

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 sees highest-ever per capita income of USD 2,820 in FY25, BBS provisional data shows**

- Bangladesh's per capita income increased by USD 82 to USD 2,820 (equivalent to BDT 3,39,211) in the fiscal year 2024-25, according to provisional estimates of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) released today (27 May). This marks a rise from USD 2,738 (BDT 3,04,102) recorded in the previous fiscal year. The BBS also estimates that the country's GDP growth rate stood at 3.97% in the fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-capita-income-rises-2820-fy25-bbs-1153056>

Economy grows 3.97% in FY25, slowest since pandemic year

- Bangladesh economy has grown 3.97% in the current fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, according to the provisional estimate released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The estimate is almost close to the projection by the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 3.8% for the year. This is the lowest growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) -- the final value of all goods and services produced in an economy in a certain period -- in the past five years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-grows-397-fy25-slowest-pandemic-year-3904676>

US remittance tax could be a BDT 50 Bn hit for migrants: CPD

- A proposed 3.5% tax on outbound remittance can raise costs incurred by Bangladeshi migrants sending money back home from the US to nearly BDT 50 Bn annually, said a local think tank yesterday. Currently, the average cost of sending remittances from the US to Bangladesh stands at 4.4%, according to World Bank data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-remittance-tax-could-be-tk-5000cr-hit-migrants-cpd-3904936>

Inflation, exchange rate shocks to intensify fiscal pressure in FY26

- In addition to maintaining austerity measures to rein in high inflation in the upcoming fiscal year, the government will have to move to a market-based exchange rate as a condition of the IMF loan – which the finance ministry fears could put significant pressure on the economy. In its Medium-Term Macroeconomic Policy Statement, the ministry warns that if the dollar appreciates under a market-based exchange rate, the cost of importing essential goods will rise, potentially undermining efforts to control inflation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/inflation-exchange-rate-shocks-intensify-fiscal-pressure-fy26-1153516>

Next budget to have realistic goals

- Bangladesh switches focus from macro- onto micro-centric economic activity with budgetary focus on trade expansion, job creation and investment that benefits all. Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, the custodian of the national exchequer under the post-uprising government, explained the aforesaid vision, which guided him in authoring his maiden work, during an exclusive interview with The Financial Express on Sunday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/next-budget-to-have-realistic-goals-1748371647>

Controversial 'minimum value' imposition on imports may go

- A long-despised fiscal measure styled 'minimum value' provision in the customs act is up for getting axed to allow importers to assess transactional value for imposition of duty taxes, sources said. The much-debated provision has affected competitiveness and capital flow of the businesses for long as customs officials were empowered to fix a minimum import value of goods to impose duty taxes on that.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/controversial-minimum-value-imposition-on-imports-may-go-1748371775>

Budget aid of USD 500 Mn expected during CA's Japan visit

- Japan may provide 500 million US dollars as budgetary support for Bangladesh, against its request for one-billion-dollar, a government spokesperson said on Tuesday. "We are expecting 500 Mn dollar budget support from Japan during the visit of Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus," said Press Secretary to the CA, Shafiqul Alam, on Tuesday. Addressing a press briefing, he also said Japan might provide another 250 Mn dollars for development of railway infrastructure.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/budget-aid-of-500m-expected-during-cas-japan-visit-1748372116>

Bida rejects claims of sluggish FDI, highlights USD 1 Bn investment pipeline

- The Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) has rebutted recent claims by "an industry representative" that foreign direct investment (FDI) has dried up and that the authority is inactive in promoting joint ventures or engaging with investors. In a statement issued today (27 May), Bida said that between October 2024 and March 2025, Bangladesh received net FDI worth USD 756 Mn (around BDT 92.47 Bn), directly countering the claim that no new foreign investment has come in the past eight months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bida-rejects-claims-sluggish-fdi-highlights-1b-investment-pipeline-1152966>

Yunus calls for faster infrastructure development of Matarbari

- Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has called for the rapid development of key infrastructure in the Matarbari region to transform the coastal zone into Bangladesh's premier manufacturing and export-oriented free trade hub. At a high-level meeting at State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka on Monday, he reviewed the progress of the Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI), according to a statement.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/yunus-calls-faster-infrastructure-development-matarbari-3904961>

Poor documentation, evidence plague stolen asset recovery efforts

- Various international agencies and coordinators from foreign embassies are expressing growing frustration with Bangladesh's asset recovery task force, citing slow progress, loose timelines, and inadequate documentation to support cases in international courts.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/poor-documentation-evidence-plague-stolen-asset-recovery-efforts-1153501>

Sectors & Industries:**BANK | Suspicious banking activities surge by 56% since July: Cenbank**

- Bangladesh's banking sector has witnessed a sharp 56% surge in suspicious transactions and activity reports between July and May of the current fiscal year 2024-25, compared to the total for the previous fiscal year. The Bangladesh Bank shared the information today (28 May) at a press conference held in the capital to release the annual report of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/suspicious-banking-activity-surged-56-after-july-uprising-cenbank-1152896>

BANK | Depositors need not worry as govt will take over banks before merger: BB governor

- The government will take over banks before the merger, said Bangladesh Bank governor Ahsan H Mansur assuring depositors that they do not need to worry about their money as they will be part of a strong bank. Governor made the comment at a press conference held at Bangladesh Bank headquarters today (27 May).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/depositors-need-not-worry-govt-will-take-over-banks-merger-bb-governor-1152841>

PHARMACEUTICAL | Pharma needs diverse financing to unlock full potential: experts

- The banking sector alone cannot provide the billions of taka required as investments to reap all the pharmaceutical sector's potentials, for which a financing mix of equity, foreign direct investment, bonds, sukuk, and others is necessary, suggested analysts. They were addressing an event titled "Capital Market: Industry Insights and Readiness for the Pharmaceutical Industry," organised by Prime Bank Investment Limited at Sheraton Dhaka on Monday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pharma-needs-diverse-financing-unlock-full-potential-experts-3904856>

FUEL & POWER | Petrobangla to raise gas supply further from today

- Gas supply to industries increased in the first four months of the current year, and the supply of this key energy source to factories will increase further from today, said state-run Petrobangla. The agency said it would provide an additional 150 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf). Gas supply to captive power plants and factories rose 21% year-on-year to 997 mmcf in the first four months of this year, Petrobangla said in a statement issued on Monday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/petrobangla-raise-gas-supply-further-today-3904941>

ENGINEERING | Light engineering expo, Bangladesh aims to export USD 100 Bn in USD 7 Tn global market

- Bangladesh is poised to significantly increase its footprint in the global engineering and light engineering products market, currently valued at a staggering USD 7 Tn - of which the country's contribution amounts to less than 1% at present. Industry leaders rather bullishly believe that with adequate policy support, investment, and infrastructure development, Bangladesh could export up to USD 100 Bn worth of engineering products.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/light-engineering-expo-bangladesh-aims-to-export-100b-in-7t-global-market>

TELECOM | Regulator to cap SIM ownership at 10 per user

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has decided to reduce the maximum number of SIM cards a user can register under their name from 15 to 10. As a result of this change, approximately 6.7 Mn SIM cards registered under 2.6 Mn users who currently exceed the new limit will be disabled.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/regulator-cap-sim-ownership-10-user-3904951>

BANK | Meghna Bank partners with BRAC EPL Investment for issuing BDT 4 Bn 2nd subordinated bond

- Recently, Meghna Bank PLC has signed an agreement for its 2nd Subordinated Bond worth BDT 4 Bn with BRAC EPL Investment Limited, which is acting as the sole arranger of the issuance. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of senior officials from both organisations.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/meghna-bank-partners-with-brac-epl-investment-for-issuing-tk-4-billion-2nd-subordinated-bond>

Stocks:**EXCHANGE | BO account maintenance fee reduced to BDT 150**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to reduce the maintenance fee of beneficiary owner's (BO) accounts to BDT 150 from BDT 450. Today, the stock market regulator made the decision in principle at a commission meeting held at the BSEC building in the capital.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bo-account-maintenance-fee-reduced-tk-150-3904831>

EXCHANGE | Maiden commodity exchange to get 'visible shape' as rules finalized

- The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) now has no bar to commence the operation of its Commodity Exchange (CX) as the securities regulator approved the regulations of the country's maiden CX. The approval came on Tuesday at a meeting of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/maiden-commodity-exchange-to-get-visible-shape-as-rules-finalised-1748369468>

BERGERPBL | Berger Paints to issue rights shares to raise BDT 3.02 Bn

- Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd has received regulatory approval to issue rights shares to raise BDT 3.02 Bn, aimed at financing part of its third factory in the National Special Economic Zone. The company will raise the funds by issuing over 2.73 Mn ordinary shares at an issue price of BDT 1,110 per share, which includes a BDT 1,100 premium. Under the approved plan, shareholders will receive one rights share for every 17 existing shares they hold, in accordance with a 1:17 ratio, according to the price-sensitive information Berger shared.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/berger-paints-issue-rights-shares-raise-tk-302-crore-3904851>

BEXIMCO | Bangladesh Bank allows active Beximco companies to open LCs under conditions

- Bangladesh Bank has given directions to allow active and revenue-generating entities within the Beximco Group to open Letters of Credit (LCs), under strict conditions, despite the group being embroiled in loan default scandals and corruption probes. The instruction was approved by Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur during a high-level meeting with top executives from 20 banks and seven non-bank financial institutions held on Saturday (24 May). Lutfey Siddiqi, the chief adviser's envoy for international affairs, was also reportedly present.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-bank-allows-active-beximco-companies-open-lcs-under-conditions-1152891>

BRACBANK | BRAC Bank MD tenders resignation

- Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BRAC Bank PLC Selim R.F. Hussain has submitted his resignation to the board of directors, effective from Tuesday. The board has accepted Mr. Hussain's resignation and has sought Bangladesh Bank's approval in this regard, according to a press statement issued by the private commercial bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/brac-bank-md-tenders-resignation-1748371823>

GPISPAT | BSEC cancels GPH Ispat's rights share offer

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has cancelled the rights share application of the GPH Ispat. The commission took the decision at a meeting today (27 May), according to its press release. The BSEC stated that, considering all aspects and due to the submitted documents being unsatisfactory, the rights offer of GPH Ispat Limited has been canceled.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-cancels-gph-ispats-rights-share-offer-1153361>

EXCHANGE | Independent directors to be appointed at Z category, non-compliant companies

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is going to appoint independent directors at Z category companies and those that are non-compliant. Today, the regulator made the decision at a commission meeting, according to a press release. The independent directors will be appointed—in accordance with the Corporate Governance Code-2018—at Z category companies and at those whose sponsors and directors do not jointly hold 30% of the company's shares.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/independent-directors-be-appointed-z-category-non-compliant-companies-3904866>

EXCHANGE | Brokerages allowed to retain 75% of investors' deposit interest

- Brokerage firms are allowed to receive 75% of the interest earned in the Consolidated Customer Account, while the remaining 25% must be deposited into the Investors' Protection Fund, which will be used to safeguard investors. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) made the decision at a meeting today (27 May), according to a press release. A Consolidated Customers' Account is a separate bank account maintained by stockbrokers to hold unused funds from their clients' beneficiary owner accounts.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/consolidated-customer-account-brokerage-firms-allowed-get-75-investors-deposit>

EXCHANGE | DSE brokers' assoc call for listing CDBL on stock exchanges

- The DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) has urged Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, the special assistant to the chief adviser and chairman of the Capital Market Development Committee, to take necessary steps to list Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL) on the stock exchanges. In a letter submitted on 26 May, DBA President Saiful Islam highlighted that despite being established in 2000 with support from the Asian Development Bank and funding from major financial institutions, CDBL remains unlisted even after 25 years. This undermines its founding mandate to modernise the market, operate without profit motives, and expand public ownership through listing.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-brokers-association-call-listing-cdbl-stock-exchanges-1152991>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 61.25	(USD 10.18)	-14.25%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 64.39	(USD 10.00)	-13.44%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,303.24	USD 694.76	26.63%
DSEX	4,678.13	-538.31	-10.32%
S&P 500	5,921.54	14.60	0.25%
FTSE 100	8,778.05	657.04	8.09%
BSE SENSEX	81,551.63	3,351.70	4.29%
KSE-100	118,332.91	3,073.91	2.67%
CSEALL	16,657.63	713.02	4.47%

Exchange Rates
1 US Dollar = 122.09 BDT
1 GBP = 164.59 BDT
1 Euro = 138.08 BDT
1 INR = 1.43 BDT

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

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