

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:**Next budget to tighten VAT compliance of businesses**

- The government is preparing a set of sweeping measures in the upcoming national budget to expand the VAT net and improve compliance across the business sector. Policymakers aim to bring more enterprises, particularly those in the informal economy, under the tax system without raising rates.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/next-budget-to-tighten-vat-compliance-of-businesses-1776018036>

BDT 3.0 Bn credit wholesaling scheme launched to boost SME sector

- Commerce and Industry Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir on Sunday said the government has taken a BDT 300 crore (BDT 3 Bn) credit wholesaling program to support the SME sector, which is being channeled to entrepreneurs through around 15 banks and four financial institutions.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/BDT-30-Bn-credit-wholesaling-scheme-launched-to-boost-sme-sector-says-commerce-minister>

Stranded Bangladeshi ships to cross Strait of Hormuz very soon: Iran envoy

- Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi on Sunday said many ships are waiting in the Strait of Hormuz due to the war situation and said he was hopeful that they will be able to cross the Strait 'very soon'.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/stranded-bangladeshi-ships-to-cross-strait-of-hormuz-very-soon-iran-envoy>

Furnace oil price ramped up by BDT 24.59 a litre

- Now the price of furnace oil is hiked, by BDT 24.59 per litre or 35 % to BDT 94.69 from BDT 70.10 a litre, with effect from midnight Sunday. The decision followed proposals from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and oil-marketing companies as well as a public hearing and a detailed review.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/furnace-oil-price-ramped-up-by-BDT2459-a-litre-1776018145>

SME production plunges by 30% as energy crisis, soaring costs hit hard

- Bangladesh's Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector is witnessing a sharp decline in activity, with production down by as much as 30% in recent weeks amid the global energy crisis, rising raw material costs, and frequent load-shedding.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/sme-production-plunges-30-energy-crisis-soaring-costs-hit-hard-1410076>

Inflation outpaces wages for 50 months

- The wage growth rate stood at 8.09% in March, 0.62 percentage points below inflation of 8.71%, according to the Wage Rate Index. In the previous month, the gap between inflation and wage growth was 1.05 percentage points.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/inflation-outpaces-wages-50-months-4150166>

Sector and Industries:

BANKS | Islamic banks' deposits rise 9.4% in Dec

- Deposits in the country's Islamic banking system rose 9.42 % year-on-year to BDT 4.81 Tn at the end of December 2025, marking a rebound in shariah-based banks after years of irregularities and weak governance.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/islamic-banks-deposits-rise-94-dec-4150156>

BANKS | Treasury bill yields rise as govt ramps up bank borrowing

- Treasury bill yields rose over the past week as increased government borrowing from banks, driven by mounting funding needs and weak revenue collection, put upward pressure on short-term interest rates.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/treasury-bill-yields-rise-govt-ramps-bank-borrowing-1409996>

Stocks:

BEXIMCO | Fund crunch hits BEXIMCO's Korotoa solar plant as Sukuk maturity nears

- The completion of BEXIMCO's 30 MW Korotoa Solar Plant has become uncertain due to a funding shortfall, as the central bank and investors have shown reluctance to extend support to the sukuk-issuing company.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/fund-crunch-hits-beximcos-korotoa-solar-plant-as-sukuk-maturity-nears-1776016941>

EXCHANGE | Brokers seek three-month extension for margin rule compliance amid sell-off fears

- The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) has requested a three-month extension from the capital market regulator to comply with newly introduced margin rules, citing concerns that the current April deadline could trigger massive selloffs and further destabilize an already distressed market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brokers-seek-three-month-extension-margin-rule-compliance-amid-sell-fears-1409976>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 105.20	USD 47.77	83.18%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 103.25	USD 42.40	69.68%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,655.88	USD 314.88	7.25%
DSEX	5,271.40	406.06	8.35%
S&P 500	6,816.89	-81.93	-1.19%
FTSE 100	10,600.53	669.15	6.74%
BSE SENSEX	77,550.25	-7,243.33	-8.54%
KSE-100	167,191.38	-6,862.92	-3.94%
CSEALL	22,128.66	-495.65	-2.19%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.72 BDT****1 GBP = 164.31 BDT****1 Euro = 143.24 BDT****1 INR = 1.30 BDT**

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

Analyst Certification: Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

Disclaimer: Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

Compensation of Analysts: The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

General Risk Factors: BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

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
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

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