a disclosure published on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Wednesday (14 May). Sikder Insurance had paid a 3% cash dividend to its shareholders for 2023. According to its financials, its earnings per share (EPS) increased by 56% in 2024 to BDT 1.28, compared to BDT 0.82 in 2023.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sikder-insurance-declares-5-cash-dividend-1142566>

TITASGAS | Titas proposes BDT 81 Bn project to reduce gas wastage

- Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution PLC wants to implement an ambitious BDT 81.61 Bn project to reduce gas wastage by installing around 2,781 kilometres of new distribution lines and upgrading 5,000 kilometres of existing ones in the Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narayanganj city corporation areas.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/titas-proposes-tk-81b-project-to-reduce-gas-wastage-1747245442>

BANKASIA | Bank Asia Agent Banking introduces 'Wet Market Collection' service

- Bank Asia Agent Banking for the first time has introduced wet market-centric customer service initiative 'Wet Market Collection' aiming to simplify, secure and digitize cash handling for small-large scale traders in local wet markets and make daily transactions more efficient and reliable. Ziaul Hasan, deputy managing director and head of Channel Banking and CAMLCO, inaugurated the initiative at a programme held at Genda Bazar, Savar, on the outskirts of the capital on Tuesday, according to a statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bank-asia-agent-banking-introduces-wet-market-collection-service-1747241752>

EXCHANGE | Central bank is to protect depositors, not investors, BB governor says

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said the central bank would not be lenient while taking measures to discipline the banking sector. He said this at a virtual press conference from Dubai when his attention was drawn to the matter that 23 banks could not publish their financial statements for 2024 as they were awaiting approval of the central bank. The banks have already passed the April 30 deadline as the Bank Company Act 1991 makes it obligatory for the financial institutions to finalise annual statements within four months after the end of a year. The listed banks are supposed to declare dividends within the same timeframe, subject to approval of the central bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/central-bank-is-to-protect-depositors-not-investors-bb-governor-says-1747241593>

EXCHANGE | Textile sector under pressure; big players buck the trend

- Textile manufacturers have been struggling due to a range of challenges, including gas crisis, high interest rates, weak demand, political turmoil and economic uncertainty over the past three quarters of the current fiscal year. Among the 58 listed textile companies, only 20 posted a positive profit growth in the January to March quarter of the ongoing fiscal year. However, the firms have struggled overall in the past nine months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/textile-sector-under-pressure-big-players-buck-trend-1142621>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.74	(USD 9.69)	-13.57%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.72	(USD 9.67)	-13.00%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,155.60	USD 547.12	20.97%
DSEX	4,835.60	-380.84	-7.30%
S&P 500	5,892.58	-14.36	-0.24%
FTSE 100	8,585.01	464.00	5.71%
BSE SENSEX	81,330.56	3,130.63	4.00%
KSE-100	118,536.53	3,277.53	2.84%
CSEALL	16,131.24	186.63	1.17%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.58 BDT****1 GBP = 161.46 BDT****1 Euro = 136.11 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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