

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 salary of its outsourced manpower**

- The government has increased the monthly salary for outsourced manpower of state-owned and state-run organisations after around six years by BDT 570 to BDT 1,102 in several cities and categories. Last week, the Ministry of Finance issued a related circular while it added three new categories apart from the existing five. At present, around 60,000 people are engaged as outsourced workers of government offices and 10,000 are working in state-run enterprises.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-raises-salary-its-outsourced-manpower-3877121>

Bangladesh draws growing attention of foreign investors

- Bangladesh is increasingly attracting foreign investors, especially in the fields of technology and digital services, according to Mike Orgill, head of public policy and government relations for Asia-Pacific at Uber. This rising interest reflects the openness of the government, its willingness to engage and efforts to maintain a policy dialogue with investors, strategic partners and global companies, said the top executive of the American multinational transportation company that provides ride-hailing services.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-draws-growing-attention-foreign-investors-3877116>

Why Japan should look to Bangladesh for its next big tech investment

- As Japan IT Week 2025 opens in Tokyo from April 23-25, it marks not just a celebration of technological advancement but also an opportunity for strategic collaboration. Bangladesh's ICT sector has grown from modest beginnings into a USD 1.4 Bn export industry. Its services now reach more than 80 countries, including Japan, the US, the UK, Germany and Australia. With an ambitious target of USD 5 Bn in ICT exports by 2027 and a long-term goal of USD 50 Bn by 2041, Bangladesh's growth is not speculative—it is the result of focused policies, strong infrastructure, and a highly capable workforce

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/why-japan-should-look-bangladesh-its-next-big-tech-investment-3877106>

Police, Bida launch special security measures for foreign investors

- Bangladesh Police today announced that it would offer foreign investors direct access to its dedicated emergency contact line, enabling companies to report any incidents and receive immediate support. The announcement came from the Office of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), according to a statement released by the Chief Adviser's Office.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/police-bida-launch-special-security-measures-foreign-investors-3876761>

Dhaka to place trade commitments at USTR meet

- In response to Washington's reciprocal tariff measures, Bangladesh is going to place its commitments, including duty-free access for a wider range of American goods and introduce a warehousing facility for US cotton. As part of efforts to reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries, the government is expected to place these commitments during a meeting with officials from the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on 23 April at the USTR's headquarters in Washington, DC.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-place-trade-commitments-ustr-meet-3876426>

Bangladesh lost over BDT 2260 Bn for tax evasion: CPD

- Bangladesh lost an estimated BDT 2262.36 Bn in tax revenue in the fiscal year 2022-23 due to tax evasion and avoidance, according to a study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Of this amount, the think-tank estimated that around 50% has been lost to corporate tax evasion.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-lost-over-tk-226000cr-tax-evasion-cpd-3876396>

Bida set to launch unified portal to streamline trade and investment

- The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) plans to launch a unified online platform named Bangladesh Business Portal to deliver all trade and investment-related services through a single landing page. The portal will be integrated with existing one stop service (OSS) systems operated by various government bodies, as well as the National Board of Revenue's National Single Window (NSW), according to decisions taken at the 3rd meeting of Bida's Governing Board, held on 13 April and chaired by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-set-launch-unified-portal-streamline-trade-and-investment-1122406>

82% businesses find current tax rate unfair, a major challenges: CPD study

- Around 82% of businesses believe the current tax rates imposed on them are unfair, identifying this as one of their major challenges, according to a study by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). In addition, a lack of accountability among tax officials, widespread corruption, and the absence of a fully digital tax submission system were cited as key concerns by 79%, 72%, and 70% of respondents, respectively, showed the study.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/82-businesses-find-current-tax-rate-unfair-major-challenges-cpd-study-1121471>

Fixing minimum wage, labour safety, union rights among must-haves

- Fixing national minimum wage, relaxing the conditions on organising trade union and creating government database on labour are in a comprehensive package of must-haves suggested by a panel for uplift of the economy's lifeline. The Labour Reform Commission (LRC) has also suggested establishing a permanent Labour Reform Commission, making an emergency fund for the labourers and ensuring the transparency and accountability of the central fund of Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/fixing-minimum-wage-labour-safety-union-rights-among-must-haves-1745258476>

5.0% people own 30% income

- Disparity in Bangladesh deepens with 5.0% fortunate people in high-income group owning 30% of the national income, in signs of overconcentration of wealth. Such a situation of disparate redistribution of national wealth is painted in a report prepared by the reform commission on labour issues. The main reasons cited by the panel for such yawning income inequality is rise of oligarchs and income disparity.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/50pc-people-own-30pc-income-1745258983>

FY26 revenue target to be 4.25% higher

- The government is set to fix its total revenue target for the upcoming fiscal year at BDT 5.64 Tn, expecting nearly 4.25% growth from the FY25 figure. As the government has planned to keep the budget size small, it is going to set a reasonable revenue target for FY26, officials said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/fy26-revenue-target-to-be-425pc-higher-1745259364>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Commercial banks' lending to govt jumps 60%**

- The government's reliance on commercial banks for funds has surged in recent months, thanks to sluggish revenue growth and a slowdown in private sector credit demand. By mid-April of fiscal year (FY) 2024–25, government borrowing from commercial banks had soared to BDT 985.79 Bn, marking nearly a 60% rise from BDT 616.16 Bn during the same period the previous year, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/commercial-banks-lending-govt-jumps-60-3877146>

BANK | Agri loan disbursement drops 6.78% in Jul-Mar

- Disbursement of agricultural credits has declined by 6.78% during the first nine months of the current fiscal year 2024–2025 compared to the same period of the previous fiscal. Scheduled banks have disbursed agricultural loan to the tune of over BDT 248.60 Bn during the period while it was BDT 266.67 Bn in the previous fiscal year, Bangladesh Bank (BB) data reveals.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/agri-loan-disbursement-drops-678pc-in-jul-mar-1745259492>

JUTE | Ministry shelves plan to hike fees on jute exports

- Just five days after issuing a gazette notification imposing export fees on raw jute and jute products, the government has withdrawn the order to review the decision, following strong concerns from industry stakeholders over what they described as an excessive hike. After 30 years, the government has revised the revenue fees for the export of raw jute and jute products.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ministry-shelves-plan-hike-fees-jute-exports-3877141>

TELECOM | Telcos expected to lower prices of internet

- The interim government expects that mobile operators will reduce prices of mobile internet services soon as there were a series of wholesale-level price drops across different layers of the internet value chain in Bangladesh, said Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, the chief adviser's special assistant with executive authority over the ICT and telecom sectors. He said the government has already facilitated significant reductions at three critical layers of the internet distribution network.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/telcos-expected-lower-prices-internet-3877111>

FUEL & POWER | Govt to clear all QatarEnergy dues by tomorrow

- The government is set to clear all outstanding payments worth USD 72.40 Mn for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) purchases from QatarEnergy by tomorrow (Wednesday). The issues regarding the payment of arrears were resolved at a meeting in Petrobangla on Monday. Energy division officials mentioned that settling the arrears payment would facilitate a productive discussion between Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani and Chief Adviser Dr. Mohammad Yunus on Tuesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-to-clear-all-qatarenergy-dues-by-tomorrow-1745258808>

Stocks:**JAMUNABANK | Jamuna Bank profit up 18% in 2024**

- Jamuna Bank recorded an 18% rise in profit last year and announced plans to strengthen its capital base by issuing a BDT 10 Bn bond. The private commercial bank reported a profit of BDT 2.79 Bn for 2024. Its consolidated earnings per share climbed to BDT 3.17 last year, up from BDT 2.68 a year earlier, according to a disclosure filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/jamuna-bank-profit-18-2024-3877076>

FEKDIL | Far East Knitting to buy land, building worth BDT 200 Mn for expansion

- Far East Knitting & Dyeing Industries, a publicly listed textile company, will acquire a 318-decimal plot along with a three-storey building in Gazipur's Kaliakair for BDT 200 Mn to expand business. According to a price-sensitive information (PSI) disclosure published on the company's website, the acquired land will be used for its garments operations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/far-east-knitting-buy-land-building-worth-tk20cr-expansion-1122346>

ICB | ICB moves to recover stuck FDRs from troubled NBFIs and banks

- After suffering major losses from ill-fated investments — particularly fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) placed in weak and scam-hit non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) — the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has initiated a recovery drive to reclaim its long stuck funds and restore financial stability. Under its newly appointed chairman and managing director, the state-run investment agency has drawn up a roadmap for recovering the deposits.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-moves-recover-stuck-fdrs-troubled-nbfis-and-banks-1122266>

EXCHANGE | Move to make savings tools tradable

- The government wants to make national savings instruments tradable to make them more attractive to people and enhance the number of instruments on the debt market, officials have said. Presently, savings instruments are not tradable in any way and cannot be used as collateral for taking loans like fixed deposit receipts (FDRs). The investment in savings instruments remains stuck only with the government.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/move-to-make-savings-tools-tradable-1745258686>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 63.73	(USD 7.70)	-10.78%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 66.65	(USD 7.74)	-10.40%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,486.06	USD 877.58	33.64%
DSEX	5,044.85	-171.59	-3.29%
S&P 500	5,158.20	-748.74	-12.68%
FTSE 100	8,275.66	154.65	1.90%
BSE SENSEX	79,408.50	1,208.57	1.55%
KSE-100	118,383.38	3,124.38	2.71%
CSEALL	15,599.61	-345.00	-2.16%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.43 BDT****1 GBP = 162.79 BDT****1 Euro = 140.08 BDT****1 INR = 1.43 BDT**

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