

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:

Oil rises as markets assess supply risks after Iran denies US talks

- Oil prices rose in early trade on Tuesday on supply fears, as Iran denied it had held talks with the United States to end the war in the Gulf, contradicting President Donald Trump, who said a deal could be reached soon. Brent futures rose 1.1% to USD 101 a barrel at 0001 GMT, while WTI climbed 1.8%, to USD 89.71.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/oil-rises-markets-assess-supply-risks-after-iran-denies-us-talks-2026-03-24/>

Oil prices plunge after Trump says US, Iran discussing deal to end hostilities

- Oil prices dropped about 11% on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump said he would postpone any military strikes against Iranian power plants for five days and cited constructive talks to resolve hostilities in the Middle East, hours before a deadline that threatened to escalate the four-week-old war. Brent futures fell 10.9% to settle at USD 99.94 a barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate lost 10.3% to settle at USD 88.13.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/spotlight/iran-tensions/oil-prices-plunge-after-trump-says-us-iran-discussing-deal-to-end-hostilities>

Middle East conflict putting pressure on Bangladesh economy: Khasru

- Finance and Planning Minister has said that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East is creating pressure on Bangladesh's economy and added that finding alternative sources of fuel and maintaining regular supply remain the government's primary challenges.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/middle-east-conflict-putting-pressure-bangladesh-economy-khasru-1392171>

IMF delegation due March 23, next tranche likely in June

- Bangladesh may receive around USD 1.3 Bn in the next tranche of the ongoing loan program from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in June. However, the government will have to demonstrate visible progress in several key economic reform measures, including making the exchange rate more market-based, increasing revenue collection, gradually reducing subsidies, and addressing structural weaknesses in the banking sector. To discuss these issues, a three-member high-level delegation will arrive in Dhaka on a two-day visit starting March 23.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/405726/imf-delegation-due-march-23-next-tranche-likely>

Remittances surge ahead of Eid despite tensions

- Remittance inflows have surged sharply in the run-up to Eid-ul-Fitr, providing a crucial boost to the country's external sector despite mounting geopolitical tensions in key migrant-destination regions. The country received nearly USD 2.50 Bn in remittances during the first 15 days of this month, registering a robust 47.10% growth.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/remittances-surge-ahead-of-eid-despite-tensions>

Eid economy surges past 300,000C

- Data from the Bangladesh Shop Owners Association (BSOA) suggest that the size of the Eid economy will exceed BDT 3.0 Tn, as Eid-centered transactions in recent years ranged between BDT 2.0-2.5 Tn.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/405724/eid-economy-surges-past-300-000c>

Bangladesh eyes more than USD 2 Bn in fresh funds to mitigate fuel, LNG crisis

- The Prime Minister's adviser on finance and planning has said that he expected about USD 1.3 Bn from the International Monetary Fund under an existing programme, along with an additional USD 250 Mn to USD 500 Mn on top of roughly USD 500 Mn in budgetary support from the ADB.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-eyes-more-2-billion-fresh-funds-mitigate-fuel-lng-crisis-4133271>

UN crisis report within March to decide Bangladesh's LDC delay request: ERD officials

- The UN Committee for Development Policy (UN CDP) is preparing a "crisis assessment" report, evaluating Bangladesh's request to delay graduation from the Least Developed Country category by three years, which is expected to be released within March. If the CDP finds evidence of such a crisis, it may recommend extending, which would then be forwarded to the UN Economic and Social Council for consideration.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/un-crisis-report-within-march-decide-bangladeshs-ldc-delay-request-erd-officials-1390606>

Trade deficit widens as import bill climbs

- Bangladesh's trade deficit widened in 7MFY26 as imports increased while export earnings declined, adding pressure on the country's external balance. Merchandise trade gap rose to USD 13.8 Bn in 7MFY26 compared with USD 11.74 Bn in 7MFY25. Payments for intermediate goods increased 4.8%, fertiliser imports surged by 71%, petroleum imports by 31.6%, and imports of capital goods rose by 2.6%.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/trade-commerce/294194/trade-deficit-widens-as-import-bill-climbs>

Dhaka, Delhi move to fast-track CEPA talks

- Bangladesh and India accelerate negotiations to conclude a comprehensive economic deal aimed at strengthening bilateral trade, lowering tariff-and non-tariff barriers, attracting investment and deepening economic integration, sources say. Under the proposed arrangement, Bangladesh hopes to secure improved access for sectors such as ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals and agricultural products to the Indian market, while also attracting greater Indian investment into its special economic zones.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/dhaka-delhi-move-to-fast-track-cepa-talks>

Policy Exchange report urges rethink of tobacco tax structure

- Policy Exchange has unveiled a new report on tobacco taxation, calling for an evidence-based policy framework that more effectively balances revenue generation with public health imperatives. Policy Exchange estimates that a transition from the current ad valorem system to a specific tax regime on tobacco products could generate over BDT 220 Bn in additional revenue over the next decade, beyond baseline growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/policy-exchange-report-urges-rethink-tobacco-tax-structure-1389061>

Qatar LNG: Iran attacks hit 17pc capacity for five years

- Iranian attacks have knocked out 17% of Qatar's LNG export capacity, threatening supplies to Europe and Asia.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/qatar-lng-iran-attacks-hit-17pc-capacity-for-five-years>

Govt to buy 2 more spot LNG cargoes in late April

- State-run Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) has floated tenders to buy two LNG cargoes from the spot market for delivery over April 15-16, and April 21-22 windows. This is the third tender floated by RPGCL this year to secure supplies amid the ongoing Middle East war.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-to-buy-2-more-spot-lng-cargoes-in-late-april>

Sector and Industries:**RMG | Apparel exports to US dip 0.9pc in Jan amid global sourcing shift**

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to USA faced a setback in January, as America's overall garment imports dropped significantly. Bangladesh earned USD 791.77 Mn from RMG exports to the US in January 2026, registering a 0.9% YoY decline. Bangladesh shipped 264.04 million square metres of apparel to the US in January 2026, representing a 1.18% increase.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/apparel-exports-to-us-dip-09pc-in-jan-amid-global-sourcing-shift>

RMG | Bangladesh sees 25% drop in RMG exports to EU

- In January 2026, Bangladesh's apparel exports to the EU plummeted by 25.25% to EUR 1.43 Bn while volumes dropped 17.49% to 104.63 Mn kg. Industry stakeholders attribute this significant drop to dwindling consumer demand in Europe, cautious procurement policies by retailers, and increasing pressure on apparel prices. Analysts suggest that European buyers are now attempting to source products at lower prices.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/405976/bangladesh-sees-25%25-drop-in-rmg-exports-to-eu>

STEEL | Steel manufacturers eye market diversification

- Bangladesh's iron and steel exports have experienced significant fluctuations over the past five fiscal years, with India remaining the dominant destination, raising concerns over market concentration and stagnation. In FY25, export receipts recovered modestly to USD 13.86 Mn, indicating only a partial rebound amid weak external demand. Industry insiders attributed the volatility to shifting regional demand, pricing challenges, and supply-side constraints, including higher raw material and energy costs.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/steel-manufacturers-eye-market-diversification>

CONSUMER | Eid fails to lift electronics sales amid weak demand

- Sales of electronics and home appliances are witnessing an unusual slowdown even close to Eid-ul-Fitr, showing only marginal improvement and remaining near regular-day levels instead of the customary festive surge. One major player in consumer electronics has told that sales are about 30% below expectations this year. Chief marketing officer of Walton Hi-Tech Industries Plc has said profit margins have not improved, attributing this to a sharp rise in the cost of importing raw materials and components.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/eid-fails-lift-electronics-sales-amid-weak-demand-4132271>

BANK | Bank deposits grow 10.45% in January

- Bank deposits grew by 10.45% YoY in January 2026, which managing directors of private banks view as a positive sign. CEO of Mutual Trust Bank told that the growth was largely driven by rising remittance inflows.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bank-deposits-grow-1045-january-1389576>

BANK | 18 banks report BDT 1.98 Tn provision shortfall

- Eighteen banks reported a staggering provision shortfall of BDT 1.98 Tn at the end of December 2025, driven by years of weak loan recovery and a surge in non-performing loans. Among these banks include Islami Bank, Janata Bank, IFIC Bank, National Bank, Rupali Bank, Agrani Bank, Premier Bank, BASIC Bank, United Commercial Bank, NRBC, Standard Bank, Bangladesh Commerce Bank, NRB Bank and Mercantile Bank. Beyond these, another 20 banks reported zero shortfall or surplus, largely due to regulatory deferrals.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/294378/18-banks-report-tk-198-lakh-crore-provision-shortfall>

BANK | Liquidity pressure eases as interbank borrowing falls

- Interbank and central bank borrowing fell in February 2026, while interest rates eased slightly, signalling lower short-term liquidity pressure compared with both January 2026 and the same month a year earlier. Despite the fall in transactions, the weighted average rate declined marginally by 4 basis points to 9.95%, indicating that borrowing costs softened as demand for overnight funds eased.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/294273/liquidity-pressure-eases-as-interbank-borrowing-falls>

Stocks:**IDLC | IDLC Finance profit up 21pc on higher investment returns**

- IDLC Finance posted more than 21% YoY growth in profit in 2025, largely driven by strong returns from investments in government securities, marking the company's highest profit in four years. The NBFIL reported a consolidated profit of BDT 2.43 Bn for 2025.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/idlc-finance-profit-up-21pc-on-higher-investment-returns>

PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank FinTech gets nod from Central Bank to operate MFS

- Prime Bank FinTech Limited, a subsidiary of Prime Bank PLC., has been awarded a license to operate Mobile Financial Services (MFS) in the country.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/prime-bank-fintech-gets-nod-from-central-bank-to-operate-mfs>

SSSTEEL | Eastern Bank seizes SS Steel chairman's Banani house over BDT 1.12 Bn default

- Eastern Bank PLC has seized the Banani residence of SS Steel Limited Chairman in an attempt to recover defaulted loans amounting to BDT 1.12 Bn, in what banking officials describe as an unprecedented step in Bangladesh's financial sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/eastern-bank-seizes-ss-steel-chairmans-banani-house-over-tk112cr-default>

BIFC | Bangladesh Industrial Finance shares surge 633% since 14 Jan

- In just two months, shares of Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company (BIFC), a non-bank financial institution (NBFIL), skyrocketed by over 600%, according to data from the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bangladesh-industrial-finance-shares-surge-633-14-jan-1390531>

EXCHANGE | Mamun Agro seeks promotion to DSE main board from SME platform

- Mamun Agro Industries, currently listed on the SME platform on the Dhaka Stock Exchange, has formally sought enlistment on the main board of the bourse, citing compliance with regulatory criteria, including paid-up capital exceeding BDT 500 Mn and more than three years of trading history.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mamun-agro-seeks-promotion-dse-main-board-sme-platform-1389626>

REGULATOR | BSEC launches probe into 4 intermediaries over market irregularities

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has launched investigations into four capital market intermediaries - NRBC Bank Securities Limited, Premier Leasing Securities Limited, Green Delta Securities Limited, and LankaBangla Investments Limited. BSEC director and spokesperson told that the Commission had identified multiple inconsistencies in the operations of these firms, particularly relating to negative equity, margin lending practices, financial reporting, and corporate governance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-launches-probe-4-intermediaries-over-market-irregularities-1390406>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 91.93	USD 34.50	60.07%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 104.17	USD 43.32	71.19%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,336.75	(USD 4.25)	-0.10%
DSEX	5,353.94	488.60	10.04%
S&P 500	6,581.00	-317.82	-4.61%
FTSE 100	9,894.15	-37.23	-0.37%
BSE SENSEX	72,696.39	-12,097.19	-14.27%
KSE-100	153,083.70	-20,970.60	-12.05%
CSEALL	20,364.97	-2,259.34	-9.99%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.63 BDT****1 GBP = 164.78 BDT****1 Euro = 142.45 BDT****1 INR = 1.31 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