

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:**Four-tier plan taken up to reform fragile financial sector**

- Finance Minister has said that the government has taken a four-tier, targeted plan to reform the country's fragile financial sector and restore economic stability. A medium-term macroeconomic framework up to the 2028-29 fiscal year has been approved, coordinating monetary and fiscal policies. Bangladesh Bank would provide special support to importers and general businesses facing capital shortages due to the depreciation of the taka. He added that targets for money supply and private-sector credit growth for FY27 have been reset in line with economic growth.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/four-tier-plan-taken-up-to-reform-fragile-financial-sector-1776793388>

US will indefinitely extend ceasefire, unclear if Iran agrees

- US President Donald Trump said he would indefinitely extend the ceasefire with Iran to allow for further peace talks, although it was not clear on Wednesday if Iran or Israel, the US ally in the two-month war, would agree. Trump also said he would continue the US Navy's blockade of Iran's trade by sea, considered an act of war by Iran.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/world/us-israel-war-iran/news/us-will-indefinitely-extend-ceasefire-unclear-if-iran-agrees-4157496>

Govt clears purchase of 175,000 tonnes of fuel oil

- The government approved direct purchase of 175,000 tonnes of diesel and octane from two suppliers, bypassing the standard tender process as concerns deepen over Gulf supply disruptions caused by the US-Israeli war on Iran.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-clears-purchase-175-lakh-tonnes-fuel-oil-4157311>

Missed targets: NBR needs BDT 2.6 Tn by June to avoid shortfall

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) fell short of its 9MFY26 tax collection target by nearly BDT 1 Tn, leaving it needing to mobilise over BDT 2.60 Tn in Q4FY26. Provisional data showed collections of BDT 2.87 Tn during July-March, an 11% rise year-on-year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/missed-targets-nbr-needs-tk-26-lakh-crore-june-avoid-shortfall-4157306>

LC settlement drops by 26.6% in March

- Banks settled LC payments worth USD 4.66 Bn in March, compared to USD 6.35 Bn during the same period last year, indicating a decline in imports. LC (letter of credit) settlements declined by 26.6% in March this year due to a slowdown in new business and investment in the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/lc-settlement-drops-266-march-1416976>

No more tax holiday extensions: NBR

- The government is moving to phase out long-standing tax holidays, signalling a shift towards a more uniform and compliance-driven tax regime. The focus is now on ensuring that all businesses contribute, rather than relying on exemptions, to attract investment, officials say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/no-more-tax-holiday-extensions-nbr-1776792491>

Top USTR official due soon

- Brendan Lynch, assistant US trade representative for South and Central Asia, will visit Bangladesh soon. Trade experts believe that Brendan Lynch may discuss various trade-related issues during the visit, as Bangladesh and the US signed the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade on February 9 this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/top-ustr-official-due-soon-4157296>

Sector and Industries:**TEXTILE | Spinners bleed as troubled banks flout over BDT 30.0 Bn LC obligations**

- Textile millers are suffering mounting losses as more than a dozen troubled banks have failed to settle overdue payments of around BDT 30.0-40.0 Bn against local back-to-back letters of credit (LCs).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/spinners-bleed-troubled-banks-flout-over-tk3000cr-lc-obligations-1418026>

TELECOM | Mobile signals weaken as blackouts, fuel shortages spread

- Telecom companies say nationwide connectivity is under pressure as outages hit towers and data infrastructure. Only about 25% of towers are equipped with fixed generators, forcing many to depend on portable units. There are 46,567 telecom towers across the country, operated by tower infrastructure companies and mobile operators.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mobile-signals-weaken-blackouts-fuel-shortages-spread-4157316>

BANK | Banks' liquidity shrinks on govt borrowing

- Banks significantly increased short-term borrowing in March as liquidity tightened across the money market, driven largely by heavy government borrowing from the banking system. The call money market turnover rose 11.09% to BDT 945.01 Bn in March from BDT 850.63 Bn in February. The weighted average overnight rate increased by 26 basis points to 10.16%, while the overall rate stood at 10.19%, indicating strong demand for immediate funds.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/297530/banks-liquidity-shrinks-on-govt-borrowing>

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-lose-borrowing-appetite-as-credit-demand-slumps-1776793303>

BANK | Two-thirds of agent banking outlets not engaged in lending: study

- About two-thirds of agent banking outlets in Bangladesh were not engaged in lending as of December 2024, highlighting a major gap in credit delivery despite the network's rapid expansion, a recent study has found. Despite growth, agent banking is more effective at mobilising deposits than providing credit, according to the study.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/two-thirds-agent-banking-outlets-not-engaged-lending-study-4157291>

BANK | 'Double legal process' stalls defaulted loan recovery for years

- The verdict for a case with a financial loan court takes years. But when a bank gets the verdict in its favour, it must then file execution case to sell the mortgaged assets and this takes another few years before being disposed of.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/court/double-legal-process-stalls-defaulted-loan-recovery-years-1418031>

Stocks:**ICBIBANK | BB steps in again, appoints administrator at ICB Islamic Bank**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has appointed an administrator at the problem-ridden ICB Islamic Bank in a fresh move to safeguard depositors and investors and restore governance at the lending institution.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bb-steps-in-again-appoints-administrator-at-icb-islamic-bank-1776789345>

ILFSL | BB removes Int'l Leasing MD over irregularities

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has removed Mohammad Imdadul Islam, managing director of International Leasing and Financial Services Limited, over irregularities and concealment of information.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-removes-intl-leasing-md-over-irregularities-4157301>

RUPALIBANK | Rupali Bank's forced loans hit USD 1.87 Bn as financial health red flags mount

- The volume of forced loans at Rupali Bank hit USD 1.87 Bn by the end of December 2025, nearly doubling in four years. Officials say the growing volume of such loans reflects importers' failure to settle LC liabilities on time, forcing the bank to convert those dues into loans – a shift that severely strains liquidity and asset quality.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/rupali-banks-forced-loans-hit-187b-financial-health-red-flags-mount-1418036>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 89.33	USD 31.90	55.55%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 98.29	USD 37.44	61.53%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,755.99	USD 414.99	9.56%
DSEX	5,257.41	392.07	8.06%
S&P 500	7,064.01	165.19	2.39%
FTSE 100	10,498.09	566.71	5.71%
BSE SENSEX	79,273.33	-5,520.25	-6.51%
KSE-100	173,155.80	-898.50	-0.52%
CSEALL	22,625.48	1.17	0.01%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 122.80 BDT

1 GBP = 165.93 BDT

1 Euro = 144.26 BDT

1 INR = 1.31 BDT

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