

*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:****Funds Flowing in as Japan Follows IMF, ADB, WB Lead**

- Budget-bankrolling funds are flowing in as Japan now agrees to lend Bangladesh around USD 350 Mn following the footsteps of multilateral lending trios of the IMF, the ADB and the World Bank, officials said Monday. Bangladesh's largest bilateral donor, Japan, at a negotiation Monday with the Finance Division and Economic Relations Division (ERD) gave the assurance of budget-support credit, said Ministry of Finance (MoF) officials.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/funds-flowing-in-as-japan-follows-imf-adb-wb-lead-1747678542>

**ADP implementation lowest in five years**

- In the first 10 months of fiscal year 2024–25, the implementation rate of the government's Annual Development Programme (ADP) stood at just 41.31%—the lowest since fiscal year 2020–21. This means the ministries and divisions utilised only 41.31% of their development fund allocations between July last year and April this year, according to a report by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adp-implementation-lowest-five-years-3898451>

**Financial scams: Frozen fortunes to fund victim compensation**

- The government has decided to create a fund to compensate victims of financial irregularities by using money and assets recovered from alleged embezzlers and money launderers. Frozen assets of accused individuals, including shares held in various banks and companies, will also be included in the fund, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/financial-scams-frozen-fortunes-fund-victim-compensation-3898136>

**Laundered Money Goes into Two Sovereign Funds**

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur Monday disclosed the decision about the modalities of appropriations of the stolen assets after a high-level meeting on repatriation of the laundered assets. "Two separate funds will be created. One will be with the attached assets of those who plundered banks and another fund will be created with the assets plundered from non-banking sources," the Governor told a press briefing after the consultation.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/laundered-money-goes-into-two-sovereign-funds-1747678407>

**Joblessness rises amid dull investment**

- Jobs in Bangladesh are not being created in line with the demand from its youth population, leading to a rise in unemployment despite the urgent need for more job opportunities. Bangladesh's unemployment rate increased to 4.63% in the October-December period of fiscal year 2024-25 as a growing number of job seekers failed to secure employment, according to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/joblessness-rises-amid-dull-investment-3898676>

**Two-thirds of social protection allocations not genuine**

- Nearly two-thirds of the allocations under this fiscal year's social security budget do not qualify as genuine social protection spending, according to a study by the Citizens Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh. The platform classified the 140 existing social safety net programmes into three categories: acceptable, quasi-acceptable (mainly loan and training schemes), and non-acceptable -- those that should be excluded from the social protection framework.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/two-thirds-social-protection-allocations-not-genuine-3898681>

**Jul-Jan Budget Deficit Up 73% on Slow Tax Receipts**

- Bangladesh's budget deficit surged by 73.04% in the first seven months of the current fiscal year compared to the same period in FY24, driven largely by sluggish tax collection, official data shows. According to the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the total government expenditure stood at BDT 2.746 Tn during the July-January period of FY25, while revenues reached BDT 2.362 Tn, resulting in a deficit of BDT 384.93 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jul-jan-budget-deficit-up-73pc-on-slow-tax-receipts-1747678601>

**Upcoming budget follows previous govt's framework, say economists**

- Criticising the absence of fresh thinking in the upcoming budget, economists at a Dhaka policy forum today (19 May) said the interim government is adopting its predecessor's fiscal framework with only minor tweaks. "The fiscal framework for this budget remains essentially that of the previous regime. No major shift has taken place – only cosmetic adjustments," said economist Debapriya Bhattacharya at the discussion titled "Bangladesh Economy 2025–26: Policy Reforms and National Budget".

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/upcoming-budget-follows-previous-govts-framework-say-economists-1146811>

**Sector & Industries:****FOOD & ALLIED | Akij Food to raise BDT 5 Bn thru zero-coupon bond**

- Akij Food and Beverage Limited (AFBL), a concern of Akij Venture Limited, has initiated the process to raise BDT 5 Bn for the company's expansion through the issuance of a zero-coupon bond.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/akij-food-raise-tk-500cr-thru-zero-coupon-bond-3898386>

**TEXTILE | Govt Plans to Scrap Reduced Tax Benefits for Textile Sector**

- The government plans to scrap the benefits of a reduced 15% tax rate for textile entrepreneurs in the upcoming fiscal year as part of moving away from tax exemptions, according to officials at the National Board of Revenue (NBR). In the next budget, the sector is expected to face the regular corporate tax rate of 27.5%. However, companies listed on the stock market will enjoy a relatively lower rate of 22.5%, the officials said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-plans-scrap-reduced-tax-benefits-textile-sector-1145816>

**FUEL & POWER | Govt Seeks to Import One More LNG Cargo in July**

- The government is expecting to import one more cargo of spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) in early July to meet the country's natural gas demand during the upcoming monsoon. State-run Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) aims to purchase the spot LNG cargo for July 2-3 delivery window, a senior RPGCL official told The Financial Express on Monday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-seeks-to-import-one-more-lng-cargo-in-july-1747678935>

**BANK | Nagad barred from bank transfers**

- Bangladesh Bank has instructed banks to bar fund transfers by Nagad while keeping the mobile financial services available to customers. Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur disclosed this information in a press conference after a high-level government meeting at Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nagad-barred-bank-transfers-3898656>

**BANK | Large depositors in troubled banks to be offered shares, bonds: Salehuddin**

- In a decisive move to overhaul the struggling banking sector, large depositors in financially weak banks will be offered a stark choice: shares in the respective banks or treasury bonds, instead of the full return of their deposited funds. This significant reform, however, will not affect small depositors, who are guaranteed to receive their money back.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/interviews/large-depositors-troubled-banks-be-offered-shares-bonds-salehuddin-1146851>

**TRADE | Customs Strike Paralyzes Chattogram Port, Halts Trade for 5 Days**

- A five-day work stoppage by officials at the Chattogram Custom House has severely disrupted operations at the country's main seaport, leading to a backlog of over 4,000 containers and a significant drop in customs processing.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/customs-strike-paralyses-chattogram-port-halts-trade-5-days-1146696>

**Stocks:****EXCHANGE | Most listed state companies incur loss in 9 months**

- A majority of listed state-owned enterprises (SOEs) incurred combined losses totalling BDT 14.01 Bn in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, with Titas Gas alone accounting for BDT 9.47 Bn due to tax-related complications, underscoring persistent inefficiencies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/most-listed-state-companies-incur-loss-9-months-1146801>

**EXCHANGE | Brokers urge immediate stimulus to restore confidence in capital market**

- Leaders of the brokerage community have said that immediate stimulus measures are necessary to pull the country's stock market out of its current downward trend. Long-term or paper-based reforms alone cannot rebuild confidence, they said at a high-level meeting today, stressing the urgent need for bold, visible actions to restore investor trust.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brokers-urge-immediate-stimulus-restore-confidence-capital-market-1145756>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 62.70	(USD 8.73)	-12.22%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 65.50	(USD 8.89)	-11.95%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,213.81	USD 605.33	23.21%
DSEX	4,776.33	-440.11	-8.44%
S&P 500	5,963.60	56.66	0.96%
FTSE 100	8,699.31	578.30	7.12%
BSE SENSEX	82,059.42	3,859.49	4.94%
KSE-100	119,689.63	4,430.63	3.84%
CSEALL	16,397.68	453.07	2.84%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.65 BDT****1 GBP = 162.60 BDT****1 Euro = 136.77 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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