

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:**Forex market steadies as dollar inflows go up**

- The country's foreign exchange market is stabilising thanks to a surge in US dollar (USD) inflows, driven by higher remittances, stronger export earnings and tighter oversight by the central bank. Liquidity in the forex market has improved, evident in banks' net open positions (NOP) -- the difference between their foreign currency assets and liabilities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/forex-market-steadies-dollar-inflows-go-3858396>

Expert panel meets today for LDC transition strategy

- As Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) club to a developing one draws near, a six-member high-powered committee of public officials, economists, and policy experts has been formed by the interim government to implement a smooth transition strategy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/expert-panel-meets-today-ldc-transition-strategy-3858361>

NBR mulls taxing political parties, ending some exemptions for ministers, MPs

- Political parties, which have enjoyed tax exemptions for years, are likely to come under the tax net from next fiscal year, according to sources at the National Board of Revenue (NBR). Additionally, to establish tax equality, the government is considering revoking certain tax benefits for judges, as well as the prime minister, ministers, and members of parliament.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/politics/nbr-mulls-taxing-political-parties-ending-some-exemptions-ministers-mps-1102836>

Repayment outpaces foreign aid inflow

- Bangladesh spent USD 2.636 Bn in debt servicing against principal and interest during July-February of this fiscal year at a rising rate that outpaces receipt, according to officials, affecting execution of aided projects. The foreign-aid inflow dropped as both commitment and disbursement ebbed down in the first eight months the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, officials said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/repayment-outpaces-foreign-aid-inflow-1743009792>

Next ADP likely to be worth BDT 2.30 Tn

- A relatively fat development budget worth BDT 2.30 Tn is likely to be prepared for the next fiscal year, too, by the interim government notwithstanding a staggeringly low execution of the outgoing ADP. By official count, only a fourth of the total annual development programme or ADP for the fiscal year 2024-25 had been implemented in eight months to this February.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/next-adp-likely-to-be-worth-tk-230t>

Sector & Industries:**TELECOM | Govt proposes conditional concessions over 700MHz spectrum auction**

- The government has formally responded to concerns raised by major foreign telecom investors regarding the upcoming 700MHz spectrum auction, proposing conditional pricing concessions to ease industry apprehensions. Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser with executive authority over the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and ICT, suggested a potential 5-10% reduction in spectrum prices.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-proposes-conditional-concessions-over-700mhz-spectrum-auction-3858376>

RMG | Bangladesh's share in US apparel market declines

- Bangladesh's share in the US apparel market declined slightly in 2024 as shipments fell due to high inflation in American markets. Last year, Bangladesh held an 8.85% share of the US apparel market, down from 8.89% in 2023 and 9.33% in 2022, according to data from the International Trade Centre (ITC).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshs-share-us-apparel-market-declines-3858131>

RMG | RMG exporters struggle as rise in 'open costing' by buyers cuts profits

- Bangladesh's RMG exporters are seeing profits shrink as buyers increasingly control pricing through open costing, which has grown from 10% to 60% of total exports over the last decade. This pricing method is making it harder for factory owners to stay profitable, with some even facing financial losses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/rmg-exporters-struggle-rise-open-costing-buyers-cuts-profits-1102871>

Stocks:**RENATA | Renata's bond, preference shares: What's behind the subscription failure?**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has extended the subscription tenure for Renata – a leading pharmaceutical company – as its bond and preference shares failed to get fully subscribed on time. As of now, Renata has received BDT 2.25 Bn in subscriptions for its preference shares and BDT 1.50 Bn for its zero-coupon bond, according to officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/renatas-bond-preference-shares-whats-behind-subscription-failure-1102861>

NFML | National Feed's losses soar 167% in Jul-Sep

- National Feed Mill is facing severe financial trouble as its losses surged by 167% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year. According to its price-sensitive statement filed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), the company's loss per share stood at BDT 0.24 in the July-September quarter, significantly higher than the BDT 0.09 loss recorded during the same period in the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/national-feeds-losses-soar-167-jul-sep-1102826>

SHARPIND | Sharp Industries comes under probe

- The stock market watchdog has decided to investigate the business operations of Sharp Industries PLC (formerly RN Spinning Mills Limited) over the past six years, suspecting irregularities in their merger process. A three-member probe committee has been formed with specific terms of reference. It will have to submit a report on its findings to the securities regulator within 60 days.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/sharp-industries-comes-under-probe>

EXCHANGE | Royal Footwear pulls out of public offer amid business uncertainty

- Royal Footwear Limited, a footwear manufacturer and exporter, has abandoned its plan to raise BDT 120 Mn on the Dhaka Stock Exchange's SME Platform. The company had intended to use the funds to expand its business and meet growing demand in its export markets.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/royal-footwear-pulls-out-public-offer-amid-business-uncertainty-1102806>

EXCHANGE | Yield rise may make govt bank borrowing costlier

- Government bank borrowings may be costlier from this fiscal year's last quarter for growing yields on sovereign securities, as rate rises already cast their shadows before. Economists and bankers believe the yield pressures may be zooming despite the borrowing target for the April-June period is not set to increase significantly.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/yield-rise-may-make-govt-bank-borrowing-costlier>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 69.81	(USD 1.62)	-2.27%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 73.91	(USD 0.48)	-0.65%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,031.54	USD 423.06	16.22%
DSEX	5,214.21	-2.24	-0.04%
S&P 500	5,712.20	-194.74	-3.30%
FTSE 100	8,689.59	568.58	7.00%
BSE SENSEX	77,288.50	-911.43	-1.17%
KSE-100	117,772.31	2,513.31	2.18%
CSEALL	15,847.80	-96.81	-0.61%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.67 BDT****1 GBP = 157.13 BDT****1 Euro = 131.13 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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