

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:**Forex reserves to exceed USD 35 Bn by FY26: BB chief**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur on Monday expressed strong optimism regarding the country's macroeconomic stability, projecting that foreign currency reserves are on track to meet and surpass USD 35 Bn by FY26 end.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/forex-reserves-to-exceed-35b-by-fy26-bb-chief>

69% growth of remittance inflow till Jan 18

- Inflow of remittances witnessed a year-on-year growth of 69% reaching USD 2,040 Mn in the first 18 days of January, according to the latest data of Bangladesh Bank (BB) issued on Monday. Last year, during the same period, the country's remittance inflow was USD 1,207 Mn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/69-pc-growth-of-remittance-inflow-till-jan-18>

IMF tranche delay posed no threat to Bangladesh's economy: BB Governor

- Bangladesh's economy has not suffered any adverse impact despite the delay in receiving the sixth tranche of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said on Monday, stressing that the country has managed the economic challenges on its own strength.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/imf-tranche-delay-posed-no-threat-to-bangladeshs-economy-bb-governor>

Bida expands one-stop service with 11 new institutions

- The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) signed memorandums of understanding with 11 institutions to bring them under its one-stop service (OSS) portal. The newly joined entities include four commercial banks and seven city corporations.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bida-expands-one-stop-service-11-new-institutions-4085216>

Afghanistan wants duty-free bilateral trade with Bangladesh

- An Afghan delegation headed by the country's deputy commerce minister met Bangladesh's commerce secretary today, expressing hope for duty-free bilateral trade. Afghanistan sought duty-free export of nearly 45 products to Bangladesh, including cotton, while the nation would also allow duty-free import of almost all major exportable commodities from Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/afghanistan-wants-duty-free-bilateral-trade-bangladesh-4085181>

Gold prices break all records

- Gold prices in Bangladesh are set to reach a record high of BDT 0.238 Mn per bhorī (11.664 gram) from tomorrow, surpassing the previous peak of BDT 0.234 Mn per bhorī, according to the Bangladesh Jewellers Association (Bajus).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gold-prices-break-all-records-4085106>

MoL turns down draft Money Loan Court Act

- The law ministry has turned down the central bank's proposal to prepare a new Artha Rin Adalat Ain (Money Loan Court Act) and suggested updating of the existing law through necessary amendments, officials say.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/mol-turns-down-draft-money-loan-court-act>

Dollar slides, investors look for safe havens as Trump ups tariff ante

- The dollar fell on Monday as investors unnerved by US President Donald Trump's latest tariff threats against Europe over Greenland piled into the safe-haven yen and Swiss franc, in a broad risk-averse move across markets. Trump said over the weekend he would impose an additional 10% import tariff from February 1 on goods from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland and Britain, until the USA is allowed to buy Greenland.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dollar-slides-investors-look-safe-havens-trump-ups-tariff-ante-4084841>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Banks have no option but to disburse loans: Governor**

- The governor said the deposit growth was 6.40% in December 2024 when the total deposit portfolio was BDT18 trillion. Commercial banks will have no alternative but to increase loan disbursement to the private sector as excess liquidity continues to build up in the banking system, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said on 19 January.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banks-have-no-option-disburse-loans-governor-1338671>

BANK | Banks' dollar holdings drop to USD 4.2 Bn

- Commercial banks' holdings of dollars fell to USD 4.2 Bn in November mainly due to the central bank's aggressive dollar purchases and high import payments. Bangladesh Bank data show that banks' gross foreign exchange holdings reached to the current level in November, down from USD 4.38 Bn in Nov'24. Since July 2025, Bangladesh Bank has purchased more than USD 3.0 Bn from commercial banks through multiple-price auctions at rates ranging between BDT 121.5 and BDT 122.3 per dollar.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/288693/banks-dollar-holdings-drop-to-42b>

RMG | How escalating US-EU trade war sparks fears for Bangladesh RMG exports

- The growing threat of a renewed trade war between the United States and the European Union is stoking fears among Bangladeshi garment exporters that retaliatory tariffs could trigger global supply chain volatility and suppress consumer demand in their most vital markets. Representatives of foreign buyers sourcing from Bangladesh, however, believe the immediate impact of any new tariff measures would be limited, although prolonged trade tensions could create uncertainty over the longer term.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/how-escalating-us-eu-trade-war-sparks-fears-bangladesh-rmg-exports-1338691>

Stocks:**MERCANBANK, ALARABANK | Mercantile Bank and Al-Arafah Islami Bank appoints new DMDs**

- Mercantile Bank has promoted Tapash Chandra Paul (CFO) and Shah Md. Sohel Khurshid (Chief Credit Officer) to the position of deputy managing director. Sayed Abul Hashem, former DMD and CFO at The Premier Bank, has joined Al-Arafah Islami Bank as same.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mercantile-bank-promotes-tapash-sohel-khurshid-as-dmds-1768842912>

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/abul-hashem-new-dmd-of-al-arafah-islami-bank-1768842931>

BDLAMPS | BD Lamps posts BDT 1 million profit in Q2, half-year losses decline significantly

- Bangladesh Lamps Limited (BD Lamps), a listed electric bulb manufacturer, returned to profit in the second quarter of the current financial year, although it still ended the first half in the red after a loss in the July-September period.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bd-lamps-posts-tk10-lakh-profit-q2-half-year-losses-decline-significantly-1338641>

EXCHANGE | BSEC rejects BDT 21.0 Bn bank bonds cleared by BB

- The stock market regulator has rejected bond issuance proposals worth BDT 21.0 Bn from several banks that had earlier received no-objection certificates from the Bangladesh Bank (BB). According to official documents from earlier this month, Southeast Bank (DSE: SOUTHEASTB), Al-Arafah Islami Bank (DSE: ALARABANK), Meghna Bank, and One Bank (DSE: ONEBANKPLC) are among the lenders whose bond proposals were rejected. Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) said it rejected the proposals because the banks' "financial performance, particularly liquidity and profitability, is not satisfactory".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bsec-rejects-tk-2100cr-bank-bonds-cleared-bb-4085256>

EXCHANGE | Future profitability to drive IPO share pricing under 2025 rules

- The revised public issue rules introduced a new component-future profitability-to determine the value of primary shares, aiming to encourage companies with strong growth prospects to enter the equity market. A Merchant Bank has said that the rule will now allow [under the book building method] taking a company's future performance into consideration. Several issue managers said acquiring valuation opinions from 40 EIs would be a difficult task, as many may not have the resources to produce high-quality valuations for companies planning to list on the bourses.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/future-profitability-to-drive-ipo-share-pricing-under-2025-rules-1768842755>

EXCHANGE | Turning risk into opportunity: Why ESG matters for Bangladesh's capital market

- Over the past decade, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) reporting has gradually moved from a voluntary practice to a mandatory legal framework worldwide. Alongside European markets such as the London Stock Exchange, Euronext, and the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, ESG reporting has now become mandatory in Asian markets like Singapore and India.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/turning-risk-opportunity-why-esg-matters-bangladeshs-capital-market-1337746>

Stock and Commodities*

Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 59.69	USD 2.26	3.94%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.06	USD 3.21	5.28%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,674.43	USD 333.43	7.68%
DSEX	5,091.68	226.34	4.65%
S&P 500	6,940.01	41.19	0.60%
FTSE 100	10,195.35	263.97	2.66%
BSE SENSEX	83,246.18	-1,547.40	-1.82%
KSE-100	187,761.69	13,707.39	7.88%
CSEALL	23,627.87	1,003.56	4.44%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.21 BDT

1 GBP = 164.20 BDT

1 Euro = 142.28 BDT

1 INR = 1.34 BDT

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