

Weekly Market Update

Capital Market Overview

The market closed in red this week. The benchmark index DSEX (-2.29%) lost -108.50 points and closed the week at 4,637.92 points. The blue-chip index DS30 (-1.35%) lost -23.66 points and stood at 1,729.63 points. The Shariah-based index DSES (-2.49%) lost -25.88 points and stood at 1,011.36 points. The large cap index CDSET (-2.03%) lost -19.77 points and closed at 953.64 points. DSEX, DS30, DSES and CDSET showed YTD returns of -11.09%, -10.83%, -13.48%, -10.55%, respectively.

Total Turnover During The Week (DSE): BDT 13.0 billion (USD 106 million)

Average Daily Turnover Value (ADTV): BDT 2.6 billion (Δ Week: -10.0%)

Market P/E: 15.0x

Daily Index Movement during the Week

The market performed five sessions during this week. The market started negatively on Sunday (-0.21%), and remained negative throughout Monday (-0.36%), Tuesday (-0.87%) and Wednesday (-1.34%), but ended the week in positive note on Thursday (+0.49%).

Sectoral Performance

Financial sectors posted mixed performance this week. NBFI booked the highest gain of 2.21% followed by Mutual Fund (+0.05%). Bank experienced the highest loss of 3.81% followed by General Insurance (-3.58%), Life Insurance (-2.80%).

Most of the non-financial (large-cap) sectors registered negative performance this week. Pharmaceutical experienced the highest loss of 2.69% followed by Engineering (-2.18%), Food & Allied (-1.41%), Fuel & Power (-0.43%), and Telecommunication (+1.83%).

Macroeconomic Arena

Private investment sinks to five-year low. Businesses set for relief as interim govt eyes major tax & fine cuts. Bangladesh seeks deeper strategic, economic ties with South Korea. Bangladeshi cos expecting increased costs due to tariffs, yet extremely optimistic about int'l growth: HSBC survey. Economy is showing signs of a gradual recovery: MCCI. New budget commutes trade penalties, cuts essentials' taxes. Bangladesh, Argentina eye deeper trade ties through joint ventures. BD sees lower cost increase from tariff. How termination of USDA-funded trade facilitation project will affect Bangladesh. Bangladesh youth unemployment rate to stay high. US trade court blocks tariffs in major setback for Trump. Historic dollar fall needed to eliminate US trade deficit. MFS | Google Pay likely coming to Bangladesh soon.

BANK | Conventional banks outperform Islamic counterparts. RMG | RMG exports may drop USD 2 Bn this year. SERVICE, REAL ESTATE | InterContinental incurs BDT 230 Mn loss in Jan-Mar. TELECOM | Reforming the telecom licensing policy: loose ends that need tightening. Time to move forward with pure hearts for tax system reform. Customs duty for buses may halve to 5%. NBR officials call off shutdown as govt softens stance. Strong external sector bolsters economic recovery hopes: GED. 10-month revenue growth plunges to five-year low amid NBR crisis. Overcoming structural, management challenges crucial for agricultural export growth. FY26 Budget: Surcharge to be levied on actual tax to promote transparency. Bangladesh to seek USD 1.0 Bn in budget support.

Stock Market Arena

TRUSTBANK | Trust Bank to issue BDT 8 Bn bond. BERGERPBL | Berger Paints rights share subscription starts 15 July. DHAKABANK | Dhaka Bank declares 10% dividend for 2024. TAKAFULINS, UNIONINS | Takaful, Union insurance to pay 10% cash dividends. NRBCBANK | NRBC Bank's profit drops 96% in 2024. ICB | ICB seeks provisioning relief to ensure dividends for mutual fund investors. EXCHNAGE | Regulations approved for first commodity exchange. EXCHNAGE | BSEC to punish 44 firms over shareholding rule violation. EXCHANGE | BO account maintenance fee reduced to BDT 150. EXCHANGE | Maiden commodity exchange to get 'visible shape' as rules finalized. BERGERPBL | Berger Paints to issue rights shares to raise BDT 3.02 Bn.

DSEX ended in Red (-2.29%) in the week

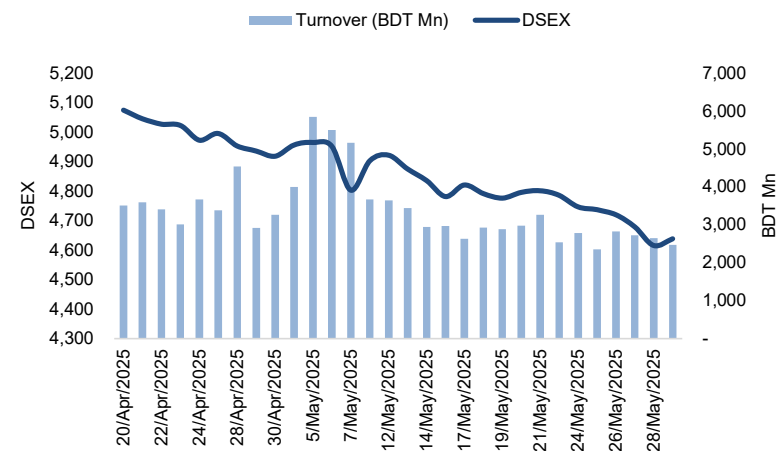
Table 1: Index

Index	Closing*	Opening*	Δ(Pts)	30-Dec-2024	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
DSEX	4,637.92	4,746.43	-108.50	5,216.44	-2.29%	-11.09%
DS30	1,729.63	1,753.30	-23.66	1,939.73	-1.35%	-10.83%
DSES	1,011.36	1,037.23	-25.88	1,168.90	-2.49%	-13.48%
CDSET	953.64	973.41	-19.77	1,066.09	-2.03%	-10.55%

Table 2: Market Statistics

		This Week	Last Week	% Change
Mcap	Mn BDT	6,469,848	6,483,931	-0.22%
	Mn USD	52,621	52,735	
Turnover	Mn BDT	13,033	17,370	-24.97%
	Mn USD	106	141	
Average Daily	Mn BDT	2,607	2,895	-9.96%
	Mn USD	21	24	
Volume	Mn Shares	696	879	-20.86%

Figure 1: DSEX & Turnover in Last Four Weeks



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Table 3: Top Ten Gainers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
HEIDELBCEM	228.1	197.8	+15.3%	12,888	33.2	48.6x	3.0x
NAHEEACP	20.4	18.3	+11.5%	1,395	134.4	75.6x	1.0x
ICB	45.5	40.9	+11.2%	39,460	50.7	NM	0.9x
EASTRN LUB	2,251.6	2,038.1	+10.5%	3,575	139.3	53.7x	11.7x
ASIATICLAB	34.1	31.7	+7.6%	4,174	98.6	14.1x	0.6x
ACTIVEFINE	8.6	8.0	+7.5%	2,063	11.2	NM	0.4x
MHSML	13.5	12.6	+7.1%	1,363	46.6	16.3x	0.7x
RENEWICKJA	650.0	607.1	+7.1%	1,300	0.9	NM	NM
BPPL	15.5	14.5	+6.9%	2,681	360.3	67.4x	0.6x
BARKAPOW	11.3	10.6	+6.6%	2,661	132.3	53.8x	0.5x

Table 4: Top Ten Losers

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
ALARABANK	17.0	21.3	-20.2%	19,579	9.6	35.3x	0.8x
NRBBANK	9.4	11.6	-19.0%	6,492	249.2	15.5x	0.7x
PREMIERBAN	6.9	8.3	-16.9%	8,511	27.5	2.4x	0.3x
NRBCBANK	6.3	7.5	-16.0%	5,220	37.3	NM	0.4x
SBACBANK	6.7	7.9	-15.2%	5,522	39.6	NM	0.5x
DGIC	20.8	24.5	-15.1%	832	14.2	NM	1.8x
NCCBANK	9.8	11.4	-14.0%	10,882	26.2	4.5x	0.4x
MERCANBANK	8.0	9.3	-14.0%	8,853	51.1	2.9x	0.3x
BAYLEASING	4.4	5.1	-13.7%	620	3.4	NM	1.3x
UTTARAFIN	11.1	12.8	-13.3%	1,459	1.0	NM	0.2x

Table 5: Top Ten Most Traded Shares

Company Name	Close*	Open*	Δ%	Mcap**	Turnover**	PE	PB
BEACHHATCH	42.1	45.1	-6.7%	1,743	399.1	9.0x	2.6x
MIDLANDBNK	27.1	25.5	+6.3%	17,855	368.8	21.3x	1.8x
SQURPHARMA	201.9	207.4	-2.7%	178,974	366.3	7.6x	1.3x
BPPL	15.5	14.5	+6.9%	2,681	360.3	67.4x	0.6x
SPCERAMICS	22.4	23.3	-3.9%	3,292	339.5	NM	0.8x
BRACBANK	46.0	51.9	-0.3%	91,583	320.5	6.7x	1.1x
SALAMCRST	21.4	21.4	-	2,105	267.8	NM	1.2x
NRBBANK	9.4	11.6	-19.0%	6,492	249.2	15.5x	0.7x
ORIONINFU	325.5	348.4	-6.6%	6,627	229.4	NM	20.7x
BATBC	268.0	274.5	-2.4%	144,720	220.2	8.7x	2.7x

Table 6: Most Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ACI	165.5	+18.6%	14,504	NM	2.5x
BARKAPOW	11.3	+15.3%	2,661	53.8x	0.5x
ACTIVEFINE	8.6	+8.9%	2,063	NM	0.4x
UCB	10.0	+8.7%	15,504	5.5x	0.4x
IFADAUTOS	21.8	+6.9%	5,848	NM	0.6x
EBL	22.3	+6.1%	35,587	5.2x	0.7x
ESQUIRENIT	20.6	+5.6%	2,779	8.8x	0.3x
BRACBANK	46.0	+5.6%	91,583	6.7x	1.1x
BXPBARMA	84.6	+3.7%	37,741	5.9x	0.8x
HEIDELBCEM	228.1	+3.0%	12,888	48.6x	3.0x

Table 7: Sector Indices

Sector Name	Week Close*	Week Open*	Year Open*	Δ% Week	Δ% YTD
Bank	1,264.1	1,314.2	1,429.64	-3.81%	-11.58%
NBFI	925.9	905.8	1,188.21	+2.21%	-22.08%
Mutual Fund	615.0	614.6	603.30	+0.05%	+1.93%
General Insurance	2,289.6	2,374.6	2,772.79	-3.58%	-17.43%
Life Insurance	1,515.4	1,559.1	1,827.34	-2.80%	-17.07%
Telecommunication	4,495.6	4,415.0	5,185.99	+1.83%	-13.31%
Pharmaceutical	2,680.7	2,754.7	2,959.70	-2.69%	-9.43%
Fuel & Power	1,025.2	1,029.7	1,108.63	-0.43%	-7.52%
Cement	1,667.2	1,675.3	1,957.26	-0.48%	-14.82%
Services & Real Estate	870.8	873.6	1,013.65	-0.31%	-14.09%
Engineering	2,141.9	2,189.6	2,496.75	-2.18%	-14.21%
Food & Allied	13,411.2	13,603.5	17,177.59	-1.41%	-21.93%
IT	1,634.4	1,642.9	1,994.92	-0.52%	-18.07%
Textile	970.4	988.9	1,093.38	-1.87%	-11.25%
Paper & Printing	3,846.1	3,989.2	3,998.20	-3.59%	-3.80%
Tannery	1,822.8	1,875.9	2,020.25	-2.83%	-9.77%
Jute	9,222.5	9,913.6	14,455.60	-6.97%	-36.20%
Ceramics	354.4	362.9	359.12	-2.36%	-1.32%
Miscellaneous	4,109.7	4,136.0	4,252.62	-0.64%	-3.36%

Table 8: Sector Trading Matrix

Sector Name	Daily Avg this Week	Daily Avg last Week	% Change	% of Total Turnover	PE	PB
Bank	434.6	481.8	-9.80%	+17.62%	6.7x	0.6x
NBFI	51.3	52.1	-1.64%	+2.08%	NM	NM
Mutual Fund	132.2	181.1	-27.01%	+5.36%	NM	0.5x
General Insurance	79.3	136.6	-41.89%	+3.22%	10.9x	1.0x
Life Insurance	49.3	63.8	-22.70%	+2.00%	NM	NM
Telecommunication	36.4	31.5	+15.80%	+1.48%	13.9x	3.4x
Pharmaceutical	264.4	367.8	-28.10%	+10.72%	11.7x	1.4x
Fuel & Power	237.0	185.0	+28.13%	+9.61%	17.1x	0.6x
Cement	24.0	25.1	-4.30%	+0.97%	19.0x	1.7x
Services & Real Estate	61.6	46.1	+33.74%	+2.50%	22.0x	0.4x
Engineering	259.5	212.9	+21.86%	+10.52%	11.1x	0.7x
Food & Allied	275.4	273.0	+0.90%	+11.17%	14.2x	3.9x
IT	52.0	49.6	+4.78%	+2.11%	18.1x	1.4x
Textile	236.3	261.4	-9.58%	+9.58%	NM	0.7x
Paper & Printing	64.2	81.8	-21.53%	+2.60%	NM	0.8x
Tannery	24.1	26.6	-9.53%	+0.98%	62.4x	1.5x
Jute	6.7	5.4	+23.71%	+0.27%	NM	NM
Ceramics	93.6	94.3	-0.72%	+3.80%	NM	1.0x
Miscellaneous	83.9	105.3	-20.36%	+3.40%	87.9x	1.8x

Table 9: Least Appreciated YTD in BRAC EPL Universe

Company Name	Close*	YTD %Δ	Mcap**	PE	PB
ISLAMIBANK	32.7	-32.4%	52,647	11.3x	0.7x
KPCL	9.5	-27.5%	3,775	27.9x	0.5x
UNIQUEHRL	32.2	-27.1%	9,480	7.4x	0.4x
BATBC	268.0	-27.1%	144,720	8.7x	2.7x
PIONEERINS	35.2	-26.7%	3,443	7.6x	0.8x
POWERGRID	30.8	-26.3%	28,145	NM	0.2x
ADNTEL	62.8	-26.3%	4,060	11.1x	1.9x
RENATA	477.5	-24.8%	54,768	19.5x	1.6x
RECKITT BEN	3,280.8	-24.6%	15,502	20.6x	8.6x
EGEN	18.7	-23.4%	1,403	23.4x	0.8x

*BDT

*BDT Mn

Important News: Business, Economy & Sector

Private investment sinks to five-year low

- Private investment as a percentage of the gross domestic product has slumped to its lowest level in five years, stoking fears over waning business confidence and a slowdown in job creation. Private investment dropped to 22.48% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the fiscal year (FY) 2024–25 from 23.96% the year before, according to provisional data released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) on Tuesday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/private-investment-sinks-five-year-low-3906091>

Businesses set for relief as interim govt eyes major tax & fine cuts

- Businesses grappling with high operational costs in Bangladesh may soon receive significant relief as the interim government plans substantial reductions in import misdeclaration fines and a cap on interest for tax-related legal disputes. These measures, set to be unveiled in the upcoming 2025–26 fiscal year budget early next month, aim to ease the burden on businesses and improve the country's "ease of doing business" ranking.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/businesses-set-relief-interim-govt-eyes-major-tax-fine-cuts-1154311>

Bangladesh seeks deeper strategic, economic ties with South Korea

- Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Anisuzzaman Chowdhury today (28 May) underscored the need for sustained diplomatic engagement and deeper strategic ties between Bangladesh and South Korea, highlighting the broad spectrum of cooperation shaping the future of bilateral relations. He made the remarks while addressing a seminar titled "Bangladesh-South Korea Relations: Pathways for Future Cooperation" organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium as part of its Country Lecture Series (CLS).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-seeks-deeper-strategic-economic-ties-south-korea-1154181>

Bangladeshi cos expecting increased costs due to tariffs, yet extremely optimistic about int'l growth: HSBC survey

- Due to the tariffs, Bangladeshi businesses have experienced a lower-than-average cost increase to date and are expecting a notably lower short and long-term cost increase, but optimism reigns about their international growth, an HSBC survey has found

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshi-cos-expecting-increased-costs-due-tariffs-yet-extremely-optimistic-about>

Economy is showing signs of a gradual recovery: MCCI

- Bangladesh's economy is showing signs of a gradual recovery, though GDP growth remains under pressure, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has said in their latest report. "Export earnings and remittance inflows are helping to stabilise the foreign exchange reserves and revitalise the rural economy - factors which are contributing positively to macroeconomic stability" –MCCI said in its latest review revealed today (28 May) for the third quarter (January to March) of the current fiscal year (FY25).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/economy-showing-signs-gradual-recovery-mcci-1153896>

New budget commutes trade penalties, cuts essentials' taxes

- Multiple trade-facilitation measures like corporate-tax variables to promote capital market, commuting penalties for trade offences and cut-down tax rates for pharmaceuticals and other essentials are envisaged in the new budget. The current interim government is set to cut corporate tax for publicly-listed companies on the capital market by 2.5% in the upcoming budget, widening the much-demanded tax gap to 7.5% between listed and non-listed companies.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/new-budget-commutes-trade-penalties-cuts-essentials-taxes-1748456327>

Bangladesh, Argentina eye deeper trade ties through joint ventures

- There is immense potential in Bangladesh, and both Argentina and Bangladesh must actively explore avenues for joint ventures particularly in energy, agribusiness, medical technology, and the cotton trade, said Marcelo Carlos Cesa, ambassador of Argentina to Bangladesh. He stressed the importance of a structured and sustained engagement between the two nations to identify new opportunities in trade, investment, and sectoral collaboration.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/bangladesh-argentina-eye-deeper-trade-ties-through-joint-ventures-3905731>

BD sees lower cost increase from tariff

- Bangladeshi businesses have experienced a lower-than-average cost increase from tariffs and expect significantly smaller cost increases in both the short and long terms, according to HSBC's 2025 Global Trade Pulse Survey. The survey, which gathered insights from over 5,700 international firms across 13 markets, including 250 companies in Bangladesh, found that the mean average expected impact on revenue to a Bangladeshi business due to supply chain delays/interruption is 5.0% higher than the global average.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-sees-lower-cost-increase-from-tariff-1748456641>

How termination of USDA-funded trade facilitation project will affect Bangladesh

- The Bangladesh Trade Facilitation (BTF) project, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), was terminated effective 13 June, raising concerns among government agencies and private sector stakeholders. This will hamper the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) measures aimed at streamlining trade and attracting foreign investment.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/how-termination-usda-funded-trade-facilitation-project-will-affect-bangladesh-1154291>

Bangladesh youth unemployment rate to stay high

- Youth unemployment in Bangladesh will continue to be high -- more than double the national unemployment rate -- with university graduates being the hardest hit, according to the World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) report released yesterday by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Bangladesh's unemployment rate rose to 4.63% in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024–25, as a growing number of job seekers failed to secure employment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladesh-youth-unemployment-rate-stay-high-3905616>

US trade court blocks tariffs in major setback for Trump

- A US federal court on Wednesday blocked most of Donald Trump's sweeping import tariffs from going into effect, ruling that the president had overstepped his authority with the across-the-board global levies. The opinion marks a significant setback to the Republican leader as he bids to redraw the US trading relationship with the world by forcing governments to the negotiating table through tough new tariffs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-trade-court-blocks-tariffs-major-setback-trump-3906246>

Historic dollar fall needed to eliminate US trade deficit

- If the United States is to significantly reduce or, whisper it, eliminate its trade deficit, the dollar will probably have to weaken a lot. How much is unclear, though, as history shows large dollar declines are rare and have unpredictable consequences for trade. Reducing the US trade deficit is the key goal of President Donald Trump's economic agenda because he believes it reflects decades of other countries "ripping off" America to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars annually.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/historic-dollar-fall-needed-eliminate-us-trade-deficit-3906061>

MFS | Google Pay likely coming to Bangladesh soon

- After years of anticipation, people in Bangladesh may soon get official access to Google's digital payment services without depending on workarounds. Fintech industry sources told TBS that Google is preparing to launch Google Wallet – commonly known as Google Pay – in Bangladesh within the next month. With the rollout, Android smartphones will soon serve as fully functional wallets, eliminating the need to carry cards – often referred to as "plastic money"

<https://www.tbsnews.net/tech/google-pay-likely-coming-bangladesh-soon-1153526>

TANNERY | Tanners may get slight tariff relief on chemicals

- The government is considering reducing customs duty on seven imported tanning chemicals in the upcoming national budget, offering slight relief to the country's struggling tannery sector. At present, only 27 tanners benefit from bond facilities designed to support the domestic leather industry. Around 100 others operate without such privileges and face higher and varied duties on chemical imports, according to finance ministry sources.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tanners-may-get-slight-tariff-relief-chemicals-3906076>

TEXTILE | Singaporean Air8 to provide export financing service in textile sector with Bangladesh Garments

- In a strategic move to strengthen financial access for the textile and garment sector, the Bangladesh Garment Buying House Association (BGBA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Air8, a cross-border supply chain finance platform. The partnership aims to enhance export financing and working capital solutions for Bangladeshi textile exporters, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aviation/singaporean-air8-provide-export-financing-service-textile-sector-bangladesh>

BANK | Banks still shy away from spot market forex trade

- Commercial banks still go slow in trading foreign exchange (forex) in the interbank spot market even during the current free-floating regime, which is increasing their net open position (NOP) significantly. Complying with a condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) given as part of its USD 4.70 Bn lending package, the Bangladesh Bank left the exchange rate on the market with an undisclosed band on May 14 this year, hoping this will make the interbank forex spot market vibrant.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/banks-still-shy-away-from-spot-market-forex-trade-1748456870>

BANK | Banks, MFS providers and PSOs told to employ AI to detect online gambling

- The Bangladesh Bank has directed banks, mobile financial service (MFS) providers, payment system operators (PSOs) and payment service providers (PSPs) to deploy artificial intelligence (AI)-based technologies to bolster their ability to detect and analyse illicit online gambling activities. In a notice issued today, the central bank expressed concern over the alarming rise of online betting sites, warning that such enterprises are increasingly associated with social degradation and criminal conduct.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/banks-mfs-providers-and-psos-told-employ-ai-detect-online-gambling-3905816>

BANK | Banks' Tier-1 CRAR falls below 0.5% in second half of 2024: Cenbank

- Banks' Tier-1 capital to risk-weighted asset ratio (CRAR) recorded a significant decline to 0.48% in the second half of the year 2024 compared to the first half, trailing behind the regulatory requirement of 6%. Due to a sharp increase in non-performing loans in the banking sector, the capital shortfall of 20 banks rose to BDT 1.72 Tn in December 2024 – in just three months, according to the central bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-tier-1-crar-falls-below-05-second-half-2024-cenbank-1154031>

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-slaggy-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>

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,"

<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>

Bangladesh can earn USD 1 Bn a year from carbon market: analysts

- Bangladesh has the potential to generate up to USD 1 Bn annually from the global carbon market, but a lack of clear national policy continues to limit investment in the sector, analysts said at a discussion. Despite some progress, including USD 17 Mn earned since 2006 through projects like improved cooking stoves and solar home systems, the analysts stressed the need for stronger policy direction to unlock the country's full potential.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-can-earn-1b-year-carbon-market-analysts-3904236>

FY26 Budget: Surcharge to be levied on actual tax to promote transparency

- In a bid to promote tax fairness, the government is set to revise the surcharge provisions, with plans to impose it on actual tax liabilities rather than inflated assessments. The move aims to encourage taxpayers to disclose their actual wealth with more transparency in their tax returns. Currently, individuals with assets exceeding BDT 40 Mn are subject to a surcharge – essentially a tax on tax, ranging from 10% to 35%, depending on different tiers set as per their net wealth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/fy26-budget-surcharge-be-levied-actual-tax-promote-transparency-1151706>

USD 1.07 Bn loan deals likely during chief adviser's upcoming Japan visit

- Bangladesh is expected to sign two loan agreements worth a total of USD 1.074 Bn with Japan during the upcoming visit of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to Tokyo from 28 May to 30 May. Two loan agreements and one grant deal are being finalised ahead of the visit, according to senior officials from the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/107b-loan-deals-likely-during-chief-advisers-upcoming-japan-visit-1151786>

Focus on income distribution, not GDP alone, says Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee

- Nobel Laureate in Economics Dr Abhijit Banerjee has said that in countries like Bangladesh and India, a large share of GDP has been increasingly concentrated in the hands of the wealthy over the past 30 to 40 years. As a result, poverty reduction has not been significant despite GDP growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/focus-income-distribution-not-gdp-alone-says-nobel-laureate-abhijit-banerjee-1151901>

VAT on plastics may double, eco-friendly products may get waiver

- In a bid to discourage the use of plastic, the interim government may double the value-added tax (VAT) on some synthetic household products such as tableware and kitchenware to 15%. Meanwhile, a 15% VAT on eco-friendly alternatives, such as plates and cutlery made of baked clay and plant-based materials like areca nut sheaths and those with biodegradable components, may be entirely waived, said sources.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/vat-plastics-may-double-eco-friendly-products-may-get-waiver-3904266>

Govt expects gross reserves to reach USD 34 Bn by June next year

- The interim government expects the country's gross foreign exchange reserves to rise to USD 34.4 Bn by the end of the fiscal year (FY) 2025–26, buoyed by strong remittance inflows, export performance, and budgetary support from development partners. As of May 24, Bangladesh's gross reserves stood at USD 25.70 Bn, up from USD 24.16 Bn on the same date last year, according to the Bangladesh Bank (BB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-expects-gross-reserves-reach-34b-june-next-year-3904251>

Equity, not just equality': Experts call for stronger gender-responsive budgeting in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh must go beyond symbolic allocations and adopt a more inclusive and effective approach to Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) so that fiscal policies adequately address the actual needs and rights of women and girls, said experts at a pre-budget dialogue today.
- <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/equity-not-just-equality-experts-call-stronger-gender-responsive-budgeting-bangladesh>

Favourable geopolitics key to unlocking potential of economic corridors: Planning adviser

- Countries in the region can reap mutual economic benefits by utilising economic corridors – but only if the geopolitical environment remains favourable, Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud has said. Bangladesh's strategic location, with access to key ports like Chattogram and Mongla, which could benefit neighbours such as India, China, Nepal and Bhutan, he said at a seminar titled "Economic Corridor and Logistics Development in Bangladesh: Investment Opportunities" in Dhaka today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/economic-corridors-can-equally-benefit-all-countries-region-planning-adviser-1152096>

FY26 budget: Black money whitening in real estate to stay – but with 5x taxes

- The government is considering a significant increase in taxes on undeclared wealth, known as black money, invested in the housing sector, with rates potentially rising by up to five times the current levels. The change in tax rates will be made in the upcoming national budget, scheduled to be proposed by the finance adviser on 2 June, to discourage the use of black money in real estate and bring tax rates closer to market values, according to officials at the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/fy26-budget-black-money-whitening-real-estate-stay-5x-taxes-1152556>

Legal amendments ready for BB autonomy: Governor

- Necessary legal amendments are soon for central bank's autonomy and also for downsizing commercial banks' directorships under sweeping reforms that also envisage nationalisation of incurably ailing banks. Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur unveils this plan of action in an exclusive interview with The Financial Express (FE), dwelling at length on other far-reaching recast of the country's banking sector.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/legal-amendments-ready-for-bb-autonomy-governor-1748283134>

Planning Adviser stresses Ctg port's potential as 'strategic trade hub'

- Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud has underscored the potential of Chittagong Port as a strategic hub for trade and commerce for regions, especially for India's northeastern region. He said the port could facilitate the export of goods from that area while also enabling the import of raw materials, which could be processed in Bangladesh for further export.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/planning-adviser-stresses-ctg-ports-potential-as-strategic-trade-hub-1748283601>

BD-China trade confce on June 1

- A daylong 'Bangladesh-China Conference on Investment and Trade' will be held on June 1 at "Biniyog Bhaban" (Investment Building) in the city, reports BSS. Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) are going to jointly organise the event. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is scheduled to inaugurate the conference as the chief guest while China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao is also expected to join the event.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bd-china-trade-confce-on-june-1-1748279564>

Ctg port gridlocked as NBR protests cause pile-up

- Although the National Board of Revenue (NBR) resumed regular operations yesterday after nearly two weeks of protests and work abstentions, ship and container congestion has once again gripped the Chattogram Port, triggering concern among businesses over potential delays in cargo handling and increased logistics costs. NBR officials, who had been protesting since May 14, returned to work yesterday following government assurances that their demands over the NBR reform ordinance would be met.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ctg-port-gridlocked-nbr-protests-cause-pile-3904071>

BANK | 6 troubled banks to be merged by July, govt to take ownership

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday announced plans to merge six financially weakened banks by July this year due to irregularities and loan fraud. The central bank will temporarily place these banks under government ownership to stabilise the sector. "Banks that have been audited will be merged," Governor Mansur told a television channel yesterday. The audited banks are First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, Exim Bank, and National Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/6-troubled-banks-be-merged-july-govt-take-ownership-1152391>

FUEL & POWER | Petrobangla refutes claims on industrial gas crisis

- Petrobangla has issued a clarification in response to what it described as "misleading and confusing" statements made by representatives of various associations regarding gas supply to industrial establishments. The state-run oil, gas, and mineral corporation issued the statement a day after textile and garment industry owners claimed that many mills are on the verge of shutting down, as they are unable to operate even at minimum capacity due to an acute gas crisis.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/petrobangla-refutes-claims-industrial-gas-crisis-3903811>

INSURANCE | IDRA ramps up scrutiny on life insurers amid soaring unpaid claims

- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has instructed 15 life insurance companies to submit detailed information on claim settlements and related bank accounts in a bid to intensify its supervision of the sector, which is grappling with a significant rise in unpaid policyholder dues. The IDRA asked the companies to submit data on claims paid during 2022, 2023 and 2024, along with bank statements linked to those transactions within seven working days, officials familiar with the matter told TBS.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/idra-ramps-scrutiny-life-insurers-amid-soaring-unpaid-claims-1152496>

BANK | BB bars 19 banks from dividend payouts

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has barred 19 listed banks from paying dividends, citing their fragile financial health. To the lenders, BB issued letters on May 21 that cited Section 22 of the Bank Company Act, 1991, which prohibits ailing lenders from distributing dividends. However, the banking regulator has allowed most of these banks to defer provisions against their non-performing loans (NPLs).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-bars-19-banks-dividend-payouts-3904226>

BANK | 20 NBFIs may lose licence

- Twenty non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) with high levels of defaulted loans and an inability to repay depositors may lose their licences. The NBFIs are: CVC Finance, Bay Leasing, Islamic Finance, Meridian Finance, GSP Finance, Hajj Finance, National Finance, IIDFC, Premier Leasing, Prime Finance, Uttara Finance, Aviva Finance, Phoenix Finance, Peoples Leasing, First Finance, Union Capital, International Leasing, BIFC, Fareast Finance, and FAS Finance.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/twenty-nbfis-may-lose-licence-3904421>

BANK | Conventional banks outperform Islamic counterparts

- Bangladesh's banking sector witnessed steady growth from January 2024 to January 2025, with key financial indicators like deposit, investment, and asset of conventional banks outperforming Islamic ones. The volume of total deposit with the banking system rose by 8.40% to reach to BDT 19.05 Tn during January, 2024 to January 2025 over that of BDT 17.57 Tn during the corresponding period of last fiscal.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/conventional-banks-outperform-islamic-counterparts-1748283864>

RMG | RMG exports may drop USD 2 Bn this year

- Bangladesh's RMG exports may suffer this calendar year owing to an increase in tariffs in the US, the possibility of a reduction in shipments to India, and energy shortages, according to a forecast by Bloomberg Economics. It said the headwinds could lower garment exports by USD 2 Bn in 2025. The country fetched USD 38.48 Bn from RMG exports in 2024, according to data compiled by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). Overall earnings from apparel account for over 80% of total exports.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rmg-exports-may-drop-2b-year-3904256>

SERVICE, REAL ESTATE | InterContinental incurs BDT 230 Mn loss in Jan-Mar

- Bangladesh Services Ltd (BSL), the state-owned owner of InterContinental Dhaka, reported a loss of BDT 225.9 Mn in the January-March quarter of the current fiscal year, according to a stock exchange filing today. The hotel and tourism firm incurred a per-share loss of BDT 2.31 for the quarter, a 354% increase from the BDT 0.54 loss per share reported during the same period last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/intercontinental-incurs-tk23cr-loss-jan-mar-1152446>

TELECOM | Reforming the telecom licensing policy: loose ends that need tightening

- The proposed Telecommunication Network & Licensing Regime Reform Policy 2025 marks a welcome shift toward a more streamlined, modern telecom ecosystem in Bangladesh. It includes several forward-thinking provisions but also contains critical ambiguities that must be resolved for the policy to drive sustainable, inclusive sectoral growth

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reforming-the-telecom-licensing-policy-loose-ends-need-tightening-3903901>

Time to move forward with pure hearts for tax system reform

- The latest press release from the Ministry of Finance has been issued to clarify its position and address the ongoing debacle. This is a positive step towards a solution. We hope for a return to normalcy in the system while discussions on reforms are conducted, articulated, agreed upon, and implemented. We also expect a sustainable reform process to create a professional and fair tax system in the country and potentially set standards or offer lessons for an open, transparent, participatory, accountable, and sustainable reform process that can be scaled up.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/time-move-forward-pure-hearts-tax-system-reform-3903226>

Customs duty for buses may halve to 5%

- In a move to develop an effective public transport system in the country's major cities, the interim government may reduce customs duties on the import of public buses. A finance ministry official, on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that the existing 10% customs duty on the import of 16- to 40-seat buses could be reduced to 5% in line with an initiative aimed at modernising the fleet and improving passenger comfort nationwide.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/bangladesh-budget-2025-26/news/customs-duty-buses-may-halve-5-3903486>

NBR officials call off shutdown as govt softens stance

- Officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) called off their planned shutdown yesterday evening, following a government pledge to transform the board into a "specialised and autonomous agency" rather than dissolving it. The officials, protesting under the banner of the "NBR Reform Unity Council", had earlier threatened a complete suspension of operations from today unless their four-point demand was met.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-officials-call-shutdown-govt-softens-stance-3903526>

Strong external sector bolsters economic recovery hopes: GED

- The Planning Commission's General Economics Division (GED) expects an economic recovery bolstered by a favorable external sector with positive exports, remittance growth, and a stable exchange rate. "While global growth is expected to remain steady, domestic challenges, including political uncertainty and inflation, are expected to weigh on the economy in the short term," it, however, warns.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/strong-external-sector-bolsters-economic-recovery-hopes-ged-1150926>

10-month revenue growth plunges to five-year low amid NBR crisis

- Bangladesh is set to face its most significant revenue deficit in five years, since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, with growth in revenue collection hitting its lowest since the fiscal year 2019-20. Officials at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) have attributed the grim picture to the deadlock triggered by the protest by officials against a government move to split the NBR.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/10-month-revenue-growth-plunges-five-year-low-amid-nbr-crisis-1151626>

Overcoming structural, management challenges crucial for agricultural export growth

- To unlock the full potential of agricultural sector, speakers at the Bangladesh Agro Conclave 2025 stressed the need for increased youth engagement, stronger public-private partnerships, and coordinated policy and investment initiatives. The event, titled "Bangladesh Agro Conclave 2025: Unlocking Bangladesh's Agri-Potential for Global Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth," was held at a hotel in Gulshan on Sunday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/overcoming-structural-management-challenges-crucial-agricultural-export-growth-1151601>

FY26 Budget: Surcharge to be levied on actual tax to promote transparency

- In a bid to promote tax fairness, the government is set to revise the surcharge provisions, with plans to impose it on actual tax liabilities rather than inflated assessments. The move aims to encourage taxpayers to disclose their actual wealth with more transparency in their tax returns. Currently, individuals with assets exceeding BDT 40 Mn are subject to a surcharge – essentially a tax on tax, ranging from 10% to 35%, depending on different tiers set as per their net wealth. The measure is primarily aimed at high-income taxpayers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/fy26-budget-surcharge-be-levied-actual-tax-promote-transparency-1151706>

Bangladesh to seek USD 1.0 Bn in budget support

- Bangladesh will seek one-billion-dollar budget support from Japan during the Chief Adviser's upcoming visit, which will also yield some bilateral cooperation accords, officials said. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is scheduled to visit Tokyo on June 28-31, with these matters high on agenda, the foreign adviser told The Financial Express Sunday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bangladesh-to-seek-10b-in-budget-support-1748196508>

Revenue misses target by BDT 715 Bn until April

- Taxmen stroll far behind the pared-down target for the outgoing fiscal by BDT 714.76 Bn or 38.02%, as of April, fundamentally for sluggish investment and ongoing macroeconomic challenges. To rub salt into the wound, came a pen-down by the revenue staff in backlash against an ordinance promulgated by the interim government to disband the National Board of Revenue, which makes it difficult to make up for the shortfall in the remaining days of May and in June.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/revenue-misses-target-by-tk-715b-until-april-1748196568>

Economic Review to be dropped from FY26 budget docs

- The Bangladesh Economic Review, a key budget-related annual publication, will not be included in the official budget documents for the fiscal year (2025-26), according to officials familiar with the matter. Instead, a Bangla version along with an English version of the publication is expected to be released in October 2025, they added.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/economic-review-to-be-dropped-from-fy26-budget-docs-1748196995>

TELECOM | Four more companies seek NTTN licences

- Four new companies have applied to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) for Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) licences, reflecting renewed interest in the transmission business in the country. According to state guidelines, the licence is primarily for building, maintaining, and managing a nationwide fibre-optic transmission network and sharing infrastructure for telecom operators and internet service providers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/four-more-companies-seek-nttn-licences-3903451>

TANNERY | RMG-like support can boost annual leather shipment to USD 5 Bn by 2030: Exporters

- Bangladesh's leather industry could achieve an annual export target of USD 5 Bn by 2030, potentially doubling to USD 10 Bn by 2035, provided it receives financial incentives and policy support similar to those extended to the ready-made garments (RMG) sector, according to exporters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/policy-and-financial-support-can-boost-leather-exports-5-billion-2030-industry-leaders>

RMG | Gas crisis still choking textile mills

- Textile and garment industry owners yesterday expressed grave concerns over the inadequate supply of gas to industrial units, which has been severely hampering their operations for almost three years. Many textile mills are on the verge of shutting down as they are unable to operate even at minimum capacity, said Showkat Aziz Russell, president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gas-crisis-still-choking-textile-mills-3902996>

TANNERY | Leather exports drop 64% in 10 years as CETP woes linger

- The country's leather exports have plunged by over 64% in the past decade, due mainly to the failure to complete the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at the Savar Tannery Estate -- a key requirement for obtaining international environmental certifications. In the fiscal year (FY) 2014, the country exported leather worth USD 397 Mn. By FY2024, that figure had fallen to just USD 142.54 Mn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/leather-exports-drop-64-10-years-cetp-woes-linger-3903496>

TELECOM | Loopholes, violations causing monthly loss of over USD 2 Mn under ILDTS framework

- Speakers on Sunday said policy loopholes and licensing violations under the current ILDTS framework are causing significant revenue losses for Bangladesh, which stakeholders estimate amounts to over a couple of Mn dollars in a month. Over 30 Mn international application-to-person (A2P) SMS messages bypass the International Long Distance Telecommunication Services (ILDTS) system each month. Stakeholders from the International Gateway (IGW) sector estimate that this results in over USD 2.4 Mn in lost revenue monthly.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/loopholes-violations-causing-monthly-loss-of-over-2m-under-ildts-framework-1748197200>

FUEL & POWER | Further delay likely as interim govt also moves slowly

- Bangladesh's delay in constructing its first crude-oil refinery after independence is set to linger further as the interim government is also in the slow lane to implement the project like the previous ones. Bangladesh had "failed" to build any crude-oil refinery over the past half a century after its independence, resulting in huge waste of foreign currencies that went into the import of refined oils from the international market, market insiders said

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/further-delay-likely-as-interim-govt-also-moves-slowly-1748196897>

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.

<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.
- <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>

Important News: Stocks

TRUSTBANK | Trust Bank to issue BDT 8 Bn bond

- Trust Bank PLC will issue a bond worth BDT 8 Bn to bolster its capital base, the company said in a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website yesterday. The decision to float the bond was approved at a board meeting held on May 27 and is subject to approval from the relevant regulatory authorities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trust-bank-issue-tk-800cr-bond-3905471>

BERGERPBL | Berger Paints rights share subscription starts 15 July

- Public subscription for the right shares of Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited is set to start on 15 July and continue till 3 August. To identify the shareholders eligible for the right shares, the company has fixed the record date on 29 June. Those who hold the company's shares till the record date will be the eligible shareholders, says officials familiar with the matter.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/berger-paints-rights-share-subscription-starts-15-july-1154146>

DHAKABANK | Dhaka Bank declares 10% dividend for 2024

- Dhaka Bank has recommended paying a 5% cash and 5% stock dividends to its shareholders for the year 2024. The bank announced the dividend at a meeting held today (28 May), according to the source. To approve the dividend and audited financial statement, the bank will conduct the annual general meeting on 31 July, and the record date is 25 June.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-bank-declares-10-dividend-2024-1154141>

TAKAFULINS, UNIONINS | Takaful, Union insurance to pay 10% cash dividends

- General insurance companies -- Takaful Islami Insurance and Union Insurance Company - have declared 10% cash dividends each for their investors for 2024. While Takaful Islam Insurance showed a slight year-on-year decline in annual profit, Union Insurance secured a slight jump in its earnings. The earnings per share (EPS) of Takaful fell to BDT 1.46 for 2024 from BDT 1.47 for the previous year, according to the price sensitive information published on Wednesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/takaful-union-insurance-to-pay-10pc-cash-dividends-1748452302>

NRBCBANK | NRBC Bank's profit drops 96% in 2024

- The NRBC Bank has reported that its consolidated earnings per share dropped by 96% in 2024. According to the bank's price-sensitive statement that was approved at a board meeting held today (28 May), its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 0.08 in 2024, which was BDT 2.40 in the previous year. Due to the profit slump, the bank has recommended not to pay any dividend to its shareholders for the last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/nrbc-banks-profit-drops-96-2024-1154151>

ICB | ICB seeks provisioning relief to ensure dividends for mutual fund investors

- The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), the trustee of the highest number of mutual funds in the country, has urged the government and the capital market regulator to allow relaxations in maintaining provisions against unrealised losses for the mutual funds. ICB, the trustee of 62 mutual funds, has proposed that at least 25% of the profit earned by mutual funds in the current fiscal year be kept as provisioning, while the remaining 75% be distributed as dividends among the unit holders for the interest of investors who have poured money into the funds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-seeks-provisioning-relief-ensure-dividends-mutual-fund-investors-1154216>

EXCHNAGE | Regulations approved for first commodity exchange

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has approved rules and regulations necessary to run commodity exchange markets, paving the way for the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) to launch the country's first such trading entity soon. A commodity exchange determines and enforces rules and procedures for trading standardised commodity contracts and related investment products.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/regulations-approved-first-commodity-exchange-3906041>

EXCHNAGE | BSEC to punish 44 firms over shareholding rule violation

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is going to take action against 44 listed companies whose sponsors and directors have failed to jointly retain the minimum 30% shareholding required by law. In response to this non-compliance, the stock market regulator will appoint independent directors to the boards of the companies in question.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsec-punish-44-firms-over-shareholding-rule-violation-3906071>

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.

<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>

GPHISPAT | 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.

<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.

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

DESCO | Desco to issue 2.38 Mn preference shares

- Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd (Desco) has received regulatory approval to issue over 2.38 Mn irredeemable non-cumulative preference shares in favour of the government. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), through a letter, gave its consent for the issuance of the preference shares at a face value of BDT 10 each, according to a filing on the website of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/desco-issue-2381-lakh-preference-shares-3903876>

EXCHANGE | Asset managers' last-ditch effort to keep investors with pooled funds

- The country's mutual fund (MFs) industry is in a tight spot as unitholders, frustrated over no return and persistent erosion in the equity market, have increasingly been withdrawing their investments. The disinterest shown in open-ended funds has raised concerns among fund managers as investors have already turned away from close-ended funds for loss of faith in them after repeated financial frauds.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/asset-managers-last-ditch-effort-to-keep-investors-with-pooled-funds-1748279150>

EXCHANGE | BSEC to take action against corrupt officials within six months

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has announced its intention to take action within the next six months against officials and employees of capital market-related institutions who face specific allegations of misconduct and corruption.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-take-action-against-corrupt-officials-within-six-months-1151661>

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>

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