

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, IMF mutually deferred loan tranche**

- The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) decision to disburse the fourth and fifth tranches together was a mutually agreed decision, the finance ministry said today. The instalments are disbursed upon the fulfilment of conditions that have been mutually agreed upon by the government and the IMF to strengthen the foundation of the economy, according to a press release.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imfs-4th-tranche-deferral-was-mutually-agreed-decision-finance-ministry-3827481>

Bhutan seeks joint venture with Bangladesh on hydropower: Envoy

- Bhutan is keen on joint venture investment with Bangladesh to harness the hydropower potentials of the Himalayan kingdom, its ambassador to Bangladesh Rinchen Kuentsyl said on Tuesday. Bhutan has also moved to sign an agreement with Bangladesh's submarine cable company to get an alternative internet connection from Dhaka, he said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bhutan-seeks-joint-venture-bangladesh-hydropower-envoy-1071776>

UNDP study calls for legislative reforms to promote responsible business conduct

- To promote responsible business conduct, a study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has called for strengthening monitoring mechanisms and establishing accountability frameworks for businesses. The study titled "Adopting Responsible Business Conduct for Bangladesh's Growth Aspirations: Global Developments, Imperatives, and Policy Priorities" outlines short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions to promote responsible business conduct (RBC).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/undp-study-calls-legislative-reforms-promote-responsible-business-conduct-1072111>

Beijing ready to help Dhaka execute Teesta project

- China is ready to help Bangladesh in implementing the stalled Teesta River water-management project if the government wants, says the Chinese envoy detailing new plans of cooperation following regime change here. As Ambassador Yao Wen spoke Tuesday in Dhaka on the Teesta project, northerners-commoners, politicians and civil-society rights campaigners- in their thousands gathered during last couple of days at 11 points in five northern districts on demand for immediate action to implement the master plan for the river-water management.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/beijing-ready-to-help-dhaka-execute-teesta-project>

Bangladesh's job crisis deepens as private sector stalls

- Bangladesh's private sector, which employs 95% of the workforce compared to the government's 5%, faces a deepening crisis as credit growth plunges to a four-year low of 7%. With capital machinery imports plummeting 34% in FY25, businesses are halting expansion plans—leaving educated youth disproportionately unemployed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-job-crisis-deepens-private-sector-stalls-1072181>

Sector & Industries:**TELECOM | Affordable spectrum key to expanding digital connectivity: experts**

- Ensuring affordable spectrum is crucial for expanding digital connectivity and fostering economic growth, said M Emdad UI Bari, chairman of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). He emphasised that high spectrum prices could burden service providers, potentially hampering infrastructure expansion and service quality.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/affordable-spectrum-key-expanding-digital-connectivity-experts-3827641>

TRADE | Ctg Port introduces digital payment for gate pass of cargo vehicles

- The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has fully introduced a digital payment system for the gate pass of all cargo vehicles, aiming to reduce processing time for vehicle entry and expedite container and cargo handling to minimise vessel turnaround time at the country's largest seaport.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ctg-port-introduces-digital-payment-gate-pass-cargo-vehicles-3827261>

BANK | Three pvt banks to open USD 240 Mn LCs for LNG imports

- State-run Petrobangla has started the process of opening letters of credit (LCs) with private commercial banks alongside government-owned ones to facilitate the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG), thus creating scope to clear its arrears to international oil companies (IOCs), said sources. With the help of private banks, it has brought down the LNG-import arrears by around one-fourth to nearly USD 340 Mn within a couple of weeks from USD 455 Mn, a senior Petrobangla official said. City Bank will provide Petrobangla with a maximum credit of USD 100 Mn, Brac Bank USD 90 Mn, and Prime Bank USD 50 Mn, they said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/three-pvt-banks-to-open-240m-lcs-for-lng-imports>

BANK | BB to fix banks if deemed 'non-viable': Final draft law

- The Bangladesh Bank has finalized the draft of the Bank Resolution Ordinance, 2025, equipping itself with provisions that allow it to resolve — meaning intervene and take corrective action against — banks it deems non-viable (no longer financially stable or capable of continuing operations). The Bangladesh Bank's resolution powers will include appointing a temporary administrator, raising capital through new or existing shareholders, transferring the bank's shares, assets, and liabilities to a third party, establishing a bridge bank to maintain critical functions and viable operations, and selling the bank to a third party.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-fix-banks-if-deemed-non-viable-final-draft-law-1071326>

BANK | Bank loan rescheduling rises BDT 19.22 Bn in Jan-Sep

- In the first nine months of 2024, rescheduled defaulted loans in the banking sector increased by BDT 19.22 Bn, with bankers attributing the increase to a significant rise in fresh non-performing loans. According to data from the Bangladesh Bank, banks rescheduled loans totalling BDT 207.32 Bn from January to September last year, an increase from BDT 188.10 Bn in the equivalent period of 2023.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bank-loan-rescheduling-rises-tk1922cr-jan-sep-1071316>

TEXTILE | Doubling gas price will lead to closure of factories: BTMA president

- A proposed doubling of gas prices could trigger a wave of factory closures in Bangladesh's textile sector, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) President Showkat Aziz Russell has said. "If the gas price is doubled, Bangladesh's textile sector will never become sustainable. There will be no new investments, and banks will not finance any new projects. One factory after another will be forced to shut down.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/doubling-gas-price-will-lead-closure-factories-btma-president-1071621>

BANK | LC openings, settlements dip in January YoY

- In the first month of 2025, both the openings and settlements of import letters of credit (LCs) decreased compared to the same month of the previous year due to a decline in import demand and the pressure of overdue LC payments, among other factors. Bangladesh Bank data shows a 5.4% year-on-year decrease in import LCs opened in January, totalling USD 6.13 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/lc-openings-settlements-dip-january-yoy-1071311>

FUEL & POWER | Strengthen renewable energy ties with Australia

- Increasing collaboration with Australia in the renewable energy sector will enhance Bangladesh's clean energy capacity, promoting sustainable growth and climate resilience, according to speakers. However, financing remains a significant challenge in Bangladesh's transition to green energy, posing a major barrier to achieving sustainability goals, they said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/strengthen-renewable-energy-ties-australia-3827901>

FUEL & POWER | Funding shortfall threatens renewable energy goals

- Despite Bangladesh's lofty aim of generating 40% of its energy from renewable sources by 2040, the country faces a significant funding gap, as only 3.6% of the required funds were allocated to the sector in 2023, according to a study. Despite the growing need for sustainable energy solutions, banks and financial institutions are providing minimal financing to this sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/funding-shortfall-threatens-renewable-energy-goals-3827911>

Stocks:**SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma's sponsor wants to buy BDT 320 Mn shares of the company**

- Square Pharmaceuticals Director Anjan Chowdhury today expressed his intention to buy 1.5 Mn shares of his company, the largest drug producer in Bangladesh. The value of the shares was BDT 320 Mn as per the closing price of Square Pharmaceuticals at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). As of 30 November, last year, Chowdhury held 9.2% of the stakes in Square Pharmaceuticals, the major concern of Square Group, one of the biggest local conglomerates.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/square-pharmas-sponsor-wants-buy-tk-32-crore-shares-the-company-3827546>

BSC | Bangladesh Shipping Corporation's profit rises 7% in Q2

- Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) saw its profit rise in the second quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year as factors such as seaport expansions and private sector participation boosted its earnings. The state-owned company reported a profit of BDT 536.9 Mn in the October-December quarter, marking a 7% year-on-year increase.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-shipping-corporations-profit-rises-7-q2-3827341>

BSC | Shipping corp to expand its fleet with 6 new container ships

- As part of expanding its container ship fleet, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) has initiated the process of purchasing six modern container ships from South Korea in the next two to three years. Commodore Mahmudul Malek, managing director of BSC, told The Business Standard, "Six container ships are being procured at a cost of BDT 38 Bn from two shipyards in Korea. South Korea's EXIM Bank will provide a BDT 35 Bn loan for the project, while the remaining BDT 3 Bn will be funded by the Bangladesh government."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/shipping-corp-expand-its-fleet-6-new-container-ships-1072156>

SUMITPOWER | Summit Power's profit jumps 51% in 2024 as imports weather dollar shock

- Summit Power Ltd, a major private electricity producer, reported a significant increase in its profit for 2024, thanks to the lack of volatility in the exchange rate. Summit said its consolidated EPS increased by 51.2% this financial year compared to last year, primarily due to the significantly higher heavy fuel oil (HFO) cost over HFO revenue in the previous year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/summit-powers-profit-jumps-51-2024-imports-weather-dollar-shock-3827161>

EXCHANGE | Regulator imposes fines of BDT 66.3 Mn for stock price manipulation

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has imposed fines worth BDT 66.3 Mn on seven individuals, including Md. Abul Khayer, and two companies, for manipulating the stock price of NRB Commercial Bank. It penalized two more individuals with fines of BDT 2 Mn for manipulating the stock price of Orion Pharma.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/regulator-imposes-fines-of-tk-663m-for-stock-price-manipulation-1739896741>

EXCHANGE | Economic stress erodes profits for most listed firms

- Most listed companies saw their profits erode in the October-December period last year compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year, due mainly to higher borrowing costs, persistently high inflation and other macroeconomic stresses. So far, 213 listed firms have published their financial disclosures for the last quarter of 2024. Of them, 97 companies reported higher profits compared to the same period the previous year, while 116 firms, or 54% of the total, saw their profits decline.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economic-stress-erodes-profits-most-listed-firms-3827921>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.02	USD 0.59	0.83%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.98	USD 1.59	2.14%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,934.95	USD 326.47	12.52%
DSEX	5,203.20	-13.24	-0.25%
S&P 500	6,129.58	222.64	3.77%
FTSE 100	8,766.73	645.72	7.95%
BSE SENSEX	75,967.39	-2,232.54	-2.85%
KSE-100	113,088.48	-2,170.52	-1.88%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.46 BDT****1 GBP = 153.22 BDT****1 Euro = 126.93 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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