

*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, UK reinforce ties through trade talks**

- Bangladesh and the United Kingdom have reinforced their economic partnership through high-level discussions on trade and investment, focusing on key sectors such as education, aviation, and renewable energy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-uk-reinforce-ties-through-trade-talks-3850651>

**NBR slashes import tax on fruits**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has reduced the regulatory duty on fresh fruit imports, including oranges and apples, by 5%, lowering it from 30%. Additionally, the advance tax (AT), which was 5% previously, has been exempted.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-slashes-import-tax-fruits-1095371>

**Businessman brings BDT 7.30 Bn as remittance to evade tax**

- A businessman has brought BDT 7.30 Bn under the guise of remittances from abroad and claimed a tax break, creating suspicions of tax evasion among officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR). At an event at the NBR headquarters today, NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan shared the information with members of the Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) and sought the cooperation of the media to check tax evasion.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/tax-and-customs/news/businessman-brings-tk-730cr-remittance-evade-tax-3850926>

**ADP spending at 24.27% in eight months – lowest in a decade**

- The government spent BDT 675.53 Bn on development in the first eight months of the fiscal year, just 24.27% of the allocation – the lowest implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in over a decade. According to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), development expenditure during the July–February period decreased by BDT 180.49 Bn year-on-year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adp-spending-2427-eight-months-lowest-decade-1095331>

**NBR chief criticises intermediaries, threatens to scrap capital gains tax benefits**

- The chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) strongly criticised a proposal from the country's stock market intermediaries to reduce capital gains tax, calling it "a very indecent demand". During a pre-budget discussion held today (17 March) at the NBR headquarters in the capital, Abdur Rahman Khan also questioned the rationale behind the BDT 5 Mn tax exemption ceiling currently offered to investors, suggesting it should be removed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/tax-benefits-wont-restore-lost-public-trust-stock-market-nbr-chairman-1094776>

**Sector & Industries:****BANK | Allocate 20% of green funds to women entrepreneurs**

- Banks and financial institutions have been instructed to allocate 20% of their green financing to women entrepreneurs and 25% to the cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprise (CMSME) sector. Bangladesh Bank (BB) issued a notice yesterday, stating that an additional 15% of CMSME loans must be distributed among women entrepreneurs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/allocate-20-green-funds-women-entrepreneurs-3850911>

**BANK | BB sets 27% loan target for CMSME by 2029**

- In a policy change, Bangladesh Bank has set a target for banks and financial institutions to disburse 27% of their total loans to the cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprise (CMSME) sector by 2029. According to the master circular, people involved in f-commerce and e-commerce will be eligible for loans of up to BDT 0.5 Mn under the CMSME scheme.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-sets-27pc-loan-target-for-cmsme-by-2029>

**RMG | Chinese firm Safety Garments to invest USD 12.25 Mn in Mongla EPZ**

- Safety Garments Bangladesh Co Ltd, a Chinese company, is set to invest USD 12.25 Mn in the Mongla Export Processing Zone (Mongla EPZ) to establish a high-end garments manufacturing industry. The company plans to produce reflective jackets, vests, t-shirts, fleece jackets, coveralls, and safety helmets, creating employment opportunities for 1,616 Bangladeshi nationals, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) said in a statement yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/chinese-firm-safety-garments-invest-1225m-mongla-epz-3850471>

**BANK | Number of small accounts rises: BB**

- The total number of small savings accounts, aimed at encouraging savings among marginalised people, reached 32.5 Mn in the December 2024 quarter, with cumulative deposits amounting to BDT 682.36 Bn, according to the latest report by Bangladesh Bank. The number of BDT 10/50/100 accounts—excluding School Banking, Street Urchins, and Working Children Accounts—stood at 28.1 Mn, with total deposits of BDT 468.51 Bn during the quarter under review.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/number-small-accounts-rises-bb-3850681>

**TEXTILE | Cotton ginnerers to get bonded warehouse facility: foreign adviser**

- The government will offer a bonded warehouse facility to cotton ginnerers so they can receive fair prices as part of a process to ensure the adequate and timely supply of cotton, Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain said today. The adviser also stated that the government will consider classifying cotton as an agricultural product so that growers can benefit from subsidies and feel encouraged to cultivate more cotton.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/cotton-ginnerers-get-bonded-warehouse-facility-foreign-adviser-3850406>

**LIFE INSURANCE | Golden Life Insurance in trouble as customers owed BDT 350 Mn**

- Private insurer Golden Life Insurance Limited is in crisis as it struggles with a severe cash crunch, unpaid claims and operational breakdowns. After the political changeover in August last year, the insurer's troubles have deepened, as its head office at Ambon Complex in Mohakhali area of Dhaka remains shut for more than a month.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/golden-life-insurance-trouble-customers-owed-tk-35cr-3850961>

**TRADE | Bangladesh to import more US cotton to ward off Trump tariff**

- Bangladesh looks to import more cotton from the US so that both American suppliers and local businesses can benefit and the country can get immunity from Trump's tariff war, Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain said yesterday. If Bangladesh imports more cotton from the US, the American government will hesitate to impose tariffs on goods made in Bangladesh, which has been performing well in the US markets despite facing high duties of 15.62%, according to Hossain.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-import-more-us-cotton-ward-trump-tariff-3850951>

**BANK | Agri-loan disbursement falls, recovery rises**

- Agricultural loan disbursement declined, but recovery increased in Bangladesh in the six months to December last year compared to the same period of the previous year. Reduced lending from private and foreign commercial banks, which disburse most agri-loans, led to an 11.28% year-on-year drop in total agri-loan disbursement to BDT 162.59 Bn in the last six months of FY25.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/agri-loan-disbursement-falls-recovery-rises-3850956>

**Stocks:****GREENDELT | Azam J Chowdhury to raise his stake in Green Delta**

- Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of East Coast Group, is increasing his stake in Green Delta Insurance by purchasing shares from a sponsor of the same company. He will acquire 0.59 Mn shares from M Muhibur Rahman, a sponsor of Green Delta Insurance, in the block market at the prevailing market price within the next 30 days, according to a disclosure posted by the company on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/azam-j-chowdhury-raise-his-stake-green-delta-3850396>

**WALTONHIL | Another Walton fridge buyer gets BDT 1 Mn**

- Ali Martuza, a small trader from Jatrabari in Dhaka, won BDT 1 Mn as part of the 'Millionaire' offer under the Walton's ongoing Digital Campaign Season-22 after purchasing a Walton-brand refrigerator. Earlier, Rasel Fakir, a college student from Charbhadrasan upazila in Faridpur, and Khokon Mia, a farmer from Netrakona, were each awarded BDT 1 Mn after they bought Walton refrigerators in the same campaign season, says a statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/another-walton-fridge-buyer-gets-tk-10-million-1742231776>

**EXCHANGE | Chaos at BSEC meant to thwart graft probe**

- The chaos surrounding certain demands by a section of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) officials and employees in early March was aimed at protecting stock looters and manipulators exposed in an ongoing investigation, according to initial BSEC findings. The demonstration, which the BSEC described as chaos, paralysed regulatory activities for two days before subsiding and brought the top BSEC leadership and staff into direct confrontation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/chaos-bsec-meant-thwart-graft-probe-3850966>

**EXCHANGE | Wider tax gap will bring good IPOs: Stakeholders**

- Market stakeholders urged the revenue authority to widen the corporate tax rate gap to at least 10% points between listed and non-listed firms so that good companies feel encouraged to float shares to the public. At present, listed firms, except for banks, insurers, financial institutions, mobile operators, and tobacco companies, which have issued shares equivalent to more than 10% of their paid-up as free float, pay 20% corporate tax a year while their non-listed peers pay 25% tax, subject to compliance with some conditions. The tax rate is 22.5% for the listed firms having free float equivalent to 10% or less of their paid-up, which is raised further to 25% if companies fail to meet certain regulatory conditions, such as maximum cash transactions of BDT 3.6 Mn in a year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/wider-tax-gap-will-bring-good-ipos-stakeholders-1742231671>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 67.75	(USD 3.68)	-5.15%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 71.26	(USD 3.13)	-4.21%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,006.70	USD 398.22	15.27%
DSEX	5,205.44	-11.01	-0.21%
S&P 500	5,675.12	-231.82	-3.92%
FTSE 100	8,680.29	559.28	6.89%
BSE SENSEX	74,169.95	-4,029.98	-5.15%
KSE-100	116,199.59	940.59	0.82%
CSEALL	15,649.30	-295.31	-1.85%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.52 BDT****1 GBP = 157.68 BDT****1 Euro = 132.56 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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