

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:****Exports grow 11.68% in Jul-Jan, FY25**

- Bangladesh's merchandise-export earnings posted an 11.68% growth to USD 28.97 Bn during the first seven months of the current fiscal year, with a January downturn. According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released on Monday, the country's export earnings were USD 25.94 Bn during the July-January period of last fiscal year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/exports-grow-1168pc-in-jul-jan-fy25-1738609613>

**Bangladesh to get USD 5.45 Mn from Japan for air pollution monitoring**

- Japan will provide a grant of USD 5.45 Mn for a project aimed at improving air pollution monitoring in Bangladesh. A grant agreement and exchange of notes were signed today between the governments of Bangladesh and Japan, according to a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-get-545-million-japan-air-pollution-monitoring-3815011>

**Sector & Industries:****TOBACCO | Lee's Tobacco Machinery Company to invest USD 8.32 Mn in Bepza EZ**

- Lee's Tobacco Machinery Company Limited, a UAE- and Singapore-owned entity, will invest USD 8.32 Mn in Bepza Economic Zone to manufacture machinery for tobacco processing. The investment is expected to create 92 jobs for Bangladeshi nationals, according to a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lees-tobacco-machinery-company-invest-832-million-bepza-ez-3815336>

**PHARMACEUTICAL | Tax breaks, cash incentives, low-cost loans on the table for API investors**

- The interim government is weighing a set of incentives – including VAT and tax exemptions, cash incentives, and low-interest loans – to spur investment in the production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), the key raw materials for medicines.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/tax-breaks-cash-incentives-low-cost-loans-table-api-investors-1060356>

**RMG | Apparel leads 5.7% export growth in January**

- The country's merchandise exports increased by 5.7% year-on-year in January, driven by higher shipments of Bangladesh's key export item, readymade garments. The country shipped USD 4.43 Bn worth of goods in January, up from USD 4.19 Bn in the same month a year ago, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/apparel-leads-57-export-growth-january-3815581>

**INSURANCE | Six insurers fined BDT 3.7 Mn for breaching rules**

- The companies being fined are Guardian Life Insurance, National Life Insurance, Alpha Islami Life Insurance, Provati Insurance, Rupali Insurance, and Continental Insurance. Provati Insurance is facing the highest fine of BDT 1 Mn, while Alpha Islami Life will pay the second largest amount of BDT 0.7 Mn. Meanwhile, the other four will pay BDT 0.5 Mn each.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/six-insurers-fined-tk-37-lakh-breaching-rules-3815361>

**TRADE | Containerised cargo transport through Ctg port jumped in January**

- According to foreign shipping lines, export-laden container shipments rose by 18.23% year-on-year to 75,234 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in January through the port, which handles around 98% of the containerised goods transported to and from Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/containerised-cargo-transport-through-ctg-port-jumped-january-3815206>

**MISCELLANEOUS | BD still holds top position in ship-breaking**

- Bangladesh maintained its position as the world's top ship-breaking destination in 2024 despite a fall in imports of scrapped vessels compared to 2023. The country imported 130 scrapped ships last year which was 23.53% less than 170 ships imported in the preceding year 2023, according to data from the NGO Ship-breaking Platform (NSP) -- an NGO advocating for safe and ethical ship dismantling.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-still-holds-top-position-in-ship-breaking-1738609653>

**AVIATION | Launch new airline with 50% Biman assets**

- A government-formed taskforce has suggested the government establish a new airline - Bangladesh Airways - by utilising half of Biman Bangladesh Airlines' existing assets, and appoint an independent, world-class company for its management. The report said Biman, the national flag carrier, has failed to meet modern aviation standards and performance benchmarks for over half a century.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/launch-new-airline-with-50pc-biman-assets-1738609352>

**RMG | Most listed textile firms show resilience in H1, post growth despite challenges**

- Despite facing political instability, economic uncertainty, and worker unrest, the majority of listed textile companies posted year-on-year revenue and profit growth in the first half of the current fiscal year 2024-25.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/most-listed-textile-firms-show-resilience-h1-post-growth-despite-challenges-1060256>

**FOOD & ALLIED | Tea production falls amid bad weather, quality push**

- After a record high output in 2023, the country's tea production declined last year because of unfavourable weather conditions and tea estates opting for quality improvement to secure better rates. Tea production stood at 93 Mn kilogrammes in 2024, down from 102 Mn kilogrammes the previous year, according to the Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/tea-production-falls-amid-bad-weather-quality-push-3815571>

**CERAMICS | Ceramics face double blow: gas crisis and tax burden**

- The country's ceramic industry is facing a severe crisis due to an ongoing gas shortage and the recent imposition of supplementary duty (SD) on the sale of ceramic tiles and sanitary ware, according to industry leaders.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ceramics-face-double-blow-gas-crisis-and-tax-burden-3815586>

**Stocks:****MTB | Mutual Trust Bank set to buy commercial building worth BDT 4.50 Bn**

- Mutual Trust Bank decided to purchase a commercial building cost BDT 4.50 Bn. According to its disclosure filed on the Dhaka bourse, the bank will purchase 15 floors of a newly constructed building at Gulshan for its corporate head office.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mutual-trust-bank-buys-commercial-building-worth-tk450-crore-1059426>

**GPHISPAT | GPH Ispat eyes USD 150 Mn Hong Kong listing to expand production**

- GPH Ispat Limited has announced its intention to raise USD 150 Mn through an initial public offering (IPO) on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange to finance its new project aimed at expanding production capacity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/gph-ispateyes-150-million-hong-kong-listing-expand-production-1060121>

**PADMAOIL | Padma Oil's profit surges 76% in Q2**

- The state-owned company's profit rose by 76% year-on-year to BDT 1.25 Bn in the second quarter of the fiscal year, according to its financial statements. Its earnings per share (EPS) rose to BDT 12.73 for October-December 2024 from BDT 7.29 a year ago. For July-December, EPS stood at BDT 25.40, up from BDT 16.53 in the same period of the previous year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/padma-oils-profit-surges-76-q2-3815116>

**KAY&QUE | DSE downgrades Kay and Que to Z category for failing to disburse dividend**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has downgraded Kay & Que (Bangladesh), a publicly listed company, to the Z category due to its failure to disburse the approved dividend within the stipulated timeframe.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-downgrades-kay-and-que-z-category-failing-disburse-dividend-1060301>

**EXCHANGE | Market intermediaries feel forced to shut down business amid low turnovers**

- The prolonged bearish trend of the country's capital market threatens the survival of intermediaries. Most of them are unable to meet expenses with income derived from operations. The situation is so dire that stockbrokers, merchant banks and asset management companies may feel pushed to cut down workforce as bearing the expenditure of their current set-ups seems no longer possible.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/market-intermediaries-feel-forced-to-shut-down-business-amid-low-turnovers-1738605392>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.28	USD 0.85	1.19%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.42	USD 1.03	1.38%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,817.96	USD 209.48	8.03%
DSEX	5,145.84	-70.60	-1.35%
S&P 500	5,994.57	87.63	1.48%
FTSE 100	8,583.56	462.55	5.70%
BSE SENSEX	77,186.74	-1,013.19	-1.30%
KSE-100	112,745.01	-2,513.99	-2.18%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.82 BDT****1 GBP = 151.33 BDT****1 Euro = 125.76 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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