

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 eyes Pakistan as emerging sourcing destination**

- Bangladesh stands to benefit from enhanced trade ties with Pakistan as local traders are optimistic about getting more competitive prices and a broader range of raw material sources. Currently, trade dynamics favour Pakistan, with Bangladesh importing cotton, yarn, fabrics, and essential commodities from the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-eyes-pakistan-emerging-sourcing-destination-3845536>

**Govt selects Chinese firm to expand the facilities at Mongla port**

- The government has awarded a contract to a Chinese firm to expand the facilities of Mongla port. The committee awarded the contract to Beijing-based China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) for expanding the facilities of the Mongla Port and improving its service at a cost of BDT 40.46 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-selects-chinese-firm-to-expand-the-facilities-at-mongla-port>

**Revenue BDT 520 Bn short of IMF target for Jul-Dec**

- Revenue collection fell significantly short of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) target in the first six months of the current fiscal year. The government raised BDT 1628.92 Bn in total revenue, including from both National Board of Revenue (NBR) and non-NBR sources, according to finance ministry data, missing the IMF's target to collect BDT 2151.20 Bn by BDT 522.28 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/revenue-tk-52000cr-short-imf-target-jul-dec-3845526>

**Current account turns negative as external balance stays shaky**

- According to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, the current account deficit stood at USD 552 Mn in the July-January period of fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, compared to a USD 56 Mn surplus in July-December. The main culprit is a widening gap in the service account, driven by rising transportation costs.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/current-account-turns-negative-external-balance-stays-shaky-3845521>

**Zero-interest loans gone but WB offers lower rates in new policy**

- Bangladesh is entering a new phase in its relationship with the World Bank (WB), moving away from zero-interest funds. Starting July, under IDA 21, the WB's next three-year concessional lending cycle. According to ERD officials, Bangladesh can borrow USD 834 Mn at zero interest under the current cycle, ending in June.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/zero-interest-loans-gone-wb-offers-lower-rates-new-policy-1090436>

**Yield on five-year BGTBs rises significantly**

- The yield on five-year Bangladesh government treasury bonds (BGTBs) increased significantly on Tuesday as banks expressed their unwillingness to invest funds in the securities before the upcoming Eid festival. The cut-off yield, generally known as interest rate, on the BGTBs rose to 11.50% on the day from 10.47% earlier, according to auction results.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/yield-on-five-year-bgtbs-rises-significantly>

**Sector & Industries:****PHARMACEUTICALS | No more advance tax on cancer drug raw material imports**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has exempted advance tax on the import of raw materials used to manufacture cancer drugs, according to a notification issued earlier this month. The move follows a decision by the income tax department under the NBR to reduce the tax at source on the import of ingredients for oncology medicines from 5% to 2%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-more-advance-tax-cancer-drug-raw-material-imports-3844941>

**RMG | Bangladesh beats competitors in RMG export growth to US**

- Bangladesh has outperformed competitor countries to attain the highest year-on-year growth in apparel shipments to the US market in January, as American retailers and brands are placing large volumes of work orders here to capitalise on the favourable tariff regime. Exporters said this happened as the Trump administration raised tariffs on imports from China and Mexico, creating an advantage for Bangladesh in the US market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-beats-competitors-rmg-export-growth-us-3845531>

**FUEL & POWER | Russia seeks continuity of Gazprom's work in Bangladesh**

- Russia has sought the cooperation of Chief Adviser (CA) Prof Muhammad Yunus to ensure the continued operations of the state-owned Russian company Gazprom International in gas exploration. Gazprom has been active in Bangladesh since 2012, partnering in the exploration of gas reserves. In 2023, Gazprom International identified five new wells for further exploration in Bhola, an island off the southern coast.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/russia-seeks-continuity-gazproms-work-bangladesh-3845511>

**FUEL & POWER | Conglomerate resumes full-scale electricity export to Bangladesh**

- India's Adani resumes full-scale operation and supply of electricity from both of its dedicated power-plant units following a call from Bangladesh at the start of Ramadan. The Adani Power Jharkhand Ltd (APJL) plant supplied around 1,362 megawatts (MW) of electricity against its combined capacity to supply 1,496 MWs on Monday, according to official data from the state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/conglomerate-resumes-full-scale-electricity-export-to-bangladesh>

**BANK | Bank deposit growth exceeds 8% in Jan after 4 months**

- Deposits in the country's banking sector grew by 8.28% in January this year after remaining below 8% for the last four months of 2024, according to central bank data released today. Bankers attributed the prolonged low deposit growth to high inflation, reduced liquidity, and customer distrust in certain banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bank-deposit-growth-exceeds-8-jan-after-4-months-1090306>

**FUEL & POWER | Gas loss in Bangladesh is over 33% higher than standard: Analysis**

- Bangladesh incurs a loss of 10% in natural gas transmission system, a volume which is over 33% higher than that of the international standard, energy regulatory commission said on Tuesday. According to international standards, the maximum acceptable gas loss in distribution lines is 0.20 to 0.30%.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/gas-loss-in-bangladesh-is-over-33pc-higher-than-standard-analysis>

**Stocks:**

**AAMRANET, AAMRATECH | Aamra firms struggle with fund crisis, fall into non-compliance**

- Two listed companies under the Aamra Group, Aamra Technologies and Aamra Networks, are grappling with severe business challenges and a liquidity crisis, which have pushed them into non-compliance with regulatory requirements. Both firms failed to disburse declared dividends within the stipulated time frame, leading to their downgrade to the Z category.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/aamra-firms-struggle-fund-crisis-fall-non-compliance-1090326>

**EXCHANGE | Sri Lankan investors show interest in Bangladesh's stock market: BSEC**

- Sri Lankan investors have expressed their intention to invest in Bangladesh, as well as collaborate in the operational sectors of the country's stock market. The investors, led by Dilshan Wirasekara, chairman of the Colombo Stock Exchange, conveyed their interest during a meeting with Khondoker Rashed Maqsood, chairman of the BSEC.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/sri-lankan-investors-show-interest-bangladeshs-stock-market-bsec-3845246>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 66.70	(USD 4.73)	-6.62%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 69.95	(USD 4.44)	-5.97%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,918.10	USD 309.62	11.87%
DSEX	5,199.30	-17.14	-0.33%
S&P 500	5,572.07	-334.87	-5.67%
FTSE 100	5,572.07	-2,548.94	-31.39%
BSE SENSEX	74,102.32	-4,097.61	-5.24%
KSE-100	114,177.66	-1,081.34	-0.94%
CSEALL	15,710.58	-234.03	-1.47%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.52 BDT****1 GBP = 157.15 BDT****1 Euro = 132.47 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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