

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:**Beza developing 3-phase plan for economic zones**

- The Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) is developing a comprehensive three-phase implementation plan to develop economic zones across the country, ensuring balanced industrialisation, employment generation, and sustainable infrastructure development. As part of a draft "National Master Plan of Economic Zones", Beza is prioritising establishing 20 economic zones by 2046, strategically phasing the implementation for resource optimisation and to attract local and foreign investment.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/beza-developing-3-phase-plan-economic-zones-3832131>

Deferring LDC graduation not an option

- Deferment of Bangladesh's country status graduation should not be even up for discussion as inclusion in the least developed country category is voluntary while upgrading to the developing country grouping is mandatory, said a noted economist yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/deferring-ldc-graduation-not-option-3832111>

NBR launches digital hub to facilitate import-export

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has launched a digital hub containing answers to all common queries related to imports and exports as part of its automation efforts, welcoming newcomers to make their mark in external trade. The digital platform offers Harmonized System (HS) code-specific document requirements and provides information on necessary certificates for imports and exports, applicable tariff rates and more, according to NBR.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-launches-digital-hub-facilitate-import-export-3831396>

Expatriates send USD 1.93 Bn in remittances in 22 days of February

- Bangladeshi expatriates sent USD 1.93 Bn in remittances in the first 22 days of February, according to Bangladesh Bank data. In the past seven months, since July, remittance inflows have exceeded USD 2 Bn per month for six consecutive months. February is also expected to surpass this mark.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/expatriates-send-193-billion-in-remittances-in-22-days-of-february>

We won't hesitate to take decisions for benefit of nation: NBR chief

- National Board of Revenue (NBR) chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan on Sunday categorically said his organisation will not hesitate to take any decision for the benefit of the country. He mentioned that there are three reasons behind the lower tax-GDP ratio in the country. These are: huge number of tax exemptions and their misuse, short tax net for income tax and value-added tax (VAT) and operational inefficiency.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/we-wont-hesitate-to-take-decisions-for-benefit-of-nation-nbr-chief>

Yunus urges Sweden to invest in social businesses instead of providing grants

- Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on Sunday urged Sweden to consider investing in social business in Bangladesh instead of providing grants as development assistance. "What I have been promoting is social business as grant money is a charity," the Chief Adviser told the Swedish official, underlining healthcare as a potential area for social business investment.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/yunus-urges-sweden-to-invest-in-social-businesses-instead-of-providing-grants>

Bangladesh already in middle-income trap, economists warn

- Bangladesh is already in a middle-income trap and must prepare for the post-LDC (Least Developed Country) graduation era, economists warned today during a panel discussion at the 8th Sanem Annual Economists' Conference (SAEC) 2025 at BRAC Centre Inn in the capital. Former lead economist of the World Bank Dhaka Office, Zahid Hussain, stressed that Bangladesh is already in a middle-income trap.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-already-middle-income-trap-economists-warn-1076436>

CPA warns of quadrupling storage rent

- The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has warned of imposing a four-time high rent for containers stored in the port yards and the Kamalapur inland container depot (ICD), effective from March 10, amid a huge stockpile of boxes in the two establishments. It has found that some importers have been storing containers for more than 21 days, disrupting the normal operations there.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/cpa-warns-of-quadrupling-storage-rent-1740331325>

Upswing in imports in seven months of FY25

- Overall import has witnessed an upward movement in the first seven months of the current fiscal year (FY), 2024-25, ahead of the upcoming fasting month of Ramadan, officials said. The actual import in terms of settlement of letters of credit (LCs) grew by 2.08% to USD 40.25 Bn from July to January of FY25, according to the central bank's latest statistics.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/upswing-in-imports-in-seven-months-of-fy25-1740331160>

Tax return filing soars with locally developed system

- A locally developed tax-return system enabled the National Board of Revenue to achieve remarkable success as the online system witnessed a nearly 300% increase in income-tax-return submissions for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Developed by local private information technology company Synesis IT, the e-return system saw over 1.44 Mn taxpayers file returns online, compared to 526,000 in the previous year, according to the company press statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/tax-return-filing-soars-with-locally-developed-system-1740331566>

Corporates get AEO key for rapidly crossing customs corridors

- A long wait is over now for the golden-gate key as government's revenue authority awarded Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) certificate to large corporate taxpayers for expeditiously clearing export-import cargoes through customs ports. The recipients are Incepta Pharmaceuticals, Square Pharmaceuticals, Fair Electronics, ACI Godrej Agrovet, Popular Pharmaceuticals, Bangladesh Steel and Re-rolling Mills, etc.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/corporates-get-aeo-key-for-rapidly-crossing-customs-corridors-1740331041>

Sector & Industries:**TELECOM | Starlink: Yunus asks Musk to come over, launch it within 90 days**

- Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has extended an invitation to billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk to visit Bangladesh and oversee the launch of SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet service in the country within the next 90 working days. The chief adviser has appointed his High Representative, Khalilur Rahman, to work closely with Musk's team to ensure Starlink's rapid deployment in the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/tech-startup/news/starlink-yunus-asks-musk-come-over-launch-it-within-90-days-3831371>

FUEL & POWER | Draft lacks financing roadmap, incentive to ordinary citizens

- The draft renewable energy policy 2025 lacks decarbonisation and financing roadmaps to boost the country's renewable energy (RE) sector. It also lacks green taxonomy and support to ordinary citizens or individuals to go green. Energy experts and environmentalists made the observations at a press conference in a city hotel on Sunday, organised by the Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/draft-lacks-financing-roadmap-incentive-to-ordinary-citizens-1740331465>

FUEL & POWER | Gas price hike to cripple local industry, businesses warn

- The hike in gas prices proposed by distributing companies could severely impact the production of local industries and increase import dependence, businesses cautioned yesterday. "The government's plan to double gas prices would significantly raise production costs, making local industries uncompetitive and discouraging investment," said M Masrur Reaz, chairman and CEO of Policy Exchange Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gas-price-hike-cripple-local-industry-businesses-warn-3832121>

AVIATION | Govt moves to prevent unusual airfare hike

- The Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry has issued 10 directives aimed at protecting passengers' interests by preventing an unusual increase in air ticket prices. A gazette notification detailing the new measures was issued on Tuesday, targeting airlines and travel agencies operating in the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-moves-prevent-unusual-airfare-hike-3832116>

BANK | Repo facility awaits regulatory axe again

- Existing repo facilities are being squeezed further as the central bank is bent on phasing out its 28-day-tenure liquidity window in a move to make banks manage funds more efficiently. Updating the bankers about such facility-curtailling move, the monetary policy unit of Bangladesh Bank sits for a meeting with the treasury officials of the commercial banks today (Monday) at the BB headquarters, officials said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/repo-facility-awaits-regulatory-axe-again>

BANK | Bridge banks proposed to run failed banks

- The Bangladesh Bank will be able to sell or liquidate weak banks by forming bridge banks—financial institutions that temporarily take over a failed bank, according to the draft Bank Resolution Ordinance. Finalised by the Bangladesh Bank (BB), the draft was recently published on the Financial Institutions Division website of the Finance Ministry for public consultation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bridge-banks-proposed-run-failed-banks-3832141>

Stocks:

BSC | BSC to buy 6 ships for USD 330 Mn to build container fleet

- The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) is going to purchase six modern container ships from South Korea at a cost of USD 330.32 Mn to break the stranglehold enjoyed by non-Bangladeshi feeder vessels, which results in the loss of a substantial amount of foreign currency in freight costs. This will be the first addition of container ships by the national flag carrier in more than a decade, with previous purchases having been out of commission for a long time.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsc-buy-6-ships-330m-build-container-fleet-3832146>

RINGSHINE | Bepza terminates Ring Shine's lease of 5 plots over USD 12.8 Mn dues

- The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) has terminated the land lease agreement for five plots allocated to Ring Shine Textiles Limited due to the company's long-standing failure to pay its dues. The company must vacate these plots within seven days, or Bepza will take possession of them. As of 31 January 2025, Ring Shine owes Bepza USD 12.8 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bepza-terminates-ring-shines-lease-5-plots-over-128m-dues-1076441>

EXCHANGE | Downgrading errant firms to junk punishes investors

- No one expects to bear the consequences of offences committed by another person. Yet, this is exactly what is happening in the stock market, where investors are suffering due to the wrongdoings of company directors. A directive issued by the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) in May last year has led to this situation. According to the regulatory directive, if any company fails to distribute at least 80% of its declared dividends, it will be downgraded to the Z or junk category. Under this regulation, several companies have been placed in the junk category over the past few months.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/downgrading-errant-firms-junk-punishes-investors-3831586>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 70.35	(USD 1.08)	-1.51%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 74.46	USD 0.07	0.09%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,931.77	USD 323.29	12.39%
DSEX	5,224.37	7.93	0.15%
S&P 500	6,013.13	106.19	1.80%
FTSE 100	8,659.37	538.36	6.63%
BSE SENSEX	75,311.06	-2,888.87	-3.69%
KSE-100	112,800.93	-2,458.07	-2.13%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.57 BDT****1 GBP = 154.16 BDT****1 Euro = 127.87 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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