

*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:****Trump cancels envoys' Pakistan trip, in blow to hopes for Iran war breakthrough**

- President Donald Trump cancelled a trip by two US envoys to Iran war mediator Pakistan on Saturday (25 April), dealing a new setback to peace prospects after Iran's foreign minister departed Islamabad after speaking only to Pakistani officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/world/trump-says-he-cancelled-us-negotiators-trip-pakistan-iran-talks-fox-news-reports-1421316>

**Bangladesh readies for UN panel hearing**

- Citing three major economic challenges, the government has prepared its position paper ahead of a United Nations hearing on Bangladesh's request to defer its graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category. In a virtual meeting scheduled on April 29, Bangladesh will seek a three-year deferral of its scheduled graduation in Nov'26.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-readies-un-panel-hearing-4160856>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-cite-three-key-challenges-defer-ldc-graduation-4160581>

**Deregulation across major financial sectors being mulled**

- Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury dropped a broad hint at such changes, citing Bangladesh is an overregulated country and needs deregulation. The finance minister says the government is also considering the securitisation of public-infrastructure assets to mobilise funds for new projects.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/deregulation-across-major-financial-sectors-being-mulled-1777137856>

**Package VAT poised to make a comeback**

- Reinstating the package-VAT system to bring marginal businesses under the tax net is now under active consideration of the government, as compliance with the existing VAT regime remains weak, sources say. The system was abolished in June 2019 following the introduction of the new VAT and Supplementary Duty Act and the VAT Online Project, which aimed to digitise tax collection.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/package-vat-poised-to-make-a-comeback>

**Amir Khosru vows not to print money to fight inflation**

- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has pledged to avoid printing money to fund the government's deficit and warned that creating "high-powered money" would trigger an inflationary spiral as the administration attempts to steer an economy battered by political cronyism and global shocks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/amir-khosru-vows-not-print-money-fight-inflation-4160601>

**BNP govt repays inherited debt instead of printing money: Finance minister**

- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has said that the government has repaid loans left behind by the interim administration instead of resorting to printing money after assuming office. BB Governor said that on 17 February, the day the BNP took charge, the government's borrowing from the central bank through ways and means advances and overdraft stood at BDT 175.90 Bn. By 22 April, that figure had dropped to BDT 111.03 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bnp-govt-repays-inherited-debt-instead-printing-money-finance-minister-1421276>

**A surfeit of 'high-powered' money stokes inflation concern**

- A surfeit of 'high-powered' money in the economy stokes concern about inflation upturn as reserve money more than doubled in terms of year-on-year growth as of February. Bangladesh Bank has injected BDT 200 Bn in printed money into economy recently to feed government expenditure needs, economists say. BB officials, however, play down such concern as they claim the regulator has got a stronger rise in its net foreign assets (NFA), including foreign exchange reserves, during the current fiscal year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/a-surfeit-of-high-powered-money-stokes-inflation-concern>

**ADB approves USD 250 Mn loan to strengthen Bangladesh's social protection system**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 250 Mn loan to support Bangladesh in operationalising and institutionalising critical reforms to improve the efficiency, coverage, and effectiveness of the country's social protection system.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/adb-approves-250m-loan-strengthen-bangladeshs-social-protection-system-4159771>

**European Investment Bank to lend EUR 705 Mn for two railway projects**

- European Investment Bank (EIB) is set to invest in improving Bangladesh's railway system, with plans to provide loans for two major projects. EIB will co-finance alongside the Asian Development Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/european-investment-bank-lend-eu705-million-two-railway-projects-1419776>

**IMF projects Bangladesh to overtake India in per capita GDP in 2026**

- Bangladesh is projected to record a higher gross domestic product per capita than India in 2026, measured in current US dollars. The forecast puts Bangladesh at USD 2,911 per person against India at USD 2,812.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imf-projects-bangladesh-overtake-india-capita-gdp-2026-4160546>

**No inheritance tax in upcoming budget: NBR**

- The National Board of Revenue has clarified that there is no plan to introduce an inheritance tax in the upcoming 2026–27 national budget, while outlining broader efforts to expand the country's tax base by bringing more informal economic activities under the tax net.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/297971/no-inheritance-tax-in-upcoming-budget-nbr>

**Tariff loophole puts local AC manufacturers at disadvantage**

- A tax loophole allowing commercial air-conditioning systems to be imported as "capital machinery" at minimal duty is putting Bangladesh's emerging HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) manufacturing industry under pressure, while costing the government significant revenue each year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tariff-loophole-puts-local-ac-manufacturers-disadvantage-1421376>

**VAT coverage to be expanded in next budget: NBR chairman**

- The government will expand the scope of VAT in the upcoming fiscal year's budget and take measures to prevent the sale of cigarettes and other packaged goods without proper tax and VAT payment, National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman has said. He also said the government will coordinate NBR data with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) to identify companies that are not paying taxes, and cancel Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) of deceased individuals and those with no taxable income.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/vat-coverage-be-expanded-next-budget-nbr-chairman-1421356>

**Govt to lease out six jute mills this year**

- The government is set to lease out six state-owned jute mills by December this year in a bid to revive idle industrial units, attract fresh investment, and create employment opportunities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-lease-out-six-jute-mills-year-4159171>

**Banks purchasing remittances at BDT 123 ahead of oil LC settlement**

- Several commercial banks in Bangladesh purchased remittances from remittance houses at BDT 123 per dollar, reflecting renewed pressure in the foreign exchange market ahead of large upcoming import settlements. Banks had been buying remittance at rates between BDT 122.85 and BDT 122.90 per dollar.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-purchasing-remittances-tk123-ahead-oil-lc-settlement-1419866>

**Sector and Industries:****TELECOM | Govt plans telecom overhaul**

- The prime minister's adviser on telecom and ICT has said the government plans to connect 90% of the population with 5G, provide 100 Mbps internet to 90% of users, build a unified digital ecosystem, turn Bangladesh into an AI-enabled economy, and reform the telecom tax system.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-plans-telecom-overhaul-4160586>

**TEXTILE | Fuel crisis, weak demand cut factory capacity to 50-60pc**

- President of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Mohammad Hatem said that factories are struggling to operate at full capacity due to a shortage of fuel. He added that exports have fallen in recent months, while factories are currently operating at only 50-60% of their capacity.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/fuel-crisis-weak-demand-cut-factory-capacity-to-50-60pc-1777135256>

**BANK | Islamic banks' deposits, investments up 9.27% and 11.38%**

- Islamic banks in Bangladesh posted moderate year-on-year growth in deposits and investments in February 2026, with deposits rising 9.27% to BDT 4.76 Tn and investments increasing 11.38% to BDT 5.88 Tn, indicating a gradual return of confidence in the sector.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/islamic-banks-deposits-investments-up-927pc-and-1138pc-1777137385>

**BANK | BB to launch startup investment firm with BDT 6.0 Bn initial fund: Governor**

- Bangladesh Bank Governor announced that an institution named Startup Investment Bangladesh Limited will begin its journey next month with BDT 6.0 Bn in funds initially. Discussions are ongoing with the World Bank regarding assistance for this fund.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-launch-startup-investment-firm-tk600cr-initial-fund-governor-1421271>

**Stocks:****DOMINAGE | Dominage Steel sponsors to exit amid sharp stock rally**

- The board of Dominage Steel Building Systems has decided to sell its ownership stakes to Akij Resources and two individuals, even as the company's stock has rallied over the past eight months. Dominage Steel will sell 30% or 30.78 million shares of the company at a negotiated price through an off-market transaction.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dominage-steel-sponsors-to-exit-amid-sharp-stock-rally-1777133075>

**EXIMBANK, FIRSTSBANK, GIB, SIBL, UNIONBANK | Reprivatisation or recapitalisation: BB weighs on options for five merged banks**

- Bangladesh Bank is deliberating whether to reprivatise five Islamic banks merged during the interim government or to recapitalise the merged entity using taxpayers' money. The BB Governor added that BB will consult stakeholders on whether to attempt reprivatisation now or move towards recapitalisation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/reprivatisation-or-recapitalisation-bb-weighs-options-five-merged-banks-1421341>

**EPGL | Energypac Power sinks into negative retained earnings as losses hit BDT 3.93 Bn**

- Energypac Power Generation PLC is now grappling with a severe financial crisis, as persistent losses have left the company with negative retained earnings.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/prime-bank-secures-30m-loan-opec-fund-boost-trade-finance-4160621>

**PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank secures USD 30 Mn loan from Opec Fund to boost trade finance**

- Prime Bank PLC has signed a USD 30 Mn term-loan agreement with the Opec Fund for International Development (Opec Fund), which is expected to significantly enhance Prime Bank's capacity to support critical trade finance requirements across the country's small and medium enterprise (SME), agriculture, and corporate sectors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/prime-bank-secures-30m-loan-opec-fund-boost-trade-finance-4160621>

**BSCPLC | Bangladesh Submarine Cables posts 56% profit growth as data demand rises**

- Bangladesh Submarine Cables PLC has recorded a significant 56% jump in net profit during 9MFY26, bolstered by robust demand for bandwidth and supportive government policies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bangladesh-submarine-cables-posts-56-profit-growth-data-demand-rises-1421286>

**ASIANS & EASTLAND | Asia, Eastland Insurance declare 10% cash dividends for 2025**

- Two general insurers, Asia Insurance and Eastland Insurance, announced their financial results and dividend recommendations for the year ended 31 December 2025, through regulatory filings yesterday (23 April).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/asia-eastland-insurance-declare-10-cash-dividends-2025-1419986>

**HEIDELBCEM | Heidelberg Materials profit plunges 57% on raw material costs, steep competition**

- Heidelberg's net profit for 2025 plummeted by 57% to settle at BDT 200 Mn, a sharp decline from the previous year. Following this downturn in earnings, the company's board of directors have recommended a drastically lower cash dividend of 11% compared to the 25% cash dividend in 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/heidelberg-materials-profit-plunges-57-raw-material-costs-steep-competition-1419981>

**REGULATOR | BSEC to scrap prior approval rule for DSE inspections**

- The securities regulator has agreed in principle to remove the provision that requires the Dhaka bourse to obtain prior permission for inspections, a move that could empower the Dhaka bourse to conduct instant inspections of issuer companies upon finding prima facie evidence of any wrongdoing.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-to-scrap-prior-approval-rule-for-dse-inspections-1777133091>

**REGULATOR | Age bar for BSEC, IDRA chairmanship set to go**

- The government has approved amendments to remove the age limit for appointing chairmen of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA), paving the way for the appointment of experienced candidates to the two key regulatory bodies.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/age-bar-for-bsec-idra-chairmanship-set-to-go>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 94.40	USD 36.97	64.37%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 105.33	USD 44.48	73.10%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,709.50	USD 368.50	8.49%
DSEX	5,298.59	433.25	8.90%
S&P 500	7,165.08	266.26	3.86%
FTSE 100	10,379.08	447.70	4.51%
BSE SENSEX	76,664.21	-8,129.37	-9.59%
KSE-100	170,672.05	-3,382.25	-1.94%
CSEALL	22,567.63	-56.68	-0.25%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 122.82 BDT****1 GBP = 166.19 BDT****1 Euro = 143.97 BDT****1 INR = 1.30 BDT**

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