

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 eyes free trade zones to cut lead times, boost investment and exports**

- Bangladesh is set to introduce free trade zones (FTZs) for the first time under a proposed customs framework, marking a major shift in its export strategy, industrial development and investment facilitation efforts.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-eyes-free-trade-zones-cut-lead-times-boost-investment-and-exports-1465976>

Tax-GDP ratio can be raised to 10% in 5yrs, PM tells JS

- Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has outlined package measures aimed at raising Bangladesh's lowly tax-to-GDP ratio up to 10% in next five years.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tax-gdp-ratio-can-be-raised-to-10pc-in-5yrs-pm-tells-js-1781719083>

Dollar rate rises to BDT 123.10 amid payment pressure

- The dollar rose to BDT 123.10 today (17 June) as increased import payment demand and a decline in remittance-driven dollar supply put pressure on the foreign exchange market. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bank today verbally instructed banks not to purchase remittance dollars at rates exceeding BDT 122.75.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dollar-rate-rises-tk12310-amid-payment-pressure-lower-remittance-supply-1465881>

Iran, US start two months of peace talks tomorrow

- The United States and Iran are to launch talks on a final settlement to their conflict on Friday in Switzerland, officials said, as news that the Strait of Hormuz will reopen sent world oil prices tumbling.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/iran-us-start-two-months-of-peace-talks-tomorrow-1781719175>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/world/us-israel-war-iran/news/trump-irans-president-sign-deal-end-mideast-war-4201746>

OECD oil stocks fall to lowest level since 1990: IEA

- Oil inventories held by OECD member countries fell in May to their lowest level since 1990 as governments drew down stocks to offset the blockage of Gulf crude shipments during the Middle East war.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/oecd-oil-stocks-fall-lowest-level-1990-iea-4201491>

Sector and Industries:**ENERGY | Cabinet body approves import of two LNG cargoes**

- The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase on Wednesday approved the import of two liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes and several consignments of fertilisers to meet the country's growing energy and agricultural needs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/cabinet-body-approves-import-of-two-lng-cargoes-1781719973>

STEEL | Higher taxes may raise steel production costs

- Steel manufacturers urged the government to withdraw proposed increases in VAT and duties in the FY27 budget, as the measures could raise costs by BDT 12,000 per tonne, with most mills are operating at less than half capacity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2026-27/news/higher-taxes-may-raise-steel-production-costs-4201546>

BANK | Islamic banks' financial health deteriorates in 2025

- A sharp decline in the CRAR and leverage ratio led to a deterioration in capital adequacy in 2025. At the same time, asset quality and efficiency declined sharply due to increases in non-performing investments and negative assets returns among Islamic banks.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/islamic-banks-financial-health-deteriorates-in-2025-1781719284>

BANK | Saving City Group: 36 banks move to restructure its BDT 266 Bn loans

- Thirty-six banks, including two foreign lenders, are considering a joint debt restructuring plan for City Group, as the company struggles with BDT 266 Bn outstanding loans. Lenders will put representatives in the board of City group to oversee financial management if the syndicated approach is finalised.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/saving-city-group-36-banks-move-restructure-its-tk26600cr-loans-1465966>

BANK | Nearly half of loans in 10 banks flagged as risky: Cenbank report

- Banking sector insiders said that in several cases, lending rules, including single borrower exposure limits, were not properly followed, particularly in relation to large industrial groups.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/nearly-half-loans-top-10-banks-flagged-risky-cenbank-report-1465891>

BANK | NPLs stood at 30.6% as of last year, clarifies BB

- The central bank issued a clarification saying that non-performing loans (NPLs) in the banking sector stood at 30.60% at the end of last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/npls-stood-306-last-year-clarifies-bb-4201536>

BANK | Banking sector posted BDT 1.36 Tn net loss last year

- The country's banking sector recorded a net loss of BDT 1.36 Tn in 2025, as a surge in bad loans wiped out income across much of the industry. By contrast, banks reported a net profit of BDT 121.58 Bn in 2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banking-sector-posted-tk-136-lakh-crore-net-loss-last-year-4201551>

NBFI | BHBFC seeks BDT 3.85 Bn paid-up capital release

- The state-run Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC) is facing an acute capital shortfall, which is constraining its ability to disburse loans amid rising demand for housing finance. Of the BDT 5.0 Bn paid-up capital, the government has so far provided BDT 1.15 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bhbfc-seeks-tk-385b-paid-up-capital-release-1781716393>

TEXTILE | Textile, accessories makers seek tax parity with RMG exporters

- Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) has requested that the government reduce the corporate tax rate for primary textile mills to 12% until 2030, aligning it with the concessional rate currently enjoyed by export-oriented ready-made garment (RMG) manufacturers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banking-sector-posted-tk-136-lakh-crore-net-loss-last-year-4201551>

TEXTILE | Duty hike may slow MMF transition

- The finance minister proposed imposing a 5.0% import duty on polyester staple fibre (PSF) and raising the import duty on PVC resin and PET resin to 10% from the existing 5.0%, citing the need to protect domestic industry.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/duty-hike-may-slow-mmf-transition-1781720120>

AUTOMOBILE | Tax cuts poised to boost EV market

- The total tax burden on electric cars valued at up to USD 25,000 will fall to 64% from 93%, while EVs priced at up to USD 50,000 will face an 80% tax burden. All customs duties and taxes on imported EV chargers and charging stations will be removed from the current 39.75% rate. According to the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), 669 EVs had been registered in the country as of May 14, 2026.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/tax-cuts-poised-boost-ev-market-4201531>

Stocks:**BXPHERMA | Clock ticks on Beximco Pharma's London listing**

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals is approaching a critical deadline on the London Stock Exchange, with its securities facing a possible cancellation of admission to trading after nearly six months of suspension due to delayed financial reporting. Under Rule 41, where securities remain suspended from trading for a continuous period of six months, the LSE will generally cancel their admission to trading unless the underlying issues are resolved.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/clock-ticks-beximco-pharmas-london-listing-4201656>

BESTHLDNG | BSEC free to pursue enforcement action in Best Holdings bond conversion case

- The regulator can now take action on its inquiry report concerning the company's conversion of corporate bonds into equity shares, which were allotted to major state-owned banks and private mutual funds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-free-pursue-enforcement-action-best-holdings-bond-conversion-case-1465901>

SAPORTL | Summit Alliance Port's fivefold record trade triggers 'suspicious' rally concerns at Dhaka bourse

- The company, which is a key player in the country's inland container terminal and logistics sector, reported a 26% decline in export freight earnings during the July-March period.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/summit-alliance-ports-fivefold-record-trade-triggers-suspicious-rally-concerns-dhaka>

EXCHANGE | BSEC wins stay as Appellate Court clears path for Mutual Fund conversion, liquidation

- The stay order from Appellate Division's Chamber Court allows the trustees to move forward with the conversion or liquidation activities. The court has also scheduled a hearing for June 22, when the appeal will be taken up before the full Appellate Division bench under the Chief Justice.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-wins-stay-appellate-court-clears-path-mutual-fund-conversion-liquidation-1465861>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 76.03	USD 18.60	32.39%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 78.85	USD 18.00	29.58%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,325.25	(USD 15.75)	-0.36%
DSEX	5,621.63	756.29	15.54%
S&P 500	7,420.13	521.31	7.56%
FTSE 100	10,508.61	577.23	5.81%
BSE SENSEX	77,155.62	-7,637.96	-9.01%
KSE-100	180,636.90	6,582.60	3.78%
CSEALL	22,385.91	-238.40	-1.05%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.77 BDT****1 GBP = 163.41 BDT****1 Euro = 141.41 BDT****1 INR = 1.29 BDT**

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