

*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:****Port tariff hike put off on user protest**

- A steep 40% hike in tariffs on goods and vessels at Chittagong seaport stands postponed as a decisive meeting held Monday at the shipping ministry ended sans decision on user objections, sources said. The ministry of shipping few days back received approval from the finance ministry to raise the tariffs on average by 40%, but the shipping agents and port-users stood to the move on grounds that it would ultimately result in price rises at this time of high inflation.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/port-tariff-hike-put-off-on-user-protest-1756143547>

**BD, China assocs join hands to advance semiconductor industry**

- Under a signed MoU, both associations will work together to promote knowledge sharing and advanced technology exchange, facilitate joint research and development (R&D) initiatives, develop skilled human resources through training and certification programmes, encourage cross-border investment and business partnerships, organize joint events, trade delegations and expos.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bd-china-assocs-join-hands-to-advance-semiconductor-industry-1756146307>

**Debt burden on the poorest getting heavier**

- The poorest 40% of the population reported a 7% net increase in debt over the previous six months. The debt burden of the poorest section of the population is rising due to high food prices and the overall cost of living, according to a study by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/debt-burden-the-poorest-getting-heavier-3970766>

**Sector & Industries:****TEXTILE | BGMEA makes unit price declaration mandatory for UD certificates**

- Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) -- the apparel apex body -- has tagged new requirements mandating factories to provide the unit price of imported raw materials and readymade garments produced for export to get utilization declaration (UD) certificates aiming to ensure transparency and accurate valuation in the industry.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bgmea-makes-unit-price-declaration-mandatory-for-ud-certificates-1756143728>

**BANK | Tariffs, weak confidence heighten risks for Islamic banks**

- Islamic banks in the country, which are already under strain from multiple challenges, are likely to face further difficulty amid political uncertainty, the fallout of US reciprocal tariffs and new financial reporting standards, Moody's Ratings said in a report released yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tariffs-weak-confidence-heighten-risks-islamic-banks-3970751>

**NBFI | NBFIs' resilience falls sharply in 4 years**

- Only 9 of Bangladesh's 35 non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) remained sound until December 2024, reflecting a sharp fall in their resilience over the past four years. Bangladesh Bank's stress test results show while 18 out of 34 NBFIs, also called finance companies, were in sound condition in 2020, the figure dropped to just 9 out of 35 by December 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/nbfis-resilience-falls-sharply-in-4-years-1756143868>

**FUEL & POWER | Govt intervention sought to resume operation**

- A dozen private petrochemical and refinery plants have sought the interim government's intervention to resume operation and produce refined petroleum products to meet the country's growing needs. They were allegedly forced to shut down in July 2020 following "unfair" interference from the then government high-ups. As a result, bank loans of around BDT 20 Bn borrowed against the plants remained stuck for years, and about 5,000 employees became jobless.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-intervention-sought-to-resume-operation-1756143508>

**MISCELLANEOUS | Rubber imports rose 33% last fiscal year**

- Bangladesh's rubber imports surged by 33% year-on-year in the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25), as local industries faced shortages due to supply disruptions from domestic producers. The country imported 4,199 tonnes of rubber worth BDT 1.07 Bn in FY25, compared with 3,165 tonnes a year earlier, according to Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rubber-imports-rose-33-last-fiscal-year-3970796>

**IT | Ismartu Tech to make DrKumo tablets for US export**

- Ismartu Technology BD Limited, the local manufacturer of Chinese brands Itel, Tecno, and Infinix, has secured regulatory approval to make tablets under the US-based DrKumo brand exclusively for export to the American market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ismartu-tech-make-drkumo-tablets-us-export-3970771>

**Stocks:****JMISMDL | JMI launches Apollo Clinic in Dhaka**

- Apollo Clinic, a subsidiary of India's international hospital chain Apollo, is now in Dhaka to offer world-class medical services. The company is operated in Bangladesh by the JMI Specialized Hospital Limited, a subsidiary of JMI Group, as a licensee. Apollo Clinic's activities were officially inaugurated at a hotel in the capital on Saturday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/jmi-launches-apollo-clinic-in-dhaka-1756146443>

**SHAHJABANK | Shahjalal Islami Bank's former chairman offloads major stake**

- Akkas Uddin Mollah, former chairman and one of the sponsor directors of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd, has sold a significant portion of his stake in the bank, transferring the shares to a family-owned company. Today, Mollah declared his plan to sell 21 Mn shares out of his 22.3 Mn holdings at the prevailing market price through the block market of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) within 30 working days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/shahjalal-islami-banks-former-chairman-offloads-major-stake-1220466>

**EXCHANGE | BSEC flags two brokerages for net worth shortfall, asks DSE to take action**

- The stock market regulator in a recent investigation found two new-generation brokerage firms -- Monarch Holdings and Columbia Shares and Securities -- are suffering from huge net worth shortfall. Currently, trading at Monarch Holdings is suspended while Columbia Securities has been running with capital shortfall.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-flags-two-brokerages-for-net-worth-shortfall-asks-dse-to-take-action-1756146062>

**Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 64.51	(USD 6.92)	-9.69%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 68.56	(USD 5.83)	-7.84%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,374.61	USD 766.13	29.37%
DSEX	5,455.40	238.96	4.58%
S&P 500	6,439.32	532.38	9.01%
FTSE 100	9,321.40	1,200.39	14.78%
BSE SENSEX	81,635.91	3,435.98	4.39%
KSE-100	148,815.31	33,556.31	29.11%
CSEALL	20,575.59	4,630.98	29.04%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.99 BDT****1 GBP = 164.26 BDT****1 Euro = 141.95 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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