

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:**Iran may join peace talks after Pakistan works to end US blockade, Iran source says**

- Iran is considering attending peace talks with the United States in Pakistan, a senior Iranian official told Reuters (20 April), following moves by Islamabad to end a US blockade of Iran's ports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/world/iran-may-join-peace-talks-after-pakistan-works-end-us-blockade-iran-source-says-1416756>

IMF lending terms outwit negotiators, stir rethink

- Finance authorities are set to seek Prime Minister's guidance as to how far the government can go in complying with the International Monetary Fund conditions to secure hard-term budget-support funds. Key IMF strings binding the release of the next two tranches from a lending package in June 2026 include withdrawal of subsidies, raising the tax-to-GDP ratio to 9.2%, and adopting a market-based exchange rate.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/imf-lending-terms-outwit-negotiators-stir-rethink-1776705659>

Life, industry disrupted as load-shedding exceeds 2,000MW

- Load-shedding exceeded 2,000MW nationwide early Monday as power generation lagged behind rising summer demand, disrupting daily life, industry and agriculture, with rural areas facing the longest power cuts. According to data from the Power Grid Bangladesh, generation stood at 13,198MW against a projected demand of 15,200MW.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/life-industry-disrupted-load-shedding-exceeds-2000mw-1416891>

Islami Bank leads dollar sales to BB

- Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC sold USD 1.225 Bn to BB, nearly one-fifth of central bank's USD purchases in FY26. BB purchased USD 5.56 Bn from 39 commercial banks through auctions, injecting over BDT 600 Bn to this effect.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/islami-bank-leads-dollar-sales-to-bb>

Bangladesh Bank buys USD 60 Mn from banks to maintain exchange rate stability

- Bangladesh Bank purchased an additional USD 60 Mn from banks on Monday at a rate of BDT 122.75 per dollar.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh-bank-buys-60-million-from-banks-to-maintain-exchange-rate-stability>

ICDs announce increase in container handling charges by 8.5%

- Bangladesh Inland Container Depots Association (BICDA) raised the various container handling charges by 8.5% because of the diesel price hike, effective from April 19.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/icds-announce-increase-container-handling-charges-85-4156206>

US trade bodies urge USTR not to impose new tariffs

- The American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA), along with several other organisations, has urged the United States Trade Representative (USTR) not to impose any new tariffs on countries currently under investigation over production capacity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-trade-bodies-urge-ustr-not-impose-new-tariffs-4156421>

MGH to build private container terminal

- MGH Group is going to construct the country's first privately built container terminal at Chattogram port.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mgh-build-private-container-terminal-4156416>

Farmers in distress as diesel price rise drives up costs

- The recent diesel price hike has made service providers increase charges for harvesting the largest rice crop, Boro. Costs soared because of a 15% hike in the price of diesel, a key fuel used by nearly 15 lakh shallow tube well pumps to water the Boro fields.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/farmers-distress-diesel-price-rise-drives-costs-4156426>

Sector and Industries:

TEXTILE | Govt simplifies industrial gas distribution to boost efficiency

- The government has simplified the industrial gas distribution system, allowing factories within the same premises and ownership to transfer unused gas load with approval, aiming to improve service amid rising demand. Leaders of the country's primary textile mills welcomed the move, saying the reforms would help enhance productivity, reduce cost and streamline operations, particularly for energy-intensive textile and garment sectors.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/govt-simplifies-industrial-gas-distribution-to-boost-efficiency-1776701688>

Stocks:

PIONEERINS | Pioneer Insurance profit rises 25% despite 19% drop in premium income

- Pioneer Insurance PLC posted a 25% year-on-year growth in net profit in the first quarter of 2026, driven largely by a sharp cut in management expenses, even as its premium income declined significantly.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/pioneer-insurance-profit-rises-25-despite-19-drop-premium-income-1416856>

TITASGAS | Titas Gas gets BSEC nod to issue BDT 2.83 Bn preference shares

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has approved a proposal by state-owned Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited to issue irredeemable, non-cumulative preference shares worth approximately BDT 2.83 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/titas-gas-gets-bsec-nod-issue-tk282cr-preference-shares-1416826>

UNILEVERCL | Unilever Consumer Care revenue drops by 8% in Jan-Mar

- According to the financial statement for the January-March period of 2026, the health drinks like Horlicks producer posted a revenue of BDT 87.44 Mn, which was BDT 95.40 Mn during the same quarter a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/titas-gas-gets-bsec-nod-issue-tk282cr-preference-shares-1416826>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 88.40	USD 30.97	53.93%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 95.04	USD 34.19	56.19%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,807.46	USD 466.46	10.75%
DSEX	5,232.49	367.15	7.55%
S&P 500	7,109.14	210.32	3.05%
FTSE 100	10,609.08	677.70	6.82%
BSE SENSEX	78,520.30	-6,273.28	-7.40%
KSE-100	172,196.70	-1,857.60	-1.07%
CSEALL	22,570.03	-54.28	-0.24%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.69 BDT****1 GBP = 165.99 BDT****1 Euro = 144.58 BDT****1 INR = 1.31 BDT**

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