

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:**Canada gives USD 272 Mn in aid to Bangladesh, Indo-Pacific as USAID shuttered**

- Canada unveiled USD 272.1 Mn in new funding for foreign aid projects for Bangladesh and the Indo-Pacific region, Canada's Minister of International Development, Ahmed Hussen said on Sunday (9 March). The money, alongside the contributions of other foreign partners and donors will help fund 14 different projects and in both Bangladesh and other countries in the Indo-Pacific, says Global News.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/world/canada-gives-272m-aid-bangladesh-indo-pacific-usaid-shuttered-1088676>

None else but NBR to present tax-waiver issues in parliament

- NBR has prepared the draft 'Tax Expenditure Policy Framework', preventing any agency or authority but the government revenue board (NBR) from placing any tax-exemption issue before parliament. The draft policy restricts inclusion of any tax-breaks, rebate or waiver in any of the law, bilateral or multilateral treaties, local or joint-venture agreements bypassing the tax authority. The draft framework is an integrated one comprising income tax, customs and value-added tax (VAT) wings.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/none-else-but-nbr-to-present-tax-waiver-issues-in-parliament-1741544139>

NBR launches customs risk management regulations against money laundering

- The National Board of Revenue has issued a notification introducing the 'Customs Risk Management Regulations, 2025' aimed at addressing economic risks such as money laundering and terrorism financing. As part of this initiative, a dedicated Customs Risk Management Commissionerate (CRMC) will be established.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/259720/nbr-launches-customs-risk-management-regulations-against-money-laundering>

Reserves drop to USD 19.7 Bn after ACU payment

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves fell from USD 21.39 Bn to USD 19.7 Bn on Sunday after the country paid USD 1.75 Bn in regional import bills through the Asian Clearing Union (ACU).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reserves-drop-197b-after-acu-payment-3843676>

Pvt sector credit growth plunges

- Private sector credit growth in Bangladesh fell sharply to 7.15% in Jan'25, which has been on a steady decline for six consecutive months. Bank officials attributed the slowdown to a stagnant business environment, political unrest, and weak law enforcement. Businesses adopted a cautious 'wait-and-see' approach, holding back on new investments.

<https://www.newagebd.net/post/economy/259730/pvt-sector-credit-growth-plunges>

Bangladesh's economy expands at slower pace in Feb: PMI

- Bangladesh's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) in February dropped by 1.1 points to 64.6, indicating a slowdown in the pace of economic expansion compared to the previous month. The pace of growth in agriculture and manufacturing increased from January, while it declined in the construction and service sectors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-economy-expands-slower-pace-feb-pmi-1088571>

Sector & Industries:**PHARMACEUTICAL | Pharma exports rise, but Feb slump raises eyebrows**

- The pharmaceutical sector earned USD 145.46 Mn in export proceeds during Jul'24-Feb'25 period, posting a 7.1% increase. However, Feb'25 exports were USD 13.02 Mn, marking a 22.6% decline. The drop was largely driven by recent cuts in US foreign aid and a temporary halt in medicine shipments to Vietnam and Cambodia, where business activities slowed during New Year celebrations, industry insiders said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pharma-exports-rise-feb-slump-raises-eyebrows-3843686>

FOOD & ALLIED | Abul Khair Group chairman expands business

- The chairman of Abul Khair Group has expanded business in the food and commodities sector under his company Smile Food Products Limited by acquiring Abdul Monem Sugar Refinery Limited and Globe Edible Oil, in deals worth BDT 40.0 Bn. Abdul Monem Group lacked integrated operations for sugar which resulted in mounting losses, while Globe Edible Oil's acquisition comes amid political shifts.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/time-low-confidence-abul-khair-group-chairman-expands-business-1088666>

Stocks:**SAMATALETH | DSE upgrades Samata Leather from Z to B category**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has upgraded Samata Leather Complex from the 'Z' category to the 'B' category, marking a significant shift in its classification on the capital market. The upgrade follows the company's announcement of a 0.40% cash dividend for general investors for the fiscal year 2024, which ended on 30 June. As a result, Samata Leather will start trading under the 'B' category from today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-upgrades-samata-leather-z-b-category-1088611>

DHAKABANK | Shanta Life signs MoU with Dhaka Bank to launch bancassurance services

- Shanta Life Insurance PLC recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Dhaka Bank PLC, aiming to provide bancassurance services through the bank's distribution channel.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/shanta-life-signs-mou-dhaka-bank-launch-bancassurance-services-3843421>

HAMI | Hami Industries to rent out factory space in Chattogram

- Hami Industries PLC, formerly known as Imam Button Industries Ltd, has signed an agreement with Lubricant Asia Limited to lease out 6,752 square feet of space from its factory in Fouzderhat Heavy Industrial Area of Chattogram for two years. The company will charge a rent of BDT 20 per square foot, effective from March 1 this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/hami-industries-rent-out-factory-space-chattogram-3843656>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 66.71	(USD 4.72)	-6.61%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 70.07	(USD 4.32)	-5.81%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,911.62	USD 303.14	11.62%
DSEX	5,174.44	-42.00	-0.81%
S&P 500	5,770.20	-136.74	-2.31%
FTSE 100	8,679.88	558.87	6.88%
BSE SENSEX	74,332.58	-3,867.35	-4.95%
KSE-100	114,398.70	-860.30	-0.75%
CSEALL	16,115.47	170.86	1.07%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.53 BDT****1 GBP = 156.93 BDT****1 Euro = 131.72 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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