

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:**US sends list of items, seeking zero duty**

- The US has demanded zero duty facility for a large number of its products from Bangladesh. Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman said the United States Trade Representative (USTR) sent a list of these products to him yesterday via email.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-sends-list-items-seeking-zero-duty-3938481>

External balance continues to improve

- Bangladesh's external balance showed improvement in the first 11 months of the recently concluded fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, owing to higher remittance inflows and a rise in exports. During the July-May period, the overall deficit in the balance of payments stood at USD 1.14 Bn, a fivefold improvement from a deficit of USD 5.88 Bn in the same period the previous year, according to the Bangladesh Bank (BB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/external-balance-continues-improve-3938851>

NBR split certain, ordinance flaws to be fixed

- The National Board of Revenue will certainly be split once the flaws in the ordinance are corrected, said Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, accusing its drafters of "deliberately inserting loopholes" through "trickery"

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-split-certain-ordinance-flaws-be-fixed-3938511>

From fuels to fruits, imports slump on depressed demand

- Chattogram port, which handles nearly 90% of the country's imports, saw not only a decline in consumables but also in capital machinery, iron, steel, and other base metals – items essential for production, infrastructure development, and future investments. Imports of some of Bangladesh's highest revenue-generating goods – from diesel and furnace oil to clinker and fruits – dropped significantly in the just-concluded fiscal year 2024-25, according to Chattogram Custom House data.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fuels-fruits-imports-slump-depressed-demand-1187521>

Call for inclusive reforms in CMSME financing policy

- Small business leaders and experts have called for inclusive reforms to the financing policy for the Cottage, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises sector. At a policy dialogue organized by the Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) and the Bangladesh Bank yesterday, they discussed the CMSME Financing Master Circular 2025, including alternative credit channels, group-based lending, collateral-free loans, extended grace periods, and refinancing schemes for informal, women, and new entrepreneurs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/call-inclusive-reforms-cmsme-financing-policy-1187511>

Dhaka, Washington yet to agree on 20% of US tariff conditions: BGMEA

- Bangladesh and the United States have reached an agreement on 80% of the conditions proposed by Washington, while no consensus has been reached on the remaining 20% during the second round of tariff negotiation between the two sides, said BGMEA President Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/two-countries-yet-agree-20-us-tariff-conditions-bgmea-1186351>

Import revenue from US goods drops 11% in amid LNG duty waiver

- Bangladesh's import revenue from United States-origin goods fell by 11.41 % in the just-concluded fiscal year 2024-25, largely due to a government tax waiver on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) -- the country's second-largest import item from the US. In FY25, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) collected BDT 13.27 Bn in import duties from over 1,200 US-origin items, down from BDT 14.98 Bn the previous fiscal year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/import-revenue-from-us-goods-drops-11pc-in-amid-lng-duty-waiver-1752430008>

FDI surges despite economic headwinds

- Net foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bangladesh has risen by 114.34% in the first three months of 2025 compared to the same period last year, according to Bangladesh Bank data. According to the central bank, total foreign investment inflows stood at USD 1.58 Bn from January to March this year, reports bdnews24.com.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/fdi-surges-despite-economic-headwinds-1752428115>

Sector & Industries:**NBFI | 20 non-banks on BB red list**

- Twenty non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) have been placed in the "red" category by the central bank, as their loan exposures exceed three times the value of the collateral they hold. Although there is no rule of thumb on how much collateral must be secured against a loan, Bangladesh Bank (BB) officials said most lenders usually require security equal to or greater than the loan amount to protect against default risk.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/20-non-banks-bb-red-list-3938816>

TRADE | Container handling rises at New Mooring terminal after Navy takeover

- Container handling at the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) of Chattogram Port increased in the first week of operational management by Chittagong Dry Dock Limited (CDDL), Bangladesh's sole dry dock currently operating under the Bangladesh Navy. Until yesterday, the terminal recorded an average of 3,181 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) handled per day, compared to 2,956 TEUs daily during the previous seven days when the terminal was managed by Saif Powertec Ltd, according to a statement issued by the Chief Adviser's office.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/top-news/news/container-handling-rises-new-mooring-terminal-after-navy-takeover-3938756>

PHARMACEUTICALS | Govt to finalise handover of API park plots

- The government has moved to complete the process of plot transfers at the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) Industrial Park in Gazaria upazila of Munshiganj, as part of efforts to streamline local API production and reduce import dependence.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-finalise-handover-api-park-plots-3938846>

TEXTILES | Apparel exports to US rose 14% in FY25

- Bangladesh's garment exporters registered the highest growth in shipments to the United States (US) in the just-concluded 2024-25 fiscal year, thanks to the shifting of work orders from other countries, mainly China.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/apparel-exports-us-rose-14-fy25-3938066>

INSURANCE | Despite IDRA moves, BDT 71.58 Bn insurance claims remain unpaid

- Despite numerous initiatives by the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA), the country's insurance sector is burdened with a staggering BDT 71.58 Bn in unpaid claims as of the end of March this year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/despite-idra-moves-tk7158cr-insurance-claims-remain-unpaid-1187446>

FUEL & POWER | Eight new gas wells to be drilled

- The government is to drill eight new gas wells - five in Bhola and the rest in three other districts - in a bid to ramp up domestic gas production and reduce dependence on costly imports, officials said. This will be done under two proposed projects with a combined estimated cost of BDT 28.28 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/eight-new-gas-wells-to-be-drilled-1752430072>

BANK | BB asks banks to follow URC documentary collection for transparent contract-based trade

- The Bangladesh Bank has directed banks to adhere to international rules and regulations in import-export transactions based on sales contracts. As per earlier instructions, banks are required to comply with the Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits (UCP 600) for all Letters of Credit (LC)-based transactions – for both imports and exports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-asks-banks-follow-urc-documentary-collection-transparent-contract-based-trade>

Stocks:**GIB | Global Islami Bank to propose no dividend for 2023 as audit finds heavy losses**

- Global Islami Bank has decided to propose no dividend for 2023 to its shareholders, replacing the previously recommended 5% stock dividend and 5% cash dividend.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/global-islami-bank-propose-no-dividend-2023-audit-finds-heavy-losses-1187506>

ICB | Swiss investor threatens to sue BB over ICB Islamic Bank share

- ICB Financial Group Holdings AG has threatened to initiate legal proceedings against the Bangladesh Bank (BB) in the international court for allegedly breaching a 2008 agreement and failing to safeguard its investment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/swiss-investor-threatens-sue-bb-over-icb-islamic-bank-share-3938821>

BANKASIA | Bank Asia auctions assets of Partex Coal to recoup BDT 1 Bn in defaulted loans

- Due to the rising NPL, Bank Asia had to keep higher provisions amounting to BDT 10.76 Bn in 2024, which was 58% higher than the previous year. As part of a strong recovery drive, Bank Asia has put the mortgaged assets of Partex Coal, a concern of Partex Group, on auction to recover default loans of over BDT 1 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bank-asia-auctions-assets-partex-coal-recoup-tk100cr-defaulted-loans-1187466>

NCCBANK | NCC Bank director to buy its 1 Mn shares

- Syed Asif Nizamuddin, director of NCC Bank, has announced to buy 1 Mn shares of the bank within the next 30 days to strengthen his existing holdings. On the day, NCC Bank shares ended 1.92% lower at BDT 10.20 on the Dhaka bourse.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ncc-bank-director-buy-its-10-lakh-shares-1187411>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 68.55	(USD 2.88)	-4.03%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 70.47	(USD 3.92)	-5.27%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,358.01	USD 749.53	28.73%
DSEX	5,066.44	-150.01	-2.88%
S&P 500	6,259.75	352.81	5.97%
FTSE 100	8,941.12	820.11	10.10%
BSE SENSEX	82,500.47	4,300.54	5.50%
KSE-100	134,299.77	19,040.77	16.52%
CSEALL	18,541.26	2,596.65	16.29%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.59 BDT****1 GBP = 163.82 BDT****1 Euro = 141.94 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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