

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:**Bangladesh per capita debt mounts to USD 483**

- As 2024 drew to a close, a sobering economic milestone quietly took shape: every Bangladeshi now carries the burden of USD 483 in public external debt. This revelation stems from the latest figures released by the Bangladesh Bank, which show the nation's outstanding foreign debt ballooning to USD 103.64 Bn by December 2024. Of this, the government's share alone is USD 84.21 Bn. With the population nearing 174 Mn, the per capita burden has nearly doubled since fiscal year 2015-16 when the figure was USD 257.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-capita-debt-mounts-483-3902566>

Procurement law revised to cut graft, boost transparency

- Scrapping the price range cap for bids, making e-GP mandatory for all public procurement and allowing NGOs to compete for tenders, the government has overhauled the public procurement law. The new law, titled "Public Procurement (Amendment) Ordinance-2025", has withdrawn the provision which used to allow tender bid prices to vary by 10% from government estimates in project budgets. "This move is intended to curb project cost overruns and avoid price manipulation during implementation," said Shah Eyamin-UI Islam, director of Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA), which was formerly known as Central Procurement Technical Unit.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/procurement-law-revised-cut-graft-boost-transparency-3902466>

Govt's higher borrowing may impact pvt sector credit flow, warns GED

- The government's economic think-tank noted that public sector borrowing from commercial banks had risen significantly in recent months, primarily due to sluggish revenue collection and suspension of direct lending from the central bank. The remark was made in the May issue of "Economic Update and Outlook" released by the GED on Saturday. The paper notes that inflation eased slightly in April compared to March, mainly due to a drop in food prices. However, it adds that, as in March, food items -- particularly rice and fish -- remained the main drivers of inflation in April.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govts-higher-borrowing-may-impact-pvt-sector-credit-flow-warns-ged-1748109089>

Dhaka, Beijing seek to resolve deadlock over dollar loan terms at JEC talks

- Bangladesh and China aim to resolve the complications surrounding China's dollar-based loans at the upcoming Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting scheduled for 1 June in Dhaka. For the past two years, there has been a deadlock between the two sides over China's proposal to shift its development loans from fixed-rate dollar-based terms to either market-based dollar interest rates or loans in yuan (RMB).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dhaka-beijing-seek-resolve-deadlock-over-dollar-loan-terms-jec-talks-1150916>

Top earners face 30% tax again as inequality rises

- After five years, the income tax rate for the highest bracket is likely to revert to 30% in the upcoming fiscal year as part of the government's efforts to address growing inequality — an issue that is among the country's major economic concerns. According to the white paper on the state of the economy that was penned following the political changeover in August last year, the Gini coefficient, a way of measuring inequality, increased from 0.48 in 2016 to 0.499 in 2022 for income inequality in Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2025-26/news/top-earners-face-30-tax-again-inequality-rises-3902491>

Imports thru Ctg port rise 6% as trade shows signs of recovery

- Imports through Chattogram Port grew 6.33% year-on-year in the first ten months of the current fiscal year, signalling a recovery amid persistent economic challenges. Data from Chattogram Custom House show that 78.7 Mn tonnes of goods were imported during the July–April period of 2024-25 fiscal year, compared to 74 Mn tonnes in the same period last year. The dutiable value of imports rose to BDT 4.23 Tn, which is 14.35% higher than last year's BDT 3.70 Tn during the same period, the data show.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imports-thru-ctg-port-rise-6-trade-shows-signs-recovery-1150151>

Minimum tax may rise to BDT 5,000 for individuals, BDT 1,000 for new filers

- The government is considering raising the minimum income tax for individual taxpayers to BDT 5,000 in the upcoming FY26 budget, up from the current three-tier range of BDT 3,000 to BDT 5,000, depending on location. However, new TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number) holders may be allowed to pay a reduced minimum tax of BDT 1,000 to encourage tax compliance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/minimum-tax-may-rise-tk5000-individuals-tk1000-new-filers-1150901>

Sector & Industries:**FUEL & POWER | Ecneec approves two power projects worth BDT 46.71 Bn**

- The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) has approved two projects worth BDT 46.71 Bn aimed at improving the country's power system. The projects are the Power Transmission Strengthening and Integration of Renewable Energy Project, with an estimated cost of BDT 41.31 Bn, and the Grid Power Evacuation System Development for West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd project, costing BDT 5.40 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ecneec-approves-9-projects-worth-tk1185129cr-1150576>

BANK | 50% of agent banking representatives will be women: BB governor

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said half of all agents under agent banking services will be women, as part of the government's push to ensure greater financial inclusion for women. He made the remarks today at the inauguration of the "Credit Enhancement Scheme" under the Microenterprise Financing and Credit Enhancement Project of the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), at its office in the capital's Agargaon. Female agents will be able to enter the private spaces of women, and encourage them to open bank accounts, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/50-agent-banking-representatives-will-be-women-bb-governor-3902196>

Stocks:**FAREASTLIF | Fareast islami life sells vehicles, cuts jobs to reduce costs**

- Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Limited is selling its vehicles and slashing its workforce in a desperate effort to cut costs and counter a deepening financial crisis. As of December 2024, the company had outstanding insurance claims worth BDT 29.46 Bn, of which it has settled only BDT 1.94 Bn, according to data from the Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (Idra). In other words, the company has managed to clear around 6% of the claims.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/fareast-islami-life-sells-vehicles-cuts-jobs-reduce-costs-3902501>

ATLASBANG | Atlas Bangladesh set to roll out e-scooters, bikes by August

- Atlas Bangladesh Ltd is set to enter the electric vehicle (EV) market by August, following a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China's Zhejiang Luyuan Electric Vehicle to source parts and technical support. Under the newly signed MoU, Atlas Bangladesh will import parts from Zhejiang Luyuan — a leading Chinese electric scooter and bike manufacturer — to assemble four EV models initially.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/atlas-bangladesh-set-roll-out-e-scooters-bikes-august-1150866>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.53	(USD 9.90)	-13.86%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.78	(USD 9.61)	-12.92%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,357.51	USD 749.03	28.72%
DSEX	4,746.43	-470.02	-9.01%
S&P 500	5,802.82	-104.12	-1.76%
FTSE 100	8,717.97	596.96	7.35%
BSE SENSEX	81,721.08	3,521.15	4.50%
KSE-100	119,102.67	3,843.67	3.33%
CSEALL	16,494.46	549.85	3.45%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.30 BDT****1 GBP = 165.19 BDT****1 Euro = 139.03 BDT****1 INR = 1.44 BDT**

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