

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 doesn't need IMF funds, but right policies: governor**

- Bangladesh does not need funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) if it can mobilize enough domestic resources, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur, as he stressed that the country requires the right policies rather than "begging for foreign funds". "This fiscal year, the country has nearly USD 29 Bn in remittances and USD 50 Bn in exports. These two sources alone contribute about USD 80 Bn. After deducting letters of credit (LCs), the country still has USD 10 Bn in hand," the central bank governor said at a roundtable.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-doesnt-need-imf-funds-right-policies-governor-3839836>

Exports edge up in further relief to economy

- Bangladesh's exports have shown resilience, displaying steady growth in key sectors such as garments, plastics and seafood in the first eight months of fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, somewhat defying global economic headwinds and domestic concerns like high inflation and political uncertainty. In February, export earnings stood at USD 3.97 Bn, a 2.77% year-on-year increase from USD 3.86 Bn, according to data published by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/exports-edge-further-relief-economy-3839841>

Businesses demand easing rules to enjoy tax benefits

- Two leading business chambers yesterday demanded the cancellation of a BDT 3.6 Mn cap on cash expenses to qualify for lower corporate tax rates, calling the requirement impractical. In an economy where a large portion of transactions take place outside the banking system -- particularly in the informal sector -- such restrictions create barriers for businesses seeking tax benefits, they said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-demand-easing-rules-enjoy-tax-benefits-3839821>

Bangladesh may take advantage of global trade tension: Analysis

- The trade tension across the world is shifting the wind, and Bangladesh may rather take advantage of it, says an industry leader. "At the same time focus and attention should be given on investments in the backward linkages," said Faruque Hassan, said Director of International Apparel Federation (IAF) in an analysis shared with the media on Tuesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-may-take-advantage-global-trade-tension-analysis-1084116>

Govt wants single VAT rate if businesses agree

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan on Tuesday said the government wants to implement a single, universal value-added tax (VAT) rate in the country if the business community reaches a consensus. "If necessary, we will lower the rate. But it should be a single rate, provided the businesspeople come to a consensus," he said at a pre-budget meeting with the leaders of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) at the NBR office in the capital.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-wants-single-vat-rate-if-businesses-agree-1741113484>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | BB reduces cash reserve requirement for banks**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has reduced the daily cash reserve requirement (CRR) for banks to enable them to manage liquidity more easily. The BB said banks will need to keep 3% of their time and demand deposits from tomorrow, instead of the previous 3.5%, according to a circular issued today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-reduces-cash-reserve-requirement-banks-3839656>

BANK | Banks' special securities fund stays two more years

- Banks' special fund designated for stock-market investment survives two more years until December next year as the regulator renews its tenure amid entreaties from stakeholders and fears of securities selloffs, officials said. "The tenure of the fund has been extended based on views from the stock-market-related various stakeholders and banks that invested in the special fund -- and central bank's own evaluation -- and for overall stability of stock market and the financial sector of the country," the Bangladesh Bank wrote in the letter.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-special-securities-fund-stays-two-more-years-1741113195>

BANK | Contactless payments doubled in 2024

- Contactless payments, or tap-to-pay transactions, more than doubled to 13% of all transactions in Bangladesh in 2024 through Visa, a leading global digital payments provider, according to a new report. The Visa Trends Report revealed that domestic contactless payments alone have tripled, driven by increased usage of both credit and debit contactless cards.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/contactless-payments-doubled-2024-3839811>

BANK | Govt to form banking regulatory simplification task force: BB governor

- A banking regulatory simplification task force will be formed to clarify central bank policies and streamline operational processes for banks, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Monsur said today (4 March 2025). Additionally, they also say the banks have faced confusion due to multiple directives issued by the central bank over the past few years, making it difficult for them to make timely decisions on various matters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/govt-form-banking-regulatory-simplification-task-force-bb-governor-1084061>

TELECOM | Bangladeshis burdened with high internet taxes

- Bangladeshi citizens were burdened with some of the highest taxes on internet usage in Asia in 2024, with a combined tax rate of 39% on internet services, according to a recent report by GSMA, a non-profit organisation that represents the interests of mobile network operators worldwide. This high tax rate, comprising 21% in sector-specific taxes and 18% in VAT, exacerbates the digital divide and poses a significant barrier to the country's digital transformation efforts, the report said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladeshis-burdened-high-internet-taxes-3839831>

TEXTILE | BKMEA wants BDT 70 Bn outstanding cash assistance from govt before Eid

- The Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) has requested the Finance Division to release BDT 70 Bn in outstanding cash assistance for exports before Eid-ul-Fitr. Hatem urged the Finance Division to take special measures to release the funds within the shortest possible time, preferably by the 15th of Ramadan, noting that delays could cause serious disruptions in the export sector.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bkmea-seeks-outstanding-tk7000cr-cash-assistance-eid-1084191>

TRADE | Import taboo, consumer boycott bite India's share

- India's share in Bangladesh's total trade has been on a downturn since April 2024 as import restrictions and a consumer-driven boycott of Indian-made products weigh amid a change of wind, sources say. On the contrary, China's share in Bangladesh's trade has been on the up and up since then, according to data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/import-taboo-consumer-boycott-bite-indias-share>

BANK | Mortgaged asset auction hurdles fuel NPL build-up

- Despite having money loan court (Artha Rin Adalat) decrees in their favour, banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) are not getting the desired success in selling mortgaged properties due to various complications. As a result, banks and other financial institutions are not achieving the expected level of success in recovering default loans even after fighting long legal battles.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/mortgaged-asset-auction-hurdles-fuel-npl-build-up>

Stocks:**SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma's Tapan Chowdhury to buy over BDT 320 Mn worth of shares**

- Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals, has expressed his intention to purchase 1.5 Mn shares of the company, the largest drug producer of the country, valued at over BDT 320 Mn at the current market price. As of November 30, last year, Tapan Chowdhury held a 9.47% stake in Square Pharmaceuticals, a major concern of Square Group. Following the purchase, his total stake in the company will increase to 9.65%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/square-pharmas-tapan-chowdhury-buy-over-tk-32-crore-worth-shares-3839826>

BEXIMCO, BXPHERMA, SPCERAMICS | BSEC-appointed 9 independent directors may join**Beximco cos**

- The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on Tuesday cleared the way for nine independent directors appointed by the Bangladesh Security and Exchange Commission (BSEC) for Beximco Limited, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, and Shinepukur Ceramics to resume their duties. The BSEC appointed nine independent directors to the three listed companies on December 31 last year, following a directive from the Financial Institutions Division (FID) under the Finance Ministry.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bsec-appointed-9-independent-directors-may-join-beximco-cos-1741113570>

EXCHANGE | Yield on two-year BGTBs rises substantially

- The yield on two-year Bangladesh government treasury bonds (BGTBs) increased significantly on Tuesday as banks expressed their unwillingness to invest funds in the securities. The cut-off yield, generally known as the interest rate, on the BGTBs rose to 11.20% on the day from 10.92% earlier, according to auction results.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/yield-on-two-year-bgtbs-rises-substantially-1741113411>

EXCHANGE | BSEC to revise IPO rules, ending private share offerings for issuer employees

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has moved to amend initial public offering (IPO) rules, eliminating provisions for private share offerings to issuer company employees. The move aims to ensure transparency and fairness in the IPO process, preventing misuse of the private offer facility. The stock market regulator published a draft notification on 2 March, inviting stakeholders to submit their feedback by 17 March.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-revise-ipo-rules-ending-private-share-offerings-issuer-employees-1084546>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 67.80	(USD 3.63)	-5.08%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 70.88	(USD 3.51)	-4.72%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,913.46	USD 304.98	11.69%
DSEX	5,194.11	-22.34	-0.43%
S&P 500	5,778.15	-128.79	-2.18%
FTSE 100	8,759.00	637.99	7.86%
BSE SENSEX	72,989.93	-5,210.00	-6.66%
KSE-100	112,743.80	-2,515.20	-2.18%
CSEALL	15,870.25	3,866.96	32.22%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.24 BDT****1 GBP = 154.88 BDT****1 Euro = 128.62 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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