

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 raises fuel prices by up to BDT 20 per litre**

- The government has set new retail prices for all types of fuel in Bangladesh, citing the continued impact of rising global oil prices. According to the new pricing, diesel will cost BDT 115 per litre, octane BDT 140, petrol BDT 135, and kerosene BDT 130 per litre.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-raises-fuel-prices-by-up-to-BDT-20-per-litre>

Iran closes strait of Hormuz again 'until US lifts blockade'

- Iranian officials say they have reversed the reopening of the strait of Hormuz and reimposed restrictions on the vital shipping lane after the US said it would not end its blockade of Iranian ports. Iran said the restrictions would remain if Washington did not "ensure full freedom of navigation for vessels travelling from Iran to destinations and from destinations to Iran".

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/18/iran-closes-strait-of-hormuz-again-until-us-lifts-blockade>

Govt confident of securing last IMF loan tranche: Khosru

- Finance Minister has dismissed speculation that disbursement of the final International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan tranche has been stalled, stressing that constructive discussions are on. He added that negotiations are progressing positively, with both sides working to resolve outstanding issues ahead of the next programme review.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-confident-of-securing-last-imf-loan-tranche-khosru-1776533459>

IMF continues talks, update down the road: Srinivasan on loan release

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is holding continuous discussions with Bangladesh over the release of the remaining tranche of its ongoing loan programme, Krishna Srinivasan, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, has said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-continues-talks-update-down-road-srinivasan-loan-release-1414981>

IMF blocks pending loan tranches for now, citing reform failure

- The International Monetary Fund has declined to release the next tranche of Bangladesh's existing loan programme by June, citing that the country has failed to implement agreed reforms in the revenue and banking sectors, and has instead proposed negotiating a new lending arrangement with additional conditions. Bangladesh is still due to receive a total of USD 1.86 Bn under the programme, which expires next January.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-blocks-pending-loan-tranches-now-citing-reform-failure-1413446>

USD 2 Bn out of pocket as energy costs surge

- Bangladesh has shouldered nearly USD 2.0 Bn in extra costs as global disruption drives up energy imports, said Finance Minister. He added that due to disruptions, (Bangladesh) had to rely heavily on spot market purchases, which are significantly more expensive.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/2b-out-pocket-energy-costs-surge-4154666>

VAT exemptions to go, sparing poorest 40%

- The government plans to withdraw existing VAT exemptions on most goods and services, sparing only those used by low-income groups and people living below the poverty line, a move experts said will be difficult to implement and could widen the tax net, raise effective rates, and push up consumer costs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/vat-exemptions-go-sparing-poorest-40-1414171>

Large-scale manufacturing sees some rebound

- The index that measures the industrial output rose nearly 1.0% YoY in January, in a reversal of 6.34% decline recorded in December, according to data released Thursday by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/large-scale-manufacturing-sees-some-rebound>

Govt to fast-track Bay Terminal to support growing trade demand: Shipping minister

- The government is set to fast-track the Bay Terminal project in Chattogram, aiming to modernize Bangladesh's maritime infrastructure and support growing export-import demand.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-fast-track-bay-terminal-support-growing-trade-demand-shipping-minister-1414881>

BIDS, BCI to launch 'Industry 100 Index' for real-time manufacturing data

- A stakeholder consultation meeting was held on Saturday at the BIDS conference room to discuss the research initiative titled "BIDS-BCI Industry 100 Index", which will focus on large and medium manufacturing industries across various sectors, according to a statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bids-bci-to-launch-industry-100-index-for-real-time-manufacturing-data-1776529692>

NSC sales stay in the red despite slowing outflows

- Investment in National Savings Certificates (NSCs) continues to remain under pressure, with persistent net withdrawals reflecting weakening investor appetite despite brief signs of recovery. In February 2026, net sales stood at BDT 11.65 Bn in deficit, following a deeper deficit of BDT 18.51 Bn in January.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/nsc-sales-stay-in-the-red-despite-slowing-outflows-1776531075>

Tender to be floated next month

- A tender for the construction work of the second unit of the Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL) will finally be invited next month. State Minister for Power has expressed hope that the trial production will start in early 2029.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/tender-to-be-floated-next-month-1776529719>

LPG supply security hinges on boosting storage capacity

- Bangladesh's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sector has grown rapidly, yet lacks the storage capacity to buffer itself against global market shocks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/lpg-supply-security-hinges-boosting-storage-capacity-4154701>

Bangladesh 'hostage' to IMF terms: Titumir

- Adviser to the Prime Minister has cautioned that targets such as raising the tax-to-GDP ratio under weak economic conditions could push growth below 3% and intensify stress on businesses and households.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/297242/bangladesh-hostage-to-imf-terms-titumir>

Bangladesh targets recovery of USD 200 Bn 'stolen funds' as banks face liquidity stress

- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has put the recovery of an estimated USD 200 Bn in stolen assets at the center of efforts to stabilize the economy, warning that years of capital flight have hollowed out the banking system and left the private sector starved of liquidity.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-targets-recovery-of-200b-stolen-funds-as-banks-face-liquidity-stress>

BB buys USD 50 Mn more from 4 banks

- Bangladesh Bank purchased USD 50 Mn from four banks at a rate of BDT 122.75 per dollar on April 16.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-buys-50m-more-4-banks-1413311>

Govt's domestic debt BDT 11 Tn amid limited revenues

- Bangladesh government's domestic borrowing reached nearly BDT 11 Tn in Jan'26, reflecting a sharp rise in reliance on internal sources to finance budget deficits and signalling mounting pressure from debt servicing costs. In FY26, about 35% of operating expenditure went to servicing debt interest, making it the single largest spending item.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/297031/govts-domestic-debt-tk-11-lakh-crore-amid-limited-revenues>

Sector and Industries:**RMG | US buyers begin recalibrating apparel sourcing strategies**

- American buyers are carefully monitoring the newly negotiated US trade agreement with Bangladesh, especially its textile -and apparel-specific provisions, to recalibrate their apparel- sourcing strategies amid tariff and geopolitical tensions, a new study reveals.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/us-buyers-begin-recalibrating-apparel-sourcing-strategies-1776533168>

RMG | BGMEA seeks policy support amid global challenges

- The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) on Wednesday sought policy support from the government to help sustain the competitiveness of the country's apparel sector amid mounting global economic challenges.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bgmea-seeks-policy-support-amid-global-challenges>

BANK | Banks asked to avoid forward booking to keep dollar rate in check

- The Bangladesh Bank has discouraged commercial banks from engaging in forward dollar bookings to prevent artificial supply shortages in the spot market that could drive up the greenback's price.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-asked-avoid-forward-booking-keep-dollar-rate-check-1415001>

REAL ESTATE | Real estate sinks deeper into crisis as booking cancellations surge, defaults hit 26.7%

- Bangladesh's real estate sector is facing one of its deepest downturns in recent years, marked by a wave of booking cancellations following the political shift, while rising construction costs, high interest rates, and global instability have pushed default loans in the sector to nearly 27%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/real-estate-sinks-deeper-crisis-booking-cancellations-surge-defaults-hit-267-1412596>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | DBA signs cooperation deal with Japan Dealers Association**

- The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Japan Securities Dealers Association (JSDA), aiming to strengthen cooperation between them and help develop Bangladesh's capital market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dba-signs-cooperation-deal-with-japan-dealers-association-1776527878>

EXCHANGE | BSEC's fresh move to register ICB Unit Fund rekindles control row

- The dispute over operational authority of the country's oldest and largest-ever pooled fund remains unresolved, with the asset manager aiming to retain control and the market watchdog seeking to assume it.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bsecs-fresh-move-to-register-icb-unit-fund-rekindles-control-row>

EXCHANGE | UCB Investment Signs Brokerage Partnership with Prime Bank Securities –

- UCB Investment Limited and Prime Bank Securities Ltd. signed a Panel Brokerage Agreement at UCB head office in the capital. The partnership aims to enhance trade execution and client services across the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ucb-investment-signs-brokerage-partnership-with-prime-bank-securities-1776527981>

UTTARABANK | Uttara Bank to inject BDT 1.92 Bn into brokerage subsidiary to strengthen capital base

- Uttara Bank PLC has decided to bolster the financial standing of its brokerage subsidiary, Uttara Bank Securities Limited, by investing BDT 1.92 Bn through a rights share subscription.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/uttara-bank-inject-BDT192cr-brokerage-subsiadiary-strengthen-capital-base-1414926>

PREMIERBAN | Monzur becomes MD of Premier Bank

- Md Monzur Mofiz, serving as managing director (current charge) of the bank since December 14, 2025, has been appointed as managing director of Premier Bank PLC for the next three years.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/mis/297004/monzur-becomes-md-of-premier-bank>

PRIMEBANK | SME Foundation, Prime Bank sign deal to expand CMSME financing

- SME Foundation and Prime Bank have signed a refinancing agreement to expand credit access for cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) through the government's BDT 3.0 Bn revolving fund and Credit Wholesaling guidelines.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/sme-foundation-prime-bank-sign-deal-expand-cmsme-financing-1414826>

GP | ILO flags Grameenphone union dispute as 'serious and urgent'

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) has once again raised concerns over a long-running labour dispute involving the Grameenphone Employees Union (GPEU), identifying the case as "serious and urgent".

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/ilo-flags-grameenphone-union-dispute-as-serious-and-urgent>

BSC | Govt importing two oceangoing oil tankers amid fuel crunch

- The state-owned Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) will procure the two oceangoing oil tankers on an emergency basis under a BDT 14.66 Bn project taken up for the logistics buildup, BSC officials say. The entire fund is proposed to be borne by the Bangladesh government from its own exchequer.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-importing-two-oceangoing-oil-tankers-amid-fuel-crunch>

BNICL | Bangladesh National Insurance declares 22pc cash dividend

- Bangladesh National Insurance Company has recommended a 22% cash dividend for 2025, subject to approval.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/bangladesh-national-insurance-declares-22pc-cash-dividend>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 83.85	USD 26.42	46.00%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 90.38	USD 29.53	48.53%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,830.34	USD 489.34	11.27%
DSEX	5,256.84	391.50	8.05%
S&P 500	7,126.06	227.24	3.29%
FTSE 100	10,667.63	736.25	7.41%
BSE SENSEX	78,493.54	-6,300.04	-7.43%
KSE-100	173,939.02	-115.28	-0.07%
CSEALL	22,773.29	148.98	0.66%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.80 BDT

1 GBP = 166.04 BDT

1 Euro = 144.54 BDT

1 INR = 1.32 BDT

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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
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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