

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 sets BDT 4.99 Tn target for NBR in FY26**

- The government has set a revenue collection target of BDT 4.99 Tn for the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in the upcoming fiscal year 2025–26 — a 7.6% increase from the revised target for this year. The decision came from a meeting of the Fiscal Coordination Committee, chaired by Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, on Tuesday this week, according to finance ministry officials.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-sets-tk-499-lakh-crore-target-nbr-fy26-3873086>

Private sector short-term foreign debt rises USD 355 Mn in a month

- After a continuous seven-month decline, private sector short-term foreign debt returned to an upward trend in February, driven by signs of exchange rate stability and a widening gap between international and local interest rates. According to data from the central bank, as of the end of February this year, the outstanding amount of private sector short-term foreign debt stood at USD 10.16 Bn—an increase by USD 355 Mn from the previous month.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/private-sector-short-term-foreign-debt-rises-355-million-month-1117966>

Delegation to visit US next week to discuss tariffs

- A high-powered delegation from Bangladesh is scheduled to visit the US next week to discuss the tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin said. "The delegation will explore the factors behind the trade imbalance, tariff and non-tariff barriers, and strategies to increase the supply of complementary goods between the two countries," he said at a view-exchange meeting organised by the Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/delegation-visit-us-next-week-discuss-tariffs-3873071>

Beza plans low-cost housing for workers in special EZs

- Beza plans to develop low-cost housing in the National Special Economic Zone (NSEZ) to address the shortage of adequate housing for workers amid growing industrial activities. To make this possible, Beza will allocate land within the zone to investors and facilitate access to low-interest loans for constructing worker accommodations. A meeting between Beza and the Bangladesh Bank was held on Wednesday to discuss the initiative.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/beza-plans-low-cost-housing-workers-special-ezs-1117961>

Bay Terminal project inches forward

- After seeing very little progress over the past one and a half years, the Bay Terminal project at the Chattogram port is expected to gain momentum as a development project proposal (DPP) for three crucial components is expected to be placed soon. According to port officials, once the DPP is approved, a loan agreement with the World Bank will follow, enabling physical work to start.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bay-terminal-project-inches-forward-3873051>

Karnaphuli Tunnel's daily losses hit BDT 1.2 Mn amid low traffic

- The Karnaphuli Tunnel continues to incur huge losses due to much lower traffic than the estimation amid a lack of initiatives to implement the "one city, two towns" concept. According to the latest toll collection data, 3,000 vehicles on average use the tunnel daily, much lower than 17,000 estimated in the feasibility study.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/karnaphuli-tunnels-daily-losses-hit-tk-12m-amid-low-traffic-1744827445>

Sector & Industries:**AVIATION | Novoair may be grounded from May**

- Novoair is likely to shut down its operation for around three months from May as the private airline has started the process of selling the five ATR aircraft in its fleet. The process is likely to be completed this month, said Md Mofizur Rahman, MD of Novoair. "If we get the new investor, we will not sell our aircraft to foreign buyers. In that case, our flights will not shut down. Otherwise, we will have to discontinue the flight operations for three months."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/novoair-may-be-grounded-may-3872961>

FUEL & POWER | Bida expresses concern over gas price hike

- The newly fixed gas tariff discriminates against new investors, as it compels them to pay 33% more in bills than existing ones, said Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun. In a letter sent to the BERC on April 15, Bida called for a tariff revision, warning that the move to hike prices could hurt the country's investment prospects. "This discriminatory policy will discourage new investments," Chowdhury said. "Investors are already considering this decision unfair and have taken a stand against it."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bida-expresses-concern-over-gas-price-hike-3872441>

FUEL & POWER | EZ, EPZ industries to get priority as gas connections resume amid supply crunch

- Due to limited gas supply, not all factories and businesses will receive new connections. The government will prioritise export-oriented industries located within EPZs, basing decisions on economic impact assessments. Load increases will also be approved for operational factories. The Energy Division issued new guidelines, instructing distribution companies to prepare and submit lists of eligible businesses for new connections and load increases, based on a first-come, first-served basis.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/ez-epz-industries-get-priority-gas-connections-resume-amid-supply-crunch-1118036>

FUEL & POWER | Govt plans to dig deeper into existing gas fields

- The Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) is set to implement two development projects worth BDT 9.11 Bn to reduce import dependence by tapping into domestic mineral resources. One project titled 'Drilling of Two Deep Exploration Wells at the Titas and Bakhrabad Gas Fields' would cost BDT 7.98 Bn and the other 'Enhancement and Strengthening of Drilling Capacity of the Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB)' would require BDT 1.13 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/govt-plans-to-dig-deeper-into-existing-gas-fields>

BANK | Provide info on willful loan defaulters every 3 months

- Bangladesh Bank yesterday instructed banks to furnish detailed information about willful loan defaulters. The central bank issued a notice stating that lenders must submit detailed information on the willful defaulters to its CIB every three months. As per the new notice, once a bank identifies and confirms a borrower as a willful defaulter, it must send the information to the CIB and those borrowers must be listed in the CIB as "willful defaulters".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/provide-info-wilful-loan-defaulters-every-3-months-3872826>

PHARMACEUTICALS | Drugmakers take wait-and-see approach amid possible US tariff on pharma imports

- Bangladeshi pharmaceutical companies are closely monitoring developments following the Trump administration's move to explore imposing tariffs on pharmaceutical imports, a decision that could reshape trade dynamics with the United States. Now, Bangladeshi pharmaceutical exporters are adopting a cautious wait-and-see approach, ready to take strategic actions once the situation becomes clearer.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/drugmakers-take-wait-and-see-approach-amid-possible-us-tariff-pharma-imports-1117071>

BANK | Banks' CSR spending falls to 8-year low

- Banks' spending on CSR activities fell to an eight-year low in 2024 as the pressure to provide finance from higher-ups declined following the political changeover in August. Banks spent BDT 6.15 Bn last year, down 33% year-on-year, according to Bangladesh Bank data. This was the second consecutive year that spending by banks for CSR purposes declined since the highest spending of BDT 11.42 Bn was registered in 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-csr-spending-falls-8-year-low-3873081>

INSURANCE | Insurance sector under strain as claim settlements drop

- The rate of claim settlements in Bangladesh's insurance sector declined last year, deepening concerns over transparency and further eroding the confidence of policyholders in an industry already trailing behind global standards. In 2024, only 57% of insurance claims were settled, according to the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra). This marks a sharp decline from around 65% the previous year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/insurance-sector-under-strain-claim-settlements-drop-3873076>

BANK | BB to start buyback in FY '26, asks PDs to get ready

- The central bank has asked the primary dealer (PD) banks to prepare for the buyback arrangement of G-Sec from the 2025-26 fiscal year. The instruction came at a quarterly tripartite meeting held at the BB headquarters on Wednesday, with Istequenal Hussain, Director at the Debt Management Department of. "We've planned to start the buyback arrangement of the government securities and bonds from FY '26 for effectively managing liquidity," a senior official told The Financial Express after the meeting.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-to-start-buyback-in-fy-26-asks-pds-to-get-ready>

Stocks:**BEACONPHAR | Beacon Pharma MD fined for inflating price of Khan Brothers**

- The managing director of Beacon Pharmaceuticals has been identified as a manipulator of the stock of Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries in 2023 and accordingly penalized for the misconduct. He, however, acted in collaboration with his kith and kin and his company officials. Now, all of them are facing an aggregate penalty of BDT 8.7 Mn. The securities regulator asked them to deposit the money within 30 working days from March 19.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/beacon-pharma-md-fined-for-inflating-price-of-khan-brothers-1744825273>

PREMIERBAN | BFIU fines Premier Bank for unfreezing HBM Iqbal's account

- The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has fined Premier Bank BDT 11.1 Mn and USD 30,000 (in equivalent local currency) for unfreezing the bank account of HBM Iqbal, the former chairman of the bank, and allowing fund withdrawals from the account in violation of law. The anti-money laundering agency sent a letter to the bank in this regard on Wednesday. A former member of parliament, Iqbal is also the chairman of Premier Group of Companies Ltd.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bfiu-fines-premier-bank-unfreezing-hbm-iqbals-account-3872726>

NTC | Steeping trouble: National Tea keeps investors in the dark

- After failing to hold its annual general meeting (AGM) for fiscal year 2023–24, National Tea Company, a listed firm on the stock exchange, has now also failed to publish its financial statements for the last two quarters of the current fiscal year, up to December 2024, keeping investors in the dark. Both failures — not holding the AGM and not disclosing six months' financials — constitute non-compliance with stock exchange listing rules.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/steeping-trouble-national-tea-keeps-investors-dark-1118016>

IFIC | Salman, Shayan, Shibli face embezzlement charges in IFIC Amar bond 'fraud'

- The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is preparing to initiate an embezzlement case against former IFIC Bank chairman Salman F Rahman, his son Shayan F Rahman, former BSEC chairman Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, and 27 others on charges of "fraud" over IFIC Amar Bond. ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain said on Wednesday that the case will be filed by Assistant Director Sajjad Hossain, and it has already been greenlit by the anti-graft agency.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/salman-shayan-shibli-face-embezzlement-charges-in-ific-amar-bond-fraud-1744827487>

EXCHANGE | Boards responsible for performance of listed companies: BSEC

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has said that the primary responsibility for the performance of companies listed on the stock market lies with the respective company's board of directors. The regulatory body said its approval of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) is based solely on the verification of company disclosures and information provided at the time of listing. Consequently, the subsequent performance of a listed entity, whether positive or negative, is the sole purview of its own board.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/boards-responsible-performance-listed-companies-bsec-1117926>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 63.13	(USD 8.30)	-11.62%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 66.42	(USD 7.97)	-10.71%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,341.75	USD 733.27	28.11%
DSEX	5,105.69	-110.75	-2.12%
S&P 500	5,275.70	-631.24	-10.69%
FTSE 100	8,275.60	154.59	1.90%
BSE SENSEX	77,044.29	-1,155.64	-1.48%
KSE-100	116,020.11	761.11	0.66%
CSEALL	15,625.88	-318.73	-2.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.47 BDT****1 GBP = 160.62 BDT****1 Euro = 138.16 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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