

*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:****Imports rebound on rising exports, remittances**

- Bangladesh's imports have returned to positive territory after two years of decline, driven by higher demand for consumer goods and industrial raw materials to meet the needs of rising exports -- a trend an economist views as a sign of an economic turnaround. Imports grew by 3.53% year-on-year to USD 32 Bn in the first half of fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, rebounding from a 20% drop during the same period the previous year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imports-rebound-rising-exports-remittances-3826961>

**Chief adviser for establishing new regional economic zone**

- Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has stressed the need for establishing a new economic zone involving Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Bhutan. "The process has begun. This process should be accelerated so that the economic zone can be established," he told a programme hosted by the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association (BASA) at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre in Dhaka on Sunday night.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/chief-adviser-for-establishing-new-regional-economic-zone>

**REHAB's Ctg fair bags BDT 847.7 Mn worth of sales orders**

- The four-day housing exhibition, REHAB Chattogram Fair-2025, generated BDT 847.7 Mn in sales and bookings for flats, commercial spaces, and plots before closing on Sunday. The organiser, the Chattogram regional office of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB), said the amount was 21.5% lower than the previous edition's BDT 1.08 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rehabs-ctg-fair-bags-tk-8477-crore-worth-sales-orders-3826466>

**Bangladesh seeks investment from top investors in Japan**

- Bangladesh has sought investment from the biggest investors in Japan, including Nexi (Nippon), Mitsui, Marubeni, HSBC, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, and JT, to enhance trade and investment between the two countries. The adviser said that more than 350 Japanese companies currently operate in Bangladesh across various sectors, and the bilateral relationship between the two countries is regarded as a strategic partnership.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-seeks-investment-top-investors-japan-3826366>

**Allowing competition a must-do to attract FDI**

- Bangladesh ought to open its market to ensure enhanced foreign investment, the European Union suggests as the bloc eyes business potential in various sectors and prospects for greater exports. The EU Ambassador in Bangladesh, Michael Miller, made the observations Monday and made it clear that to sustain duty-free trade facilities like GSP-plus Bangladesh must comply with EU labour rights and environment norms.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/allowing-competition-a-must-do-to-attract-fdi-1739815531>

**GDP growth to stay low in FY25: Finance adviser**

- The country's GDP growth will remain low this fiscal year, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said today, amid grim forecasts from international groups including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank due to various economic challenges. Speaking at a book launch ceremony in the capital's Banani, he reassured the public, saying, "I have already said that there won't be much growth this year, but there is no need to panic."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/growth-wont-be-high-year-thats-no-reason-panic-finance-adviser-1071141>

**USD 4.7 Bn loan: IMF defers release of 4th tranche**

- The International Monetary Fund has deferred the release of the fourth tranche of the USD 4.7 Bn loan to June instead of March as Bangladesh could not meet some prior conditions. Earlier in December last year, upon completion of the third review, Chris Papageorgiou, the chief of IMF's visiting staff mission, had said that the proposal for the fourth tranche would be submitted before the IMF executive board on February 5. However, the multilateral lender shifted the initial board meeting for the fourth tranche, which is likely to be USD 645 Mn, from February 5 to March 12.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imf-defers-release-4th-tranche-3826346>

**Tax collection trails target with growth in negative trajectory**

- Tax collection against the submitted returns declined 1.53% despite extending submission time thrice and the number of returns has increased by 150,000, possibly as the well-off remain on the run. From July 2024 till February 16, 2025, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) received BDT 62.44 Bn from returns against BDT 63.42 Bn in the same period last year, official data showed.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tax-collection-trails-target-with-growth-in-negative-trajectory-1739815447>

**Sector & Industries:****TANNERY | Footwear sector offers lucrative investment opportunities: Bida**

- Bangladesh's footwear sector is at a turning point, offering lucrative investment opportunities in both the leather and non-leather segments. However, challenges in sustaining growth and enhancing competitiveness remain, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida) highlighted in a newsletter released yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/footwear-sector-offers-lucrative-investment-opportunities-bida-3826941>

**BANK | Agent banking lending up 56%, deposit 15.4% in Q4'24**

- Agent banking continues changing the rural socioeconomic landscape with formal credit inflow, deposit netting, and injection of inward remittance, marking a remarkable increase in the least-developed regions. At the end of December 2024, lending through agent banking rose by around 56% year on year to reach BDT 240.283 Bn. The volume of loans disbursed till December 2023 was BDT 154.083 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/agent-banking-lending-up-56pc-deposit-154pc-in-q424-1739815757>

**Stocks:****ROBI | Robi sees record profit surge in 2024**

- Robi Axiata Ltd posted a record profit of BDT 7.03 Bn in 2024, marking the fifth consecutive year of growth in earnings by the second-largest mobile phone operator in Bangladesh. Robi recorded a 119% year-on-year spike in profit, despite reporting a significant decline in revenue growth.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/robi-sees-record-profit-surge-2024-3826946>

**BEXIMCO | Govt to arrange BDT 6.00 Bn to clear Beximco workers' dues**

- The government will arrange BDT 6.00 Bn to pay the arrears and service benefits to laid-off workers across 16 textile and garment units of the Beximco Group, according to a top official. This decision comes as the previous plan to clear the worker payments by selling Beximco shares is "not possible within a short time," said AHM Shafiquzzaman, secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-arrange-tk-600cr-clear-beximco-workers-dues-3826936>

**OLYMPIC | Olympic Industries to invest BDT 136.6 Mn in chocolate manufacturing plant**

- Olympic Industries, the country's leading biscuit and confectionery maker, will invest BDT 136.6 Mn to procure capital machinery for a multi-functional chocolate plant, the company said today. The plant, with an annual production capacity of 3,300 tonnes, will be installed and commissioned at Olympic's Lolati factory in Sonargaon, Narayanganj, on the outskirts of Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/olympic-industries-invest-tk-1366-crore-chocolate-manufacturing-plant-3826251>

**ISLAMIBANK | ACC summons 12 Islami Bank officials, including ex-chairman Ahsanul Alam**

- The Anti-Corruption Commission has summoned 12 former and current officials of Islami Bank, including ex-chairman Ahsanul Alam, over the allegations of USD 1 Bn laundered abroad by S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam and his family.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/corruption/news/acc-summons-12-islami-bank-officials-including-ex-chairman-ahsanul-alam-3826636>

**EXCHANGE | Critical issues in the mutual fund industry needs to be resolved**

- The task force for capital market reform recently submitted important recommendations for the mutual fund industry. Among their recommendations is the proposal to discontinue closed-end mutual funds after their 10-year tenure. The taskforce also advocated for the recognition of various existing mutual fund types – such as equity, growth, balanced, fixed income, and Shariah-compliant funds – along with defined investment allocation criteria. If implemented, these measures could surely enhance the industry's prospects.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/critical-issues-mutual-fund-industry-needs-be-resolved-1071286>

**EXCHANGE | BSEC appoints new spokesperson**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) replaced Rezaul Karim as spokesperson and appointed a new representative to the position today. Abul Kalam, a director at BSEC, has been named the new spokesperson. Additionally, Deputy Director Kazi Md Al-Islam has been appointed as deputy spokesperson, while Assistant Director Sarah Tasnuva and Public Relations Officer Mohaiminul Haque will serve as assistant spokespersons.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-appoints-new-spokesperson-1071036>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 71.24	(USD 0.19)	-0.27%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.16	USD 0.77	1.04%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,898.11	USD 289.63	11.10%
DSEX	5,211.53	-4.91	-0.09%
S&P 500	6,114.63	207.69	3.52%
FTSE 100	8,768.01	647.00	7.97%
BSE SENSEX	75,996.86	-2,203.07	-2.82%
KSE-100	111,743.53	-3,515.47	-3.05%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.47 BDT****1 GBP = 153.11 BDT****1 Euro = 127.16 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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