

*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.*

**International:****US loses last triple-A credit rating as Moody's cuts over govt debt**

- The United States lost its last triple-A credit rating from a major agency Friday as Moody's announced a downgrade, citing rising levels of government debt and dealing a blow to Donald Trump's narrative of economic strength and prosperity. Explaining its decision, the ratings agency noted "the increase over more than a decade in government debt and interest payment ratios to levels that are significantly higher than similarly rated sovereigns."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-loses-last-triple-credit-rating-moodys-cuts-over-govt-debt-3896546>

**Macro:****Economy on path to recovery: experts**

- Bangladesh's economy is recovering after months of slowdown, with stability returning and confidence growing across various sectors, according to experts. Speaking at the launch of the inaugural edition of the Monthly Macroeconomic Insights (MMI) by the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI) at its Banani office yesterday, experts and economists expressed cautious optimism about the country's economic trajectory.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-path-recovery-experts-3895816>

**Interest payments, subsidies soak up almost half of budget**

- Interest payments and subsidies have absorbed nearly half of Bangladesh's total budget expenditure in the first seven months of the current fiscal year, underscoring growing fiscal stress and raising concerns over public finances. Between July and January, total government expenditure stood at BDT 2.47 Tn, with BDT 1.18 Bn -- roughly 48%-- channelled into interest servicing and subsidy payments, according to a January report from the finance ministry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/interest-payments-subsidies-soak-almost-half-budget-3895826>

**Inflation control, investment attraction prioritised in upcoming budget**

- The Finance Division has framed next fiscal year's budget with a sharp focus on taming inflation, boosting investor confidence, and restoring macroeconomic stability. These priorities will be finalised today in a key meeting chaired by the chief adviser. If elections are held on schedule, this will be the interim government's only budget.

<http://tbsnews.net/economy/inflation-control-investment-attraction-prioritised-upcoming-budget-1144091>

**WB approves USD 270 Mn to support Bangladesh's flood recovery**

- The World Bank has approved USD 270 Mn in financing to help Bangladesh recover from the flooding last year and strengthen its resilience to future climate-related disasters. The funds, approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on May 14, will support the Bangladesh Sustainable Recovery, Emergency Preparedness and Response (B-STRONG) Project, according to a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/wb-approves-270m-support-bangladeshs-flood-recovery-3895756>

**Integrate informal trading channels into formal tax system**

- Bangladeshi think-tank Policy Exchange Bangladesh in a national roundtable has proposed the integration of informal trading channels into the formal tax system. It has advocated for promoting strategic policies, addressing non-compliance, and integrating informal trading channels into the formal tax system in the agro industries and the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/integrate-informal-trading-channels-into-formal-tax-system>

**Duty-free trade facilities for BD in post-graduation era signalled**

- Japan is intent on step up engagement with Bangladesh under the heretofore-dormant Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (Big-B) initiative and also signals continued duty-free trade facilities even after Bangladesh's LDC graduation. The desires of the host were expressed during the 6th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) with Bangladesh, held Thursday in Tokyo on wide-ranging agenda that also focused Indo-Pacific cooperation affairs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/duty-free-trade-facilities-for-bd-in-post-graduation-era-signalled>

**Sector & Industries:****TELECOM | 'Govt to act if telcos don't cut internet prices'**

- The government will take measures if mobile operators fail to reduce internet prices, said Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, the special assistant to the chief adviser with executive authority over the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and ICT. He made the remarks yesterday at a press conference held at the office of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in Dhaka, marking World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-act-if-telcos-dont-cut-internet-prices-3895821>

**BANK | Lending, remittance receipts thru' agent banking rise in Q1**

- The volume of lending and receipts of inward remittances through agent- banking channels rose considerably in the first quarter (Q1) of 2025, driven by the increased accessibility of banking services near rural households. According to the latest Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, total disbursements of loan by agent banks surged by 61.61% year-on-year to reach BDT 266.37 Bn during the January-March period of this year. On a quarterly basis, disbursement of loan rose by 10.86% compared to the previous quarter as the amount stood at BDT 240.28 Bn in December 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/lending-remittance-receipts-thru-agent-banking-rise-in-q1-1747418711>

**BANK | Banks struggle in their core business as net interest income falls**

- Most listed banks experienced a decline in their core business—net interest income—during the January–March quarter of this year, primarily due to reduced interest earnings from disbursed loans amid an increase in loan rescheduling. Of the 36 listed banks, 12 have disclosed their quarterly financial statements, with only Bank Asia yet to publish its detailed report.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/banks-struggle-their-core-business-net-interest-income-falls-1143511>

**RMG | Apparel sector needs USD 6.6 Bn investment to cut carbon emission by half: Report**

- Bangladesh's textile and apparel industry needs an approximate investment worth USD 6.6 Bn to help reduce the level of carbon emissions by half by 2030 through renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, according to a global report. Of the required amount, only USD 1.8 Bn is currently available or anticipated while there has been a gap of USD 4.8 Bn, said the report titled 'Landscape and Opportunities to Finance the Decarbonization of Bangladesh's Apparel Manufacturing Sector'.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/apparel-sector-needs-66b-investment-to-cut-carbon-emission-by-half-report>

**ENGINEERING | Semiconductor industry eyes USD 1 Bn export by 2030, seeks govt backing, policy changes**

- With an aim to reach a billion dollar in annual exports by 2030, the Bangladesh Semiconductor Industry Association (BSIA) has sought a set of policy support from the government, including cash incentives and tax-VAT holidays. In a letter to Commerce Adviser SK Bashir Uddin late last month, the new association urged the government to announce a 25% cash incentive for semiconductor service exports, arguing that such support is essential to remain competitive in the global market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/semiconductor-industry-eyes-1b-export-2030-seeks-govt-backing-policy-changes-1144116>

**Stocks:****PUBALIBANK | Pubali Bank's profit up 4% in January-March**

- The bank posted a 4% year-on-year rise in profit in the January-March quarter, reaching BDT 1.85 Bn, according to its financial statements. The first quarter follows the BDT 7.80 Bn profit the bank made in the financial year 2024. Its earnings per share stood at BDT 1.60 for the first quarter, up from BDT 1.54 (restated) in the same period a year earlier.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pubali-banks-profit-4-january-march-3895761>

**ROBI | Robi sees 17.6% rise in Q1 profit, despite revenue drop**

- Robi Axiata Limited, the country's second-largest telecom operator, has announced a 17.6% year-on-year increase in profit for the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2024-25, despite a decline in revenue. In the July-September period, its net profit stood at BDT 1.25 Bn, up from BDT 1.07 Bn in the same period last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/robi-sees-176-rise-q1-profit-despite-revenue-drop-1143496>

**BANKASIA | Bank Asia's Q1 profit up 113% on higher investment income**

- Bank Asia PLC has reported a remarkable 113% year-on-year growth in profit for the first quarter of 2025, driven by substantial income from investments in government securities. The third generation private commercial bank logged a consolidated profit of BDT 1.66 Bn for the January-March period as against nearly BDT 779 Mn in the same quarter of the previous year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bank-asias-q1-profit-up-113pc-on-higher-investment-income>

**BANKASIA | DSE approves transfer of Bank Asia's two sponsors' shares to Union Capital**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has approved the transfer of 6.3 Mn shares of Bank Asia, held by two of its sponsors, Nahid Akhter Sinha and Mir Shahjahan, to Union Capital. Of the total, 4.6 Mn shares were owned by Sinha and 1.7 Mn by Shahjahan. The market value of the shares stands at BDT 120.9Mn, based on Thursday's closing price of BDT 19.20 per share.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-approves-transfer-bank-asias-two-sponsors-shares-union-capital-1143481>

**LANKABAFIN | Country's first private equity fund winding up amid poor investor response**

- LankaBangla 1st PE Fund, Bangladesh's maiden private equity fund, is winding up due to a lacklustre investor response. The fund, originally set for a 10-year tenure, is now closing after six years. Trustee DBH Finance PLC announced that the trustee board's decision to wind up the fund has been endorsed by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/countrys-first-private-equity-fund-winding-amid-poor-investor-response-1143556>

**PADMAOIL | Padma Oil managing director sends resignation letter from USA**

- Padma Oil Company's Managing Director Md Abdus Sobhan has resigned days after reaching the United States of America to see his ailing wife. "I came to the US to visit my ill wife. But I could not return to Bangladesh because of visa-related complexities. So, I had to submit my resignation letter," Sobhan told The Daily Star.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/padma-oil-managing-director-sends-resignation-letter-usa-3895506>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 62.49	(USD 8.94)	-12.52%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 65.41	(USD 8.98)	-12.07%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,203.65	USD 595.17	22.82%
DSEX	4,781.02	-435.42	-8.35%
S&P 500	5,958.38	51.44	0.87%
FTSE 100	8,684.56	563.55	6.94%
BSE SENSEX	82,330.59	4,130.66	5.28%
KSE-100	119,649.14	4,390.14	3.81%
CSEALL	16,379.39	434.78	2.73%

**Exchange Rates**

**1 US Dollar = 121.59 BDT**

**1 GBP = 161.48 BDT**

**1 Euro = 135.71 BDT**

**1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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