

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in green this week. The benchmark index DSEX (+0.21%) gained 11.12 points and closed the week at 5,245.22 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-1.00%) lost -19.94 points and stood at 1,981.67 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (+0.75%) gained 7.96 points and stood at 1,066.12 points. The large cap index CDSET (-0.53%) lost -5.62 points and closed at 1,054.60 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of +7.81%, +6.91%, +6.54%, +4.96%, respectively.

Total Turnover During The Week (DSE): BDT 44.0 billion (USD 358 million)
Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 8.8 billion (Δ% Week: +5.9%)
Market P/E: 13.4x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions this week. It started negatively on Sunday (-0.25%) and remained negative on Monday (-0.30%). It turned positive on Tuesday (+0.47%) and remained positive on Wednesday (+0.26%) and ended positively on Thursday (+0.03%).

Sectoral Performance

Most of the financial sectors posted positive performance this week. NBF I booked the highest gain of 4.00% followed by General Insurance (+2.36%), Mutual Fund (+2.17%), Life Insurance (+2.10%), and Bank (-0.45%).

Non-financial (large-cap) sectors posted mixed performance this week. Engineering booked the highest gain of 1.37% followed by Fuel & Power (+0.39%). Telecommunication experienced the highest loss of 1.46% followed by Food & Allied (-0.98%), and Pharmaceutical (-0.20%).

Macroeconomic Arena

Fitch cuts Bangladesh outlook to negative. Govt Sukuk oversubscribed twelve times. NBR plans wealth tax revival. Govt undertakes BDT 20.28 Bn railway rehabilitation project to modernise western zone rail network. Govt approves BDT 343.47 Bn Padma Barrage Project. BANK | BB cuts penal interest on overdue loans. BANK | Banks ride Treasury gains to stronger Q1 profits. BANK | No more bank-funded training for BB staff. TELECOM | Scrap SIM taxes, VAT on spectrum fees. Tax on export incentives may double in upcoming budget. ADB to provide USD 100 Mn loan to strengthen Universal Pension Scheme: Khosru. Business leaders seek default classification after 6 months of overdue, lending rates cut to 12%.

Govt may raise excise duty-free deposit limit to BDT 0.5 Mn. Bangladesh Bank buys USD 145 Mn from banks in May to bolster reserves. Govt to buy 20 million litres of palm oil for TCB sales. Remittance inflow grows 41.7% in 1st 11 days of May. NBF I | Five troubled financial firms approved for shutdown as govt pledges funds. BB buys USD 45 Mn from commercial bank. BANK | 39 banks launch USD 35 Mn venture capital to boost Bangladesh startups. IMF conditions not suitable for Bangladesh's economy: Finance minister. Govt plans duty-free raw material imports. Forex reserves above USD 34 Bn despite rising ACU payments. BB launches BDT 10.0 Bn special fund for sustainability of local industries.

Stock Market Arena

REGULATOR | New guidelines on capital increase, dividend account in capital market. BRACBANK | bKash reports BDT 1.84 Bn profit in Jan-Mar. EBL | EBL posts 28% profit growth in Q1. EXCHANGE | Central bank to overhaul tax certificate rule for foreign investors. BEXIMCO | Beximco sukuk's tenure proposed for 6-year extension to avert default. UNITEDFIN | United Finance posts 31% growth in Q1 profit. FORTUNE | Fortune Shoes officials fined BDT 72 Mn. BRACBANK | BRAC Bank's profit grows 44% to BDT 6950 Mn in first quarter. PREMIERBAN | Exporters may not even be aware of LCs opened in their names, says BKMEA chief. EXCHANGE | BSEC conversion guidelines trigger surge in mutual funds. LHB | LafargeHolcim Bangladesh posts BDT 1120 Mn profit in Q1. BRACBANK | BRAC Bank's second subordinated bond debut on DSE's ATB platform. BRACBANK | Brac Bank digital onboarding opens 50,000 SME accounts.

DSEX ended in Green (+0.21%) in the week

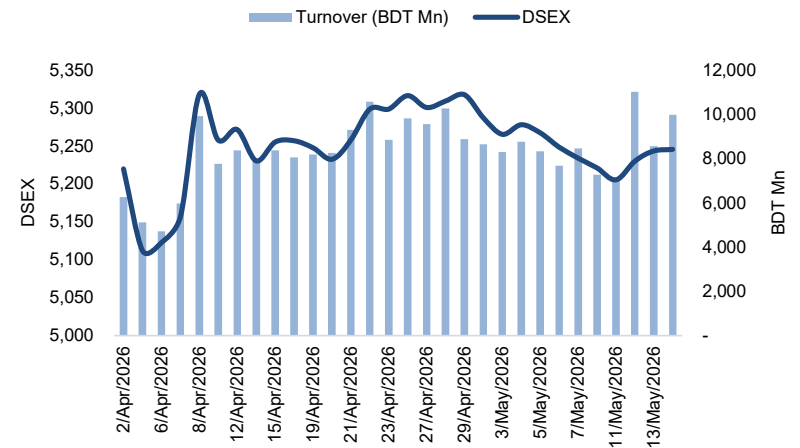
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2025	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	5,245.22	5,234.10	+11.12	4,865.34	0.21%	7.81%
DS30	1,981.67	2,001.61	-19.94	1,853.54	-1.00%	6.91%
DSES	1,066.12	1,058.16	+7.96	1,000.72	0.75%	6.54%
CDSET	1,054.60	1,060.22	-5.62	1,004.81	-0.53%	4.96%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	6,773,370	6,799,949	
	Mn USD	55,161	55,378	-0.39%
Turnover	Mn BDT	43,974	41,512	5.93%
	Mn USD	358	338	
Average Daily Turnover	Mn BDT	8,795	8,302	5.93%
	Mn USD	72	68	
Volume	Mn Shares	1,448	1,359	6.59%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in Last Four Weeks



Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan
Research Analyst
(880) 1708805224
hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com

S M Toufique Imran
Research Analyst
(880) 1708805228
smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com

Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
RDFOOD	27.8	20.5	+35.6%	2,112	623.1	NM	1.6x
VFSTDL	15.7	11.8	+33.1%	1,658	396.7	NM	0.8x
APEXTANRY	121.4	96.9	+25.3%	1,850	339.3	NM	0.6x
MEGHNAPE	53.7	44.0	+22.0%	644	123.6	NM	0.8x
ICICL	28.6	23.9	+19.7%	1,449	329.8	48.5x	1.6x
MLDYEING	10.0	8.4	+19.0%	2,324	110.9	NM	0.8x
SONARBAINS	44.0	37.1	+18.6%	1,850	316.4	86.3x	2.2x
EASTLAND	26.4	22.4	+17.9%	2,214	182.8	23.6x	1.2x
AMANFEED	32.4	27.7	+17.0%	4,243	384.3	NM	1.1x
FARCHEM	18.5	15.9	+16.4%	2,832	62.8	NM	0.6x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
FASFIN	1.8	2.2	-18.2%	268	4.5	NM	NM
PLFSL	1.8	2.2	-18.2%	514	13.9	NM	NM
ILFSL	1.8	2.2	-18.2%	399	5.3	NM	NM
FAREASTFIN	1.8	2.1	-14.3%	295	3.7	NM	NM
PRIMEFIN	2.9	3.3	-12.1%	791	10.4	NM	0.4x
GSPFINANCE	3.5	3.9	-10.3%	550	3.7	NM	NM
SAIHAMTEX	17.6	19.3	-8.8%	1,594	227.0	28.4x	0.4x
MONNOCERA	97.9	107.2	-8.7%	3,693	1,504.9	NM	1.2x
SAIHAMCOT	19.7	21.4	-7.9%	2,931	311.5	21.6x	0.5x
FIRSTFIN	3.9	4.2	-7.1%	462	3.8	NM	NM

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
MONNOCERA	97.9	107.2	-8.7%	3,693	1,504.9	NM	1.2x
DOMINAGE	73.6	70.0	+5.1%	7,551	1,451.8	NM	4.3x
NCCBANK	16.8	16.5	+1.8%	18,655	826.8	3.9x	0.6x
LOVELLO	77.1	79.3	-2.8%	7,569	739.7	25.2x	5.7x
RDFOOD	27.8	20.5	+35.6%	2,112	623.1	NM	1.6x
ASIATICLAB	108.3	103.3	+4.8%	13,255	617.5	24.9x	1.9x
ACMEPL	24.0	23.6	+1.7%	3,240	606.5	NM	1.5x
BDTHAIFOOD	21.7	21.5	+0.9%	1,769	590.2	NM	1.9x
APEXSPINN	434.6	384.0	+13.2%	3,651	516.2	NM	5.2x
SALVO	35.8	34.8	+2.9%	2,328	464.5	56.8x	2.1x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
BBSCABLES	22.4	+47.4%	4,742	NM	0.9x
SHASHADNIM	21.8	+39.7%	3,075	33.0x	0.5x
MIRAKHTER	38.0	+39.2%	4,589	28.1x	0.7x
CITYBANK	26.6	+25.4%	46,534	3.2x	0.7x
PIONEERINS	59.2	+25.2%	5,790	12.1x	1.2x
POWERGRID	32.7	+22.5%	29,881	7.4x	0.2x
GHAIL	12.9	+21.7%	2,784	NM	1.1x
BXPHERMA	123.2	+20.7%	54,961	8.6x	1.1x
EGEN	23.6	+19.2%	1,770	32.3x	1.0x
CONFIDCEM	58.3	+18.5%	5,029	5.5x	0.6x

*BDT

*BDT Mn

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,482.5	1,489.3	1,367.20	-0.45%	+8.43%
NBFI	969.0	931.8	860.23	+4.00%	+12.65%
Mutual Fund	529.0	517.8	478.27	+2.17%	+10.61%
General Insurance	3,626.0	3,542.3	2,879.11	+2.36%	+25.94%
Life Insurance	1,809.2	1,772.1	1,691.42	+2.10%	+6.96%
Telecommunication	4,304.4	4,368.3	4,431.51	-1.46%	-2.87%
Pharmaceutical	2,968.9	2,974.9	2,764.29	-0.20%	+7.40%
Fuel & Power	1,041.2	1,037.2	996.11	+0.39%	+4.53%
Cement	1,824.5	1,858.0	1,739.18	-1.80%	+4.91%
Services & Real Estate	1,008.5	1,006.3	949.82	+0.21%	+6.18%
Engineering	2,463.8	2,430.5	2,290.78	+1.37%	+7.55%
Food & Allied	12,129.1	12,248.9	12,942.72	-0.98%	-6.29%
IT	2,179.0	2,085.7	1,703.25	+4.48%	+27.93%
Textile	1,182.7	1,160.4	1,060.76	+1.93%	+11.50%
Paper & Printing	4,442.6	4,421.7	4,485.61	+0.47%	-0.96%
Tannery	2,050.1	1,987.5	1,806.05	+3.15%	+13.51%
Jute	11,792.2	11,126.3	11,805.57	+5.99%	-0.11%
Ceramics	433.4	424.7	370.10	+2.04%	+17.10%
Miscellaneous	3,925.6	3,929.8	3,881.56	-0.11%	+1.14%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	681.5	1,119.6	-39.13%	+8.87%	7.2x	0.7x
NBFI	68.7	77.7	-11.56%	+0.89%	NM	1.0x
Mutual Fund	198.5	118.8	+67.06%	+2.58%	NM	0.5x
General Insurance	1,045.1	821.0	+27.30%	+13.60%	16.7x	1.5x
Life Insurance	232.8	228.9	+1.69%	+3.03%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	69.5	107.3	-35.25%	+0.90%	11.6x	3.3x
Pharmaceutical	887.7	1,080.3	-17.83%	+11.56%	10.7x	1.5x
Fuel & Power	234.3	336.2	-30.32%	+3.05%	8.8x	0.6x
Cement	32.3	50.7	-36.23%	+0.42%	19.9x	1.9x
Services & Real Estate	168.1	135.4	+24.21%	+2.19%	21.4x	0.4x
Engineering	1,025.1	1,123.0	-8.72%	+13.34%	14.1x	0.8x
Food & Allied	632.3	498.9	+26.75%	+8.23%	37.3x	3.3x
IT	323.9	253.6	+27.74%	+4.22%	33.5x	1.7x
Textile	954.4	929.1	+2.72%	+12.42%	NM	0.8x
Paper & Printing	153.6	151.4	+1.46%	+2.00%	NM	1.4x
Tannery	213.0	155.5	+36.93%	+2.77%	NM	1.5x
Jute	22.7	16.3	+39.29%	+0.30%	NM	1.6x
Ceramics	396.4	268.1	+47.82%	+5.16%	NM	1.3x
Miscellaneous	341.9	399.0	-14.31%	+4.45%	93.6x	1.6x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
BATBC	214.0	-13.9%	115,560	24.3x	2.1x
LINDEBD	653.6	-12.9%	9,947	26.6x	3.0x
UCB	9.1	-12.5%	14,108	50.6x	0.4x
TRUSTBANK	15.6	-9.8%	15,508	5.7x	0.5x
HEIDELBCEM	198.8	-8.0%	11,233	NM	2.7x
GP	238.8	-7.4%	322,452	10.8x	5.1x
SINGERBD	79.6	-5.8%	7,936	NM	NM
SQUARETEXT	45.8	-5.6%	9,034	12.4x	0.8x
UNILEVERCL	2,032.1	-5.5%	39,167	50.4x	16.6x
UNIQUEHRL	36.8	-3.7%	10,834	7.3x	0.4x

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

Fitch cuts Bangladesh outlook to negative

- Fitch Ratings has revised Bangladesh's credit outlook to "Negative" from "Stable", citing rising external vulnerabilities, weak reforms, banking sector fragility, and governance weaknesses. While affirming Bangladesh's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating at "B+", Fitch warned of increased medium-term risks.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/299678/fitch-cuts-bangladesh-outlook-to-negative>

Govt Sukuk oversubscribed twelve times

- Investors submitted bids worth BDT 726 Bn against only BDT 59.0 Bn worth of Bangladesh government Sukuk bonds auctioned on Tuesday, making the offering oversubscribed by around 12 times. The strong demand reflects growing preference for risk-free investments amid weak private sector confidence.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/299675/govt-sukuk-oversubscribed-twelve-times>

NBR plans wealth tax revival

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) is set to place a series of tax proposals before Prime Minister, including reintroducing a wealth tax, doubling the tax on export cash incentives, and imposing a new advance tax on some vehicles in the upcoming fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/nbr-plans-wealth-tax-revival-4175161>

Govt undertakes BDT 20.28 Bn railway rehabilitation project to modernise western zone rail network

- The government has undertaken a major initiative to rehabilitate and maintain critical railway infrastructure in Bangladesh Railway's western zone. The move aims to ensure safer and faster train movement while improving passenger, freight, and regional rail connectivity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-undertakes-tk2028cr-railway-rehabilitation-project-modernise-western-zone-rail>

Govt approves BDT 343.47 Bn Padma Barrage Project

- The barrage, which has an estimated price tag of BDT 504.43 Bn at Rajbari's Pangsha, will store around 2,900 million cubic metres of water to strengthen water management in the south-western region.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/govt-approves-tk34347cr-padma-barrage-project-1437876>

Govt under heavy pressure from LNG subsidies

- Subsidy demand for just the first two months after the conflict started equals to the BDT 80 Bn allocated for the whole fiscal year. Finance Division officials said that as invoices for spot market LNG must be paid within 15 to 17 days of delivery, subsidy payments have to be released quickly.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-under-heavy-pressure-lng-subsidies-1438696>

BANK | BB cuts penal interest on overdue loans

- Bangladesh Bank has reduced the maximum penal interest rate on overdue loans and loan instalments to 0.5% from 1.5% to support investment and boost productivity amid ongoing global economic challenges.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-cuts-penal-interest-overdue-loans-4175121>

BANK | Banks ride Treasury gains to stronger Q1 profits

- While interest income grew during the period, interest payments to depositors and lenders also jumped due to higher deposit rates, squeezing net interest income. In such a situation, higher gains from T-bonds and T-bills offset the decline in net interest income and boosted lenders' profits.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/banks-ride-treasury-gains-to-stronger-q1-profits-1778689788>

BANK | No more bank-funded training for BB staff

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has imposed new restrictions on its officials' participation in training sessions, seminars, symposiums, and workshops organised or funded by banks, financial institutions, and other entities, aiming to strengthen transparency in the financial sector and prevent conflicts of interest.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/no-more-bank-funded-training-bb-staff-4175151>

TELECOM | Scrap SIM taxes, VAT on spectrum fees

- The GSMA, a global association of mobile operators, has urged Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue (NBR) to withdraw the 7.5% VAT imposed on spectrum payments and abolish SIM-related taxes in its proposals for the upcoming FY2026-27 national budget.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/pharma-sector-faces-post-ldc-challenges-4175156>

Tax on export incentives may double in upcoming budget

- The National Board of Revenue is weighing doubling the source tax on export cash incentives provided by the government from 10% to 20% in the upcoming national budget, according to officials at the Ministry of Finance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/tax-export-incentives-may-double-upcoming-budget-1437491>

ADB to provide USD 100 Mn loan to strengthen Universal Pension Scheme: Khosru

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pledged a USD 100 Mn loan to strengthen Bangladesh's Universal Pension Scheme, with a feasibility study on the initiative currently underway, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said today (12 May).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adb-pledge-100m-loan-strengthen-universal-pension-scheme-khosru-1437361>

Business leaders seek default classification after 6 months of overdue, lending rates cut to 12%

- Business leaders have demanded that overdue loans be classified as defaults after six months instead of three months. They also called for bank lending rates to be reduced to 11%-12%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/business-leaders-urge-six-month-loan-overdue-period-lower-lending-rates-12-1437366>

Another ship carrying 100,000 tonnes of crude oil to arrive at Ctg Port

- The ship, named 'MT Fossil', is carrying 100,000 tonnes of crude oil and departed for Chattogram on Monday evening, Bangladesh time.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/another-ship-carrying-100000-tonnes-crude-oil-arrive-ctg-port-1437316>

Govt eyes pension coverage for all families by 2030

- Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury directed authorities to work towards bringing at least one member from each of the country's nearly 4 crore families under the Universal Pension Scheme (UPS) by 2030.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-eyes-pension-coverage-all-families-2030-4174301>

Govt may raise excise duty-free deposit limit to BDT 0.5 Mn

- In order to provide relief to small savers, the government is likely to raise the excise duty exemption threshold for bank deposits in the upcoming budget for fiscal year 2026-27.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-may-raise-excise-duty-free-deposit-limit-tk-5-lakh-4174311>

Bangladesh Bank buys USD 145 Mn from banks in May to bolster reserves

- The central bank bought USD 20 Mn from a commercial bank on Tuesday at a rate of BDT 122.75 per dollar, according to officials.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladesh-bank-buys-145-million-from-banks-in-may-to-bolster-reserves>

Govt to buy 20 million litres of palm oil for TCB sales

- The Ministry of Finance said in an advisory on Tuesday that the oil would be purchased in 2-litre PET bottles from two domestic bidding companies through a local open tender (national) system.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-to-buy-20-million-litres-of-palm-oil-for-tcb-sales>

Remittance inflow grows 41.7% in 1st 11 days of May

- The country's remittance inflow grew 41.7% year-on-year to USD 1,280 Mn in the first 11 days of May, according to the latest Bangladesh Bank data.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/remittance-inflow-grows-417pc-in-1st-11-days-of-may>

NBFI | Five troubled financial firms approved for shutdown as govt pledges funds

- The Bangladesh Bank board has given preliminary approval to shut down or liquidate five non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) heavily burdened by defaulted loans, with operations expected to begin from July after funding assurances in the upcoming national budget.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/five-troubled-financial-firms-approved-shutdown-govt-pledges-funds-1437511>

BB buys USD 45 Mn from commercial bank

- Bangladesh Bank purchased USD 45 Mn from a commercial bank as part of its ongoing efforts to manage the foreign exchange market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-buys-45m-commercial-bank-1436461>

BANK | 39 banks launch USD 35 Mn venture capital to boost Bangladesh startups

- The Bangladesh Startup Investment Company (BSIC), a venture capital platform formed by 39 commercial banks, plans to invest from its inaugural USD 35 Mn fund in at least three firms over the next four months, according to officials involved in the process.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/startup-investment-company-eyes-35m-funding-three-firms-four-months-1436961>

IMF conditions not suitable for Bangladesh's economy: Finance minister

- Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has said the conditions attached by the International Monetary Fund under its loan agreement are "not suitable" for Bangladesh's economy or its people.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-conditions-not-suitable-bangladeshs-economy-finance-minister-1436526>

Govt plans duty-free raw material imports

- Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury on Monday said imported raw materials meant for export-oriented industries would be made duty-free to boost the country's export competitiveness. He also told that any raw materials imported for export purposes must be duty-free.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-plans-duty-free-raw-material-imports-1778520489>

Forex reserves above USD 34 Bn despite rising ACU payments

- Bangladesh's external account looks stable with gross foreign-exchange reserves standing above USD 34 Bn despite deferred import payment through the Asian Clearing Unit (ACU), official statistics show.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/forex-reserves-above-34b-despite-rising-acu-payments>

BB launches BDT 10.0 Bn special fund for sustainability of local industries

- The Bangladesh Bank has formed a special refinancing fund worth BDT 10.0 Bn with the aim of building an environmentally friendly and sustainable industrial infrastructure within the country.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-allocates-tk-10b-green-transformation-fund-for-rural-industries>

2nd Padma Bridge planned at Daulatdia-Paturia

- The government is planning to construct a second Padma bridge to be located at the Daulatdia-Paturia point, with the feasibility study for the project already completed.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/2nd-padma-bridge-planned-at-daulatdia-paturia>

Govt plans to privatise state-run silk factories for revival, says PM

- The government is considering handing over state-owned silk factories to the private sector to revive Rajshahi's traditional silk industry, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/govt-plans-to-privatise-state-run-silk-factories-for-revival-says-pm>

Brent rises to USD 104

- Brent crude futures climbed 2.67% to USD 103.99 a barrel. West Texas Intermediate was at USD 97.66 a barrel, up 2.35%. They rose to USD 105.99 and USD 100.37 a barrel, respectively, earlier in the session.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/brent-rises-104-4173406>

BANK | Banks cleared to launch 'e-loan' up to BDT 50,000

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has allowed scheduled banks to launch fully digital "e-loan" services of up to BDT 50,000, stepping up efforts to widen financial inclusion and support the transformation towards digital transactions.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/banks-cleared-launch-e-loan-tk-50000-4173236>

BANK | Foreign trade financing to get cheaper as BB caps charges

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has lowered the all-in-cost ceiling on short-term trade finance to the benchmark rate plus 3.0% from 4.0%. The new ceiling will also apply to export bill discounting and early export payments.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/short-term-trade-finance-in-foreign-currency>

Next BDT 3.0 Tn ADP gets final shape today

- A BDT 3.0 Tn Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the next fiscal year is getting final consideration with several-fold increases in education and health allocations with the focus on human-capital development.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/next-BDT-30t-adp-gets-final-shape-today>

BANK | Bank owners seek refinance liquidity support by easing 20% NPL cap, lower provisioning

- The Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB) has urged the central bank to relax eligibility criteria for refinance schemes by removing restrictions on banks with high non-performing loans and reducing provisioning requirements for rescheduled loans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bank-owners-sseek-refinance-liquidity-support-easing-20-npl-cap-lower-provisioning>

BANK | BAB opposes allowing former owners to reclaim banks

- The Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB) has called for a reconsideration of provisions in the Bank Resolution Act, saying that allowing former owners to regain control of troubled lenders through a limited upfront payment could raise concerns over accountability and governance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-aims-raise-tourisms-gdp-contribution-6-7-minister-1429006>

RMG | Garment exporters press for uninterrupted power, customs reforms

- Garment exporters urged the government to ensure uninterrupted power and energy supply, quick release of export receipts from banks, reopening of closed factories, and easing of customs rules.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/garment-exporters-press-uninterrupted-power-customs-reforms-4173481>

Govt to buy 3 more spot LNG cargoes by mid-June

- State-run Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) has floated tenders to purchase the three LNG cargoes. If the tenders are successful, Bangladesh's total spot LNG purchases this year will rise to 22 cargoes, of which 20 were bought after the outbreak of the Middle East conflict. The country last awarded three spot LNG cargoes for late-May delivery windows to BP at USD 16.83-16.90 per MMBtu.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-to-buy-3-more-spot-lng-cargoes-by-mid-june-1778433758>

T-bill yields show mixed movement

- The cut-off yield on the 91-day T-bills rose to 10.19% on the day from 10.17% previously, 182-day T-bills unchanged at 10.50%, while the rate on 364-day T-bills edged down to 10.67% from 10.69% earlier.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/t-bill-yields-show-mixed-movement-1778433929>

Megaproject worth BDT 334.75 Bn ready for ECNEC endorsement

- A megaproject for building the Padma Barrage with an estimated cost of BDT 334.75 Bn is ready to go for endorsement at the next ECNEC meeting, officials say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/megaproject-worth-BDT-33475b-ready-for-ecne-endorsement-1778434146>

Bangladesh beats China to book second slot

- According to the latest data released by the Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) under the US Department of Commerce, Bangladesh exported apparel worth USD 2.04 Bn to the US market during January-March 2026, surpassing China's exports of USD 1.70 Bn during the period.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-beats-china-to-book-second-slot-1778434468>

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-fails-capture-chinas-lost-us-apparel-market-share-despite-tariff-shifts-1435506>

Large manufacturing output shrinks nearly 10%

- Bangladesh's large-scale manufacturing sector contracted sharply in February, weighed down mainly by a steep decline in garment production amid election-related disruptions and subdued export orders. The sector contracted by 9.74% in February of FY26 YoY.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/large-manufacturing-output-shrinks-nearly-10-per-cent-1778433063>

Forex reserves above USD 34 Bn despite rising ACU payments

- As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s BPM 6, the reserves fell to USD 29.48 Bn during the period under review from USD 30.96 Bn, according to the central bank's latest data.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/forex-reserves-above-34b-despite-rising-acu-payments-1778433151>

Returns on forex reserve investments at 6-yr high

- The Bangladesh Bank says income from reserve investments stood at USD 639.53 Mn during FY25 while the country's gross foreign-exchange reserves amounted to USD 31.8 Bn as of June 30, 2025.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/returns-on-forex-reserve-investments-at-6-yr-high-1778346167>

Japanese EZ shows early promise as investment flows in

- The Bangladesh Special Economic Zone is emerging as a manufacturing hub, with swift land handover and private-sector efficiency attracting investments. Three of the 12 companies already in the zone are in production, with rising interest in electronics, packaging, chemicals, and engineering.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/japanese-ez-shows-early-promise-investment-flows-4172526>

BANK | Sammilito Islami Bank sees fresh momentum

- The government has begun interviewing candidates for the post of managing director, signaling renewed movement in the operations of the newly merged Islamic bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/sammilito-islami-bank-sees-fresh-momentum-1778434337>

RMG | BGMEA, GIZ to work for sustainable transformation

- Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and GIZ signed an agreement, effective from May 2026 to February 2028, to work on sustainable transformation of the country's ready-made garment sector. The BGMEA and GIZ. The partnership will focus on preparing factories to meet new European Union market requirements, including supply chain due diligence, traceability, circularity and decarbonisation.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/apparel/299374/bgmea-giz-to-work-for-sustainable-transformation>

TEXTILE | Bangladesh should now explore premium wool market: Hatem

- BKMEA President said Bangladesh's knitwear sector has built strong global credibility over the years, particularly in cotton-based products, and now should now explore premium and differentiated product categories, including wool and wool-rich knitwear.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/knitwear-sector-eyes-premium-wool-market-woolmark-1435391>

TELECOM | Broadband sector set for major overhaul

- Bangladesh is preparing a massive overhaul of the broadband internet sector in decades, as the government moves to dismantle a complex licensing regime, introduce a reseller model and attract foreign investment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/broadband-sector-set-major-overhaul-4172536>

TELECOM | BTRC announces 'unfiltered' data facility for Starlink

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has announced that satellite internet provider Starlink will be granted an "unfiltered" data facility for data transit in Bangladesh, signalling a significant shift in the country's evolving internet governance framework.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/btrc-announces-unfiltered-data-facility-for-starlink-1778430262>

Family Card beneficiaries to rise to 4.1 Mn in FY27

- The government has decided to expand the Family Card programme to 4.1 Mn beneficiaries from FY27 as part of its broader effort to strengthen the social-safety net as per the ruling party's pre-election pledges.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/family-card-beneficiaries-to-rise-to-4.1m-in-fy27>

BB issues unified guidelines for outward remittances

- Bangladesh Bank issued a consolidated circular, introducing a unified regulatory framework for governing outward remittances related to transportation services. The new directive aims to streamline foreign exchange operations, enhance compliance clarity, and reduce procedural fragmentation across multiple earlier instructions.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bb-issues-unified-guidelines-for-outward-remittances>

WB tags revoking of the Bank Resolution Act amendments

- The new government's move to give back the troubled banks to the former owners, who allegedly looted billions from the banks, has seriously irked the IMF and the World Bank, according to officials.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/wb-tags-revoking-of-the-bank-resolution-act-amendments-1>

BR to buy 30 locomotives with AIIB support

- The government is set to procure 30 railway engines with financial support from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to strengthen the fleet of Bangladesh Railway (BR). Under the plan, 30 diesel-electric locomotives for metre-gauge tracks will be procured at an estimated cost of BDT 28.28 Bn. Of the total, BDT 19.99 Bn is expected to come from AIIB loans, while the rest will be financed by the government.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/br-to-buy-30-locomotives-with-aiib-support-1778346204>

Negotiation on comprehensive co-op deal with UAE begins tomorrow

- Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are opening negotiations on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) deal for expanding bilateral trade and investment.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/negotiation-on-comprehensive-co-op-deal-with-uae-begins-tomorrow>

Bangladesh moves to sign FTA with S Korea

- The Commerce Minister said Bangladesh is moving forward with discussions to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with South Korea to boost exports and strengthen bilateral trade ties. Bangladesh exports USD 600 Mn and imports USD 2.4 Bn with South Korea, mainly apparel in exports and petroleum, pesticides, and iron products in imports.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bangladesh-moves-to-sign-fta-with-s-korea-1778346708>

BANK | Rescheduling shows gains but pushes banking stress into future

- Bankers and economists said that although the financial indicators show a massive improvement in performance, the so-called gains carry serious risks as banks deferred interest payments for two years by locking bad loans under a long-term rescheduling policy spanning 10 years, including a two-year grace period.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/rescheduling-shows-gains-pushes-banking-stress-future-1434596>

BANK | Startup investment co launching on May 12

- The Bangladesh Startup Investment Company (BSIC), owned by 39 commercial banks, will officially be launched next Tuesday with no final decision on using foreign bank funds. It will start with BDT 4.25 Bn paid-up capital out of BDT 20 Bn authorised capital, with representation from major banks on its board.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/startup-investment-co-launching-on-may-12>

TELECOM | Number of mobile, internet subscribers rise

- Bangladesh saw a moderate recovery in mobile and internet subscriptions in March 2026 after months of decline. Mobile subscribers rose to 186.06 Mn in March, while mobile internet users rebounded to 114.85 Mn after a dip in February.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/telecom/299264/number-of-mobile-internet-subscribers-rise>

PHARMA | 65% of healthcare needs unmet as out-of-pocket costs soar: BIDS

- Nearly two-thirds of Bangladeshis who needed healthcare in 2024 could not access it, largely due to high out-of-pocket costs, according to a BIDS study. It found households spent an average of BDT 3,454 per month on healthcare, with medicines and diagnostics as the main cost drivers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/65-healthcare-needs-unmet-out-pocket-costs-soar-bids-4170346>

PORT | Bida proposes 80% off-dock unloading to ease Ctg Port congestion

- Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has proposed gradually allowing 80% of import goods to be cleared through private Inland Container Depots (ICDs), in a move aimed at reducing congestion at Chattogram Port and improving logistics efficiency. According to BIDA, both import and export activities are largely handled through off-docks in most countries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-proposes-80-dock-unloading-ease-ctg-port-congestion-1433786>

CONSUMER DURABLES | ACs, refrigerators may become costlier in FY27

- The government is considering withdrawing concessional import facilities for raw materials used in refrigerators and air-conditioner manufacturing in the FY27 budget, which could raise prices and pressure local industries. VAT on these appliances was already doubled to 15% in the FY26 budget from 7.5%.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/acs-refrigerators-may-become-costlier-in-fy27>

NBFI | Near entire loans of 8 NBFIs now defaulted

- Default loan ratios of FAS Finance, People's Leasing and Financial Services, International Leasing and Financial Services, Aviva Finance, Union Capital, Fareast Finance, Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company and GSP Finance ranged 95%-100% as of December 31, 2025. Bangladesh Bank data showed that classified loans of 30 NBFIs stood at BDT 232.64 Bn in Dec'25 against their total outstanding loans of BDT 569.74 Bn.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/banking/299256/near-entire-loans-of-8-nbfis-now-defaulted>

ENERGY | Govt approves draft offshore PSC to boost oil, gas exploration

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Thursday approved the draft of 'Bangladesh Offshore Model Production Sharing Contract (PSC) 2026' aimed at accelerating offshore oil and gas exploration in the country.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-approves-draft-offshore-psc-to-boost-oil-gas-exploration>

Important News: Stocks

REGULATOR | New guidelines on capital increase, dividend account in capital market

- According to the new decision, the requirement for jointly holding 30% shares in regulator-reconstituted boards will no longer hinder capital raising. It also allows 'A' category listed banks to maintain dividend accounts in their own banks.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/stock/410159/bsec-new-guidelines-on-capital-increase-dividend>

BRACBANK | bKash reports BDT 1.84 Bn profit in Jan-Mar

- bKash Limited has reported a 40% increase in net profit, reaching BDT 1.84 Bn, as revenue continued to grow strongly across successive quarters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bkash-reports-tk184cr-profit-jan-mar-1438551>

EBL | EBL posts 28% profit growth in Q1

- Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) posted a 28% YoY rise in consolidated profit in Q12026, driven by strong investment income, higher foreign exchange earnings and lower provisioning expenses.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/eb1-posts-28-profit-growth-q1-4175091>

EXCHANGE | Central bank to overhaul tax certificate rule for foreign investors

- The central bank has assured the prime bourse that the requirement for foreign investors to obtain a tax certificate after each executed sale order will be withdrawn to attract overseas investment. The current rule is seen as hindering reinvestment of foreign funds after sales.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/central-bank-to-overhaul-tax-certificate-rule-for-foreign-investors-1778511839>

BEXIMCO | Beximco sukuk's tenure proposed for 6-year extension to avert default

- A high-powered committee led by the Bangladesh Bank has recommended extending the maturity of Beximco Ltd's BDT 30.0 Bn green sukuk by six years to 2032, instead of its scheduled maturity in December 2026, to avoid a potential default and protect institutional investors heavily exposed to the instrument.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/beximco-sukuks-tenure-proposed-6-year-extension-avert-default-1435531>

UNITEDFIN | United Finance posts 31% growth in Q1 profit

- United Finance PLC has reported a strong start to the 2026 financial year, with its net profit after tax surging by 31% during the first quarter of the year ending 31 March.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/unity-finance-posts-31-growth-q1-profit-1438556>

FORTUNE | Fortune Shoes officials fined BDT 72 Mn

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has fined the chairman, directors and several officials of Fortune Shoes Limited a total of Tk 7.2 crore for failing to distribute declared dividends.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fortune-shoes-officials-fined-tk-72cr-4175146>

BRACBANK | BRAC Bank's profit grows 44% to BDT 6950 Mn in first quarter

- According to the bank's price-sensitive statement, its consolidated EPS rose to BDT 2.90 in Q1 from BDT 2.02 a year earlier. The profit growth was driven by higher interest and investment income along with strong performance from subsidiaries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brac-banks-profit-grows-44-tk695cr-first-quarter-1437561>

PREMIERBAN | Exporters may not even be aware of LCs opened in their names, says BKMEA chief

- For many garment exporters linked to the BDT 105.00 Bn Premier Bank scandal, the shock may not be the fraud itself, but the discovery that it was carried out in their name, without their knowledge.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/corruption/premier-bank-scandal-exporters-may-not-even-be-aware-lcs-opened-their-names>

EXCHANGE | BSEC conversion guidelines trigger surge in mutual funds

- Mutual funds rallied strongly on May 10 after the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) issued detailed guidelines for converting closed-end mutual funds into open-end structures, raising investors' expectations of improved liquidity and potential valuation gains.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-conversion-guidelines-trigger-surge-mutual-funds-1435441>

LHB | LafargeHolcim Bangladesh posts BDT 1120 Mn profit in Q1

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh reported a net profit after tax of BDT 1120 Mn for the first quarter ended 31 March 2026, marking a 19% decline from the BDT 1391 Mn recorded in the same period last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/lafargeholcim-bangladesh-posts-tk112cr-profit-q1-marking-19-decline-1437421>

BRACBANK | BRAC Bank's second subordinated bond debut on DSE's ATB platform

- BRAC Bank's second subordinated bond started trading on the Alternative Trading Board (ATB) platform of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today (12 May), marking another step in the country's bond market expansion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brac-banks-second-subordinated-bond-debut-dses-atb-platform-1437396>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank's bad loans soar 44% to record BDT 943.22 Bn in 2025

- In a stark revelation of the deep-rooted financial distress within the country's largest private sector lender, Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC has reported that its classified loans skyrocketed by 44% to reach a staggering BDT 943.22 Bn at the end of 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/islami-banks-bad-loans-soar-44-record-tk94322cr-2025-1436476>

BRACBANK | Brac Bank digital onboarding opens 50,000 SME accounts

- Brac Bank's Digital Onboarding platform is rapidly reshaping how small and medium enterprises access banking services in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/corporates/brac-bank-digital-onboarding-opens-50000-sme-accounts-1435296>

EXCHANGE | Pressure grows on BSEC to allow loan clearance with IPO proceeds

- Amid liquidity stress in banks due to high bad loans and repayment pressure from elevated interest rates, entrepreneurs and bank officials urged the regulator to withdraw restrictions on using IPO proceeds to repay loans and rescheduled loans.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/pressure-grows-on-bsec-to-allow-loan-clearance-with-ipo-proceeds-1778341334>

EXCHANGE | BSEC, CSE step up efforts to launch commodity derivatives market

- The securities regulator and the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) are intensifying efforts to launch a commodity derivatives market, aiming to diversify the capital market, which heavily relies on equities.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bsec-cse-step-up-efforts-to-launch-commodity-derivatives-market-1778428645>

SONARBAINS | Sonar Bangla Insurance declares 10% dividend as earnings surge 245%

- The board of directors of Sonar Bangla Insurance Limited has recommended a 10% dividend, comprising 5% cash and 5% stock, for the financial year ended 31 December 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sonar-bangla-insurance-declares-10-dividend-earnings-surge-245-1435446>

EXCHANGE | Textile firms struggle as yarn prices, demand weaken

- Falling yarn prices, weak global demand, and high operating costs have severely hit listed textile firms in 9MFY26. Most of the 58 companies posted lower profits or losses, while knitwear and woven exports fell 6.42% and 4.48% respectively.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/textile-firms-struggle-as-yarn-prices-demand-weaken-1778428627>

DBH | DBH Finance profit up 26pc in Q1, buoyed by higher interest income

- DBH Finance has reported a remarkable 26% year-on-year growth in profit to BDT 196 Mn in the first quarter through March this year, backed by higher net interest income and strong investment earnings.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/dbh-finance-profit-up-26pc-in-q1-buoyed-by-higher-interest-income-1778428784>

EXCHANGE | BSEC sets out rules for converting closed-end mutual funds

- Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has issued a directive setting out how existing closed-end mutual funds can be converted into open-end ones. In an order issued on May 7, the regulator outlined the conversion process.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bsec-sets-out-rules-converting-closed-end-mutual-funds-4171591>

EXCHANGE | DSE seeks safeguards for shareholders in Islamic bank mergers

- Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) urged Bangladesh Bank to protect general shareholders during the merger process of five troubled Islamic banks, warning that investors could lose ownership stakes without fair compensation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-seeks-safeguards-shareholders-islamic-bank-mergers-1434496>

BRACBANK | BRAC Bank's digital onboarding boosts SME banking access

- BRAC Bank PLC's digital onboarding platform is transforming how small and medium enterprises (SMEs) access banking services in Bangladesh by simplifying the account-opening process for entrepreneurs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/brac-banks-digital-onboarding-boosts-sme-banking-access-4171656>

ROBI | Robi profit skyrockets 85% to BDT 2.32 Bn in Q1 on data surge, cost discipline

- Robi Axiata PLC has reported a stellar start to 2026, with its net profit after tax skyrocketing by 85% year-on-year to reach BDT 2.32 Bn in Q1'26. The company said EBITDA grew 21.6% YoY, with the margin improving by 5.9 percentage points, driven by cost discipline.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/robi-posts-85-profit-growth-q1-1432836>

SIBL | Ex-owners unlikely to regain SIBL control as merger continues

- Bangladesh Bank has decided in principle to reject a bid by former owners of Social Islami Bank PLC to reclaim control. The application was deemed inconsistent, lacking sufficient information, and included an unacceptable 10-year repayment proposal.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/ex-owners-unlikely-regain-sibl-control-merger-continues-4170371>

RINGSHINE | Crisis-hit Ring Shine Textiles seeks PM meeting to protect investors

- Some foreign shareholders of Ring Shine Textiles Limited have written to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman seeking a meeting to discuss the company's crisis and request government support to protect public shareholders' interests.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/crisis-hit-ring-shine-textiles-seeks-pm-meeting-protect-investors-1434476>

BSC | Shipping Corp profit falls over 15pc after ship purchase with FDR savings

- Bangladesh Shipping Corporation posted a 15.61% year-on-year decline in profit to BDT 637.60 Mn in Q3 of FY26 as interest income fell following the use of savings from fixed deposits to acquire new ships. Earnings per share slid to BDT 4.08 in the January-March quarter from BDT 4.95 in the same quarter a year earlier.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/shipping-corp-profit-falls-over-15pc-after-ship-purchase-with-fdr-savings-1778341607>

PREMIERBAN | Premier Bank secures BDT 11.44 Bn in fresh deposits in 26 workdays

- Premier Bank has mobilised BDT 11.44 Bn in fresh deposits within 26 working days since April 1 this year under its "Deposit & Recovery Campaign 2026", according to a press release. The bank also reported around BDT 5.23 Bn in cash recovery between January and April 2026.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/premier-bank-secures-tk-1144b-in-fresh-deposits-in-26-workdays>

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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
Foysal 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

Kumaresh Saha	CEO (Acting)	kumaresh@bracepl.com
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FOR SERVICE-RELATED QUERIES, REACH OUT TO

 care@bracepl.com
 Call 16285



Website

www.bracepl.com

Address

Symphony, Plot No. S.E. (F) - 9, Road No
142, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

E-Mail

Research: research@bracepl.com
Sales : ftrader@bracepl.com

Contact

Phone: +88 02 222282446-47
Fax: +88 02 222282452