

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:**Budget size set to decrease by BDT 70 Bn to BDT 7.90 Tn next fiscal year**

- The finance ministry has decided to reduce the budget for the next fiscal year 2025-2026 (FY26) to BDT 7.90 Tn, a BDT 70 Bn drop compared to the original budget for the current fiscal year, officials familiar with the matter said. If implemented, this will mark the first time since the country's independence when the size of the new budget will be smaller than the previous year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget-size-set-decrease-tk7000-crore-tk790-lakh-crore-next-fiscal-year-1116801>

Russia extends Rooppur loan repayment by two years, waives USD 164 Mn penalty

- Russia has agreed to ease loan conditions, relieving Bangladesh from a USD 164 Mn penalty for delayed instalments on a USD 500 Mn loan used for the feasibility study of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. Additionally, Moscow has responded to Dhaka's request by extending the tenure of an USD 11.38 Bn Russian state loan for the main nuclear power project by two years, postponing the start of repayments by 1.5 years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/russia-extends-rooppur-loan-repayment-two-years-waives-164m-penalty-1117041>

Main focus of next budget to remove NTBs: NBR chief

- NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan on Tuesday said that the main focus of the national budget for the next fiscal year (FY26) would be removing the non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to facilitate the business community. "We'll try to ease the non-tariff barriers for you (businessmen), we'll remove all the hurdles from your path and that is our main target. We're working on that," he said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/main-focus-of-next-budget-to-remove-ntbs-nbr-chief-1744740880>

NBR plans to roll back tax benefits for exporters

- In a bid to rationalise tax benefits and meet revenue targets set by the IMF, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is considering reducing tax exemptions for export-oriented sectors in the upcoming national budget, according to a top official. Industries such as readymade garments, footwear and frozen foods currently enjoy lower corporate tax rates — between 10% and 15% — compared with the 25% to 27% levied on non-exporting businesses.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-plans-roll-back-tax-benefits-exporters-3872126>

LDC graduation on time despite tariff turmoil

- There is no going back for Bangladesh in its LDC graduation as the plane of status change has already taken off, a top-level meeting noted Tuesday and decided on measures to maximize its trade-economic benefits. "One should keep in mind that we are not on the ground—we are flying to the crew side. We were supposed to take off in 2024, but we got extra years due to the Covid," said Anisuzzaman Chowdhury.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/ldc-graduation-on-time-despite-tariff-turmoil>

Inflation forces government to frame contractionary budget

- Inflation control remains pivotal priority alongside shunning unwanted spending as the government decides to frame contractionary budget for the upcoming fiscal year, as Bangladesh crosses critical pass-through following the changeover. A panel meeting Tuesday decided to prepare the smaller budget for financial year 2025-26 keeping in mind the trend in revenue earnings and the inflow of foreign aid, officials said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/inflation-forces-government-to-frame-contractionary-budget>

Bangladesh feels like South Korea of the 80s

- In the 1980s, South Korea embarked on an economic transformation that would turn it into a global manufacturing powerhouse driven by export-led industrialisation, strategic investments, and an increasingly skilled labour force. Around four decades later, Bangladesh, with its competitive workforce and growing industrial ecosystem, seems to be treading a similar path. One of the keen observers of this evolution is Junseok Han, chairman and CEO of Giordano Korea.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-feels-south-korea-the-80s-3872121>

Fitch flags risk to Bangladesh after Trump tariffs

- Bangladesh is among several Asia-Pacific economies at risk of credit pressure from escalating US tariffs, Fitch Ratings warned yesterday, as trade tensions continue to rattle global markets. In a report released from its Hong Kong office, the rating agency said the US tariff hikes will weigh on the credit profiles of many sovereigns in the region, particularly those with high external debt and limited foreign exchange reserves.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/top-news/news/fitch-flags-risk-bangladesh-after-trump-tariffs-3872161>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Banks' deposit, pvt credit growth falls due to high inflation**

- The growth of overall bank deposits decelerated in February 2025, following weaker credit growth in the private sector, officials said. The aggregate deposit growth in the country's banking system came down to 7.88% in February 2025 from 8.29% a month ago, according to the central bank's latest statistics. The private sector credit growth keeps falling remarkably in recent months to reach 6.82% in February 2025, which is believed to be the lowest in recent years.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/banks-deposit-pvt-credit-growth-falls-due-to-high-inflation>

FUEL & POWER | Investors in economic zones demand high-pressure gas supply, uninterrupted electricity

- Amid rising utility costs and infrastructure concerns, investors operating in Bangladesh's economic zones have urged the government to ensure high-pressure gas supply, uninterrupted quality electricity, and necessary permissions for captive power plants. During a high-level meeting with the BEZA on Monday, they voiced serious concerns over recent gas price hikes and US tariffs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/investors-economic-zones-demand-high-pressure-gas-supply-uninterrupted-electricity-1116941>

FUEL & POWER | Petrobangla seeks BDT 20 Bn from BPC

- For the first time in history, Petrobangla has sought BDT 20 Bn in loans from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to foot the bill for liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports, officials said on Tuesday. The state-owned oil company BPC for the first time is going to help another government entity with its investment support to facilitate LNG procurement from the overseas market, they said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/petrobangla-seeks-tk-20b-from-bpc>

FUEL & POWER | Foreign investors concerned about gas price hike

- The Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (EuroCham) have expressed concern over a recent decision by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to introduce a revised gas tariff structure that differentiates between new, committed, and existing customers within the same industrial category.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/foreign-investors-concerned-about-gas-price-hike-3871741>

TEXTILE | EU postpones CSDDD implementation giving breathing space to Bangladesh apparels

- The European Commission has proposed a two year postponement of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), pushing its entry into force to 2028 or 2029, depending on company size, as part of its broader Omnibus Initiative. The delay is intended to give member states and businesses more time to prepare for the directive's far-reaching due diligence obligations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/eu-postpones-csddd-implementation-giving-breathing-space-bangladesh-apparels-1116916>

TEXTILE | Apparel sector urges NBR to retain current tax rate

- Apparel industry stakeholders today urged the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to retain the existing corporate tax rates for the readymade garment sector in the upcoming budget. Inamul Haq Khan, a member of the support committee at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), made the call during a pre-budget meeting with the NBR at its headquarters in Agargaon, Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/apparel-sector-urges-nbr-retain-current-tax-rate-3871711>

TEXTILE | Yarn import curb thru land ports raises mixed reactions

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has restricted yarn imports through land ports to protect the local textile and spinning sector from Indian imports of the raw material — a move hailed by textile millers but opposed by garment and knitwear exporters. Apparel exporters said they could import yarn from neighboring India through land ports in as little as a week. Now, their lead time will increase, affecting competitiveness in the global market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/yarn-import-curb-thru-land-ports-raises-mixed-reactions-3871621>

TELECOM | Starlink applies for BTRC licence

- Starlink has applied to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) for a licence to operate in the country as both Elon Musk's company and the Bangladesh government look to facilitate the faster entry of satellite-based internet services. "They already applied last week," Maj Gen Md Emdad Ul Bari, chairman of the BTRC, told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that due process would be followed in awarding the licence.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/starlink-applies-btrc-licence-3872116>

Stocks:**BEACONPHAR | DSE seeks clarification from Beacon Pharma on export halt**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has sought an explanation from Beacon Pharmaceuticals regarding why the medicine manufacturer stopped its exports abroad without issuing any disclosure on the website of the premier bourse. On March 27, the Dhaka bourse sent the query to Beacon based on a news item published in The Daily Star on the same day.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dse-seeks-clarification-beacon-pharma-export-halt-3871886>

CROWNCEMNT | Crown Cement directors to gift BDT 212.8 Mn in shares to family members

- Two sponsor directors of Crown Cement, one of the country's leading cement manufacturers, have announced plans to gift a total of 4.47 Mn shares to their family members. Of these, sponsor director Md Alamgir Kabir will transfer 2.97 Mn shares, while another sponsor director Mohammed Jahangir Alam will transfer 1.5 Mn shares. The share transfers will be carried out outside the trading system of the exchange and are expected to be completed by 30 April 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/crown-cement-directors-gift-tk2128cr-shares-family-members-1116931>

ILFSL | High Court reconstructs International Leasing board

- The Board of Directors of International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL) was reconstituted by the High Court on 25 March this year. According to a disclosure made to the stock exchange yesterday, Md Mahbubul Hoque has been appointed by the Court as the independent chairman of the Board. He is a former deputy auditor general of Bangladesh and holds the rank of Secretary Grade 1.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/high-court-reconstructs-international-leasing-board-1117031>

EXCHANGE | Regulator decides against keeping cash dividends idle before AGM

- The securities regulator has decided to change the rules tied to the handling of cash dividends paid by listed companies, including banks, aiming to facilitate efficient use of the funds and protect the interest of shareholders. Currently, when a company's board recommends a cash dividend, the equivalent cash must be deposited into a separate bank account within 10 days after the announcement.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/regulator-decides-against-keeping-cash-dividends-idle-before-agm>

EXCHANGE | Yield on BGTBs increases sharply

- The yield on Five-Year Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs) marked a sharp rise on Tuesday as banks showed reluctance to invest in the securities. The cut-off yield, generally known as the interest rate, on the BGTBs rose to 12.39% on the day from 11.48% earlier, according to auction results. The government borrowed BDT 35 Bn through issuing the BGTBs on the day to partially meet its budget deficit.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/yield-on-bgtbs-increases-sharply>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.29	(USD 10.14)	-14.20%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.64	(USD 9.75)	-13.11%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,273.18	USD 664.70	25.48%
DSEX	5,132.02	-84.42	-1.62%
S&P 500	5,396.63	-510.31	-8.64%
FTSE 100	8,249.12	128.11	1.58%
BSE SENSEX	76,734.89	-1,465.04	-1.87%
KSE-100	116,775.50	1,516.50	1.32%
CSEALL	15,526.20	-418.41	-2.62%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.47 BDT****1 GBP = 160.94 BDT****1 Euro = 137.55 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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