

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:**USA, UAE overtake Saudi Arabia as top remittance sources**

- The United States, the United Kingdom, and Saudi Arabia were the top sources of remittance inflows to Bangladesh in the first seven months of the 2024-25 fiscal year. According to Bangladesh Bank, total remittance inflows from the top 30 countries stood at USD 15.96 Bn during the period. The United States led with USD 2.9 Bn in remittances from July 2024 to January 2025. Monthly inflows from the US peaked at USD 565.04 Mn in December before falling to USD 407.52 Mn in January.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/usa-uae-overtake-saudi-arabia-top-remittance-sources-3840486>

India-funded projects will continue: Finance Adviser

- Bangladesh and India began a two-day meeting to review Indian-funded projects, which have been running behind schedule. Officials from both countries participated in the meeting at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) yesterday, aiming to resolve complexities and expedite the long-delayed projects. Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed reiterated that projects under Indian line of credit (LoCs) would continue.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/india-funded-projects-will-continue-salehuddin-3840696>

BUILD proposes flat 10% VAT rate

- Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) – a private sector think tank – has proposed setting a flat value-added tax (VAT) rate at 10%, suggesting that it could help improve the government's revenue collection. During a pre-budget meeting with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) today (5 March), Ferdous Ara Begum, chief executive officer of BUILD CEO, also highlighted the complexity of the current VAT structure. She noted that Section 46(1) of the VAT law does not allow VAT credit or rebates for rates below 15%, resulting in an effective VAT burden of around 30% due to the cascading effect.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/build-proposes-flat-10-vat-rate-1085186>

Running the government becoming costlier and cuts into ADP

- Running the government is becoming more expensive every year as operational spending in fiscal budgets has been ballooning for the past six fiscal years, leaving development a shrinking slice of the pie. The upcoming fiscal budget faces severe constraints, with a significant portion of revenue earmarked for operational expenses, leaving limited funds for development.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/running-government-becoming-costlier-and-cuts-adp-1085656>

Credit access drives rural transformation in Bangladesh: Study

- A new study published in Nature Portfolio, a collection of academic journals under Springer Nature, has found that expanded access to credit is driving significant rural transformation in Bangladesh by enhancing agricultural productivity and creating non-farm employment opportunities. The findings highlight the pivotal role credit plays in transitioning rural economies from traditional farming to high-value agricultural sectors like vegetables, fruits, and livestock.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/credit-access-drives-rural-transformation-bangladesh-study-1084706>

Labour law being updated matching global standards

- Bangladesh's labour law is being updated on "international standards" for improving the living conditions of millions of labourers employed in different sectors. Chief Adviser Professor Yunus issued the instructions to this effect on Wednesday for the officials concerned to get it down as soon as possible, said a spokesperson for the CA Office.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/labour-law-being-updated-matching-global-standards-1741199371>

Factories shut after July uprising struggle to reopen

- Mills and factories that were vandalised, ransacked or set ablaze during and after the July uprising have been struggling to reopen due to financial crises, unavailability of bank loans and their politically exposed owners facing legal consequences. Nearly 0.1 Mn workers were employed in these production lines, many of which now remain closed, leaving employees to bear the brunt of the disruptions.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/factories-shut-after-july-uprising-struggle-reopen-3840701>

High taxes in Bangladesh hamper business, revenue receipt

- Top executives from multinational corporations (MNCs) and local business upshots suggest dialogue between the revenue authority and the corporate sector before taxation, as they feel high taxes hamper business and investment. They also point out that high tax incidence also promotes tax-dodging while calling for lowering tax rates and casting wide tax nets to augment government revenue receipt.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/high-taxes-in-bangladesh-hamper-business-revenue-receipt-1741199028>

UN to slash rations to Rohingyas by half to USD 6 per month

- The United Nations will cut food rations to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh from USD 12.50 to USD 6 per month next month after failing to find funds, an official said, raising fears among aid workers of rising hunger in the world's largest refugee settlement, reports Reuters. "Yesterday, I was informed verbally, and today I received the letter confirming a USD 6.50 cut, which will take effect from April 1," said Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh's top official overseeing the refugee camps.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/un-to-slash-rations-to-rohingyas-by-half-to-6-per-month-1741199456>

Sector & Industries:**FUEL & POWER | Govt to buy BDT 14.96 Bn LNG from spot market**

- The Advisory Committee on Government Purchases today approved two proposals to buy liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market for BDT 14.96 Bn under the direct procurement method. The Energy and Mineral Resources Division has been authorised to procure LNG worth BDT 7.54 Bn at USD 15.73 per MMBTU from M/S Total Engineering Gas and Power Ltd, Switzerland. Another purchase worth BDT 7.42 Bn at USD 15.47 per MMBTU was approved from M/S Singapore Pte Ltd, Singapore.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-buy-tk-1496-crore-lng-spot-market-3840416>

Stocks:**HFL | DSE downgrades Hamid Fabrics to Z**

- In an announcement, the DSE stated that the reclassification complies with a securities regulator directive issued on 20 May last year, which mandates that any issuer failing to conduct its AGM within the stipulated time frame must be moved to the Z category – commonly referred to as the junk stock category.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-downgrades-hamid-fabrics-z-1085576>

UNILEVERCL | Unilever Consumer Care to give highest dividend in 5 years despite lower profit

- Despite a 31% year-on-year decline in profit in 2024, Unilever Consumer Care recommended the highest dividend – 520% -- in five years for shareholders for the year. The multinational company's annual income plummeted to BDT 667 Mn in 2024, mainly due to lower sales and the re-imposition of royalty charge by the parent company. Earnings per share (EPS) fell sharply to BDT 34.62 in 2024 from BDT 49.89 a year ago, according to a stock exchange filing on Wednesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/unilever-consumer-care-to-give-highest-dividend-in-5-years-despite-lower-profit-1741197345>

EXCHANGE | Confined by protesting employees: What BSEC chairman says

- Following hours-long confinement of the entire Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, BSEC Chairman Khondoker Rashed Maqsood issued a press statement today (5 March). To investigate various irregularities in the capital market during the previous regime, the BSEC formed an investigation committee to look into irregularities in 12 listed companies. So far, the investigation committee has submitted seven reports. Based on these reports, the process of framing charges is underway, involving various capital market institutions, individuals and some BSEC officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/confined-protesting-employees-what-bsec-chairman-says-1085581>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 66.73	(USD 4.70)	-6.58%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 69.72	(USD 4.67)	-6.28%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,925.04	USD 316.56	12.14%
DSEX	5,196.66	-19.78	-0.38%
S&P 500	5,842.63	-64.31	-1.09%
FTSE 100	8,755.84	634.83	7.82%
BSE SENSEX	73,730.23	-4,469.70	-5.72%
KSE-100	112,253.76	-3,005.24	-2.61%
CSEALL	16,166.53	4,163.24	34.68%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.48 BDT****1 GBP = 156.65 BDT****1 Euro = 131.20 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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