

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:**IMF wants all tax exemptions, subsidies gone in next budget**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised Bangladesh to withdraw all forms of tax exemptions, covering income tax, value-added tax (VAT), and customs duties, starting from the next national budget. Alongside ending tax exemptions, the IMF has also pressed for the reduction of supplementary duties imposed at the import stage.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-wants-all-tax-exemptions-subsidies-gone-next-budget-1412576>

Govt drafting five-year strategic plan to spur economic growth

- The government has begun formulating a new five-year strategic framework aimed at steering the economy from stabilization to investment-led growth, setting ambitious targets for expansion and job creation. The plan seeks to raise economic growth to 8.0% by 2030 and increasing gross investment to 36.7% of GDP, while addressing structural weaknesses and laying the groundwork for sustained long-term development.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-drafting-five-year-strategic-plan-to-spur-economic-growth-1776277216>

Govt focuses on CMSMEs to drive jobs, growth: Titumir

- Cottage, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CMSMEs) are likely to be designated as a priority sector in the upcoming national budget for FY'27, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Planning has said. To revive economic activity from the prolonged sluggishness, the government may introduce key fiscal measures to accelerate the CMSME sector, which could include incentives, tax structure reforms, and the formation of a joint fund.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/govt-focuses-on-cmsmes-to-drive-jobs-growth-titumir-1776271046>

Bangladesh receives USD 1.6 Bn in remittances in first 14 days of April

- Bangladesh recorded an upward trend in remittance inflows receiving more than USD 1.6 Bn in the first 14 days of April, with the total expected to exceed USD 3 Bn by the end of the month.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-receives-16b-in-remittances-in-first-14-days-of-april>

BB buys USD 70 Mn from banks in first purchase in nearly two months

- Bangladesh Bank has purchased dollars from commercial banks at a rate of BDT 122.75. A senior central bank official told the remittance rate is BDT 122.90 while dollars were purchased at BDT 122.75, which indicates that the Bangladesh Bank intends to reduce the dollar rate slightly further.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-buys-70m-banks-first-purchase-nearly-two-months-1412411>

Release of USD 1.3 Bn from IMF credit not before June

- Bangladesh is unlikely to get USD 1.3 Bn, due in two tranches, within this fiscal year from International Monetary Fund (IMF), finance officials say. The uncertainty has been created as the IMF is showing less interest in sending a review team now since many of the conditions binding the loan package remained unmet now, they add. The finance division officials have suggested the Finance Minister to seek an additional USD 2.0 Bn as emergency assistance from the IMF and the World Bank to offset the deficit created due to the crisis in the Middle East.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/release-of-13b-from-imf-credit-not-before-june-1776276754>

PM announces plan to recruit 0.5 Mn govt employees

- Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has said the government has decided to recruit 0.5 Mn employees in the public sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/pm-announces-plan-recruit-5-lakh-govt-employees-1412301>

Bepza eyes industrialisation in North, plans new EPZs in Rangpur, Sirajganj

- The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) wants to establish two new export processing zones in Rangpur and Sirajganj to increase industrialisation in the north and encourage the use of solar energy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bepza-eyes-industrialisation-north-plans-new-epzs-rangpur-sirajganj-1412591>

Banks flush with cash, but businesses starved of credit: DCCI

- Total liquid assets in the banking system have risen to BDT 6.26 Tn, while excess liquidity stood at BDT 3.21 Tn, indicating banks are accumulating funds as a buffer against credit risk instead of deploying them for productive lending.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-flush-cash-businesses-starved-credit-dcci-1412456>

PPP guidelines rolled out to use public land for renewables

- The government has introduced a new policy framework to speed up renewable energy development by allowing unused or underutilised state-owned land to be used for clean energy projects under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ppp-guidelines-rolled-out-use-public-land-renewables-4152391>

iFarmer raises USD 1.5m in foreign funding

- Bangladesh-based agri-tech startup iFarmer has secured USD 1.5 Mn in foreign funding from Symbiotics, a Switzerland-based market access platform for impact investing, according to a statement.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ifarmer-raises-15m-foreign-funding-4152301>

WB to align its future dev projects with govt's 31-point manifesto

- World Bank (WB) has expressed its willingness to align its future development projects in Bangladesh with the new government's 31-point electoral manifesto.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/wb-to-align-its-future-dev-projects-with-govts-31-point-manifesto-1776277276>

Sector and Industries:**ENERGY | Govt listing all-weather refined oil suppliers**

- A government move gets underway to select a pool of refined oil suppliers who will be interested to supply the fuel whenever necessary for both short and long terms to avert any exigency. Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has already issued an international invitation to enlist potential suppliers for all-weather supply of refined petroleum products on a cost-, insurance and freight (CIF) or cost-and freight (CFR) basis.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-listing-all-weather-refined-oil-suppliers-1776276643>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | Merchant banks risk losing licenses over IPO shortfall**

- Merchant banks will face penalties-including license cancellation-for having failed to bring at least one IPO proposal every two years, as required by the relevant rules. They were notified of the regulatory position at a meeting held on Wednesday at the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/merchant-banks-risk-losing-licences-over-ipo-shortfall-1776269073>

EBL | Eastern Bank posts record BDT 9.01 Bn profit in 2025, rewards shareholders with 28% dividend

- Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) has posted a record standalone profit after tax of BDT 9.01 Bn for the year 2025, achieving a robust 20% YoY growth. The board proposed a 25% cash dividend and a 3% stock dividend for the year ending December 2025, a shift from the previous year's distribution of 17.5% cash and 17.5% stock.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-bank-posts-record-BDT901cr-profit-2025-rewards-shareholders-28-dividend>

CROWNCEMNT, GPHISPAT | Two Crown Cement, GPH Ispat directors to gift BDT 1.66 Bn shares to their families

- Mohammed Jahangir Alam, chairman of Crown Cement and managing director of GPH Ispat, along with Alamgir Kabir, vice-chairman of Crown Cement and chairman of GPH Ispat, have announced plans to gift shares worth a combined BDT 1.66 Bn to their spouses and children. The transfers aim to facilitate a smooth transition of leadership to the second generation while deepening their involvement in the companies' ownership structures.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/two-crown-cement-gph-ispac-directors-gift-tk166cr-shares-their-families-1412501>

SBACBANK | SBAC Bank deposits exceed BDT 110 Bn

- SBAC Bank PLC has crossed the milestone of BDT 110 Bn in deposits, registering a 15% growth over the past year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/sbac-bank-deposits-exceed-BDT-11000-crore-1412111>

BATBC | Excise shock, factory shift drags BATBC profit down 67%

- British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company (BATBC) posted a steep 67% year-on-year decline in profit after tax in 2025, hit by a mid-year excise duty hike and a forced factory relocation that drove up one-off costs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/excise-shock-factory-shift-drag-batbc-profit-down-67pc-1776269176>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 90.92	USD 33.49	58.31%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 94.93	USD 34.08	56.01%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,823.06	USD 482.06	11.10%
DSEX	5,255.00	389.66	8.01%
S&P 500	7,022.93	124.11	1.80%
FTSE 100	10,559.58	628.20	6.33%
BSE SENSEX	78,111.24	-6,682.34	-7.88%
KSE-100	168,519.94	-5,534.36	-3.18%
CSEALL	22,261.48	-362.83	-1.60%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.90 BDT****1 GBP = 166.87 BDT****1 Euro = 145.16 BDT****1 INR = 1.31 BDT**

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

Analyst Certification: Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

Disclaimer: Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

Compensation of Analysts: The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

General Risk Factors: BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed, CFA	Research Analyst	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Analyst	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (88)-02-222282446-47

Fax: + (88)-02-222282452

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com