

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:**Economy shows signs of recovery but faces substantial hurdles**

- Bangladesh's economy exhibited a gradual recovery in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024-25, but it faces substantial hurdles, including inflationary pressures, a shortfall in revenue collection, slow public spending, diminished job opportunities and a sluggish investment climate. "Restoring law and order is indeed a critical priority to create a stable environment for economic activities," the MCCI said in the review released yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-shows-signs-recovery-faces-substantial-hurdles-3833961>

US president's claim incorrect: Dismislab

- Dismislab, an independent online verification and research platform, has said US President Donald Trump's claim regarding the USD 29 Mn USAID funding is incorrect, and the Department of Government Efficiency's statement is misleading. "The USD 29 Mn did not go to a two-person Bangladeshi firm. Instead, the Strengthening Political Landscape (SPL) project was implemented by Democracy International (DI), a US-registered organisation with ongoing projects and staff in various countries," said Dismislab in a report yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/diplomacy/news/us-presidents-claim-incorrect-dismislab-3834026>

AmCham voices concern over law and order situation

- A group of businessmen expressed concern about the debilitating law and order situation, saying it has been affecting enterprises, and sought remedies from the government. The businessmen highlighted the issue at a dialogue hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham), titled "Trade and Investment Growth: Business Consultation, Law & Order, and Energy Crisis Management Hold the Key" at Sheraton Dhaka.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/amcham-voices-concern-over-law-and-order-situation-3833946>

Food processors set sights on USD 2 Bn export milestone

- The Bangladesh Agro Processors Association (BAPA) aims to double its export earnings to USD 2 Bn this year, up from around USD 1 Bn in recent years. The announcement was made at the opening ceremony of the "10th BAPA-Foodpro International Expo 2025", a three-day event that began at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/food-processors-set-sights-2b-export-milestone-3833866>

Bangladesh and Pakistan resume direct trade after more than 50 years

- Bangladesh has resumed direct trade with Pakistan for the first time since its independence in 1971, with the first shipment of 50,000 tonnes of rice leaving Port Qasim under a government-to-government deal, officials said. The deal follows an improvement in diplomatic relations since an interim government in Bangladesh led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took over in the wake of the protests that drove then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina out of the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-and-pakistan-resume-direct-trade-after-more-50-years-3833266>

Bangladesh's new forex rules to stem taka losses: analysts

- Bangladesh Bank's new currency strategy may help stabilize the taka this year, after it underperformed most Asian peers in 2024, according to analysts. The approach, which involves a daily recalibration of the exchange rate, is a step toward a freely floating currency. It builds on the crawling peg system introduced last year, allowing movement in the currency within a band. That has helped bring down the six-month volatility in the taka after a spike last year, data compiled by Bloomberg showed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladeshs-new-forex-rules-stem-taka-losses-analysts-1078626>

DCCI urges UAE entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh

- Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President Taskeen Ahmed today (25 February) urged the entrepreneurs of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to invest more in Bangladesh's different sectors including renewable energy, infrastructure, logistics, information technology, tourism and healthcare.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dcci-urges-uae-entrepreneurs-invest-bangladesh-1078336>

Top 10% hold 58.5% of total wealth in Bangladesh: Economic task force

- The top 10% of the population control 58.5% of total wealth, while the bottom 50% hold only 4.8%, said Dr Rumana Haque, a member of the task force on "Re-strategising the Economy and Mobilising Resources for Equitable and Sustainable Development". "With the wealthy earning even more, the income inequality in the country has further increased," she remarked during a paper presentation at the Conference on Recommendations by the Task Force on Re-strategising the Economy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/top-10-hold-585-total-wealth-bangladesh-economic-task-force-1077951>

Bangladesh economy recovering gradually from political instability: MCCI

- The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has observed that the economy has been recovering gradually from political instability that began in the first week of July 2024. In a report titled "Review of Economic Situation in Bangladesh October-December 2024 (Q2 of FY25), the MCCI today mentioned that exports posted robust growth during the period, along with increased earnings from remittance inflows.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-economy-recovering-gradually-political-instability-mcci-1078011>

SIDA intends to support Bangladesh to qualify for EU's trade preferences

- "Bangladesh is on a solid path of reform and development. We wish to build a broader partnership with Bangladesh going forward, including through trade. As it graduates from the group of least-developed countries, Sida may assist Bangladesh to qualify for the EU's trade preferences as well as optimize synergies between the country's exports of priority products and imports of green technologies," said Dr Granit after meeting with Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary of the ERD.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/sida-intends-to-support-bangladesh-to-qualify-for-eus-trade-preferences>

Experts urge policy reforms as high inflation stifles business, investment

- The rising inflation and economic instability are restraining business growth and investment in Bangladesh, according to discussants at the 12th Financial Sector Development Working Committee meeting. They have raised concerns over Bangladesh Bank's delayed policy response to the country's prolonged inflation. They also pointed towards the systemic inefficiencies in the economy, emphasising the need for policy reforms.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/experts-urge-policy-reforms-high-inflation-stifles-business-investment-1078431>

5% contractors secure 61% of projects: TIB

- A decade of data on electronic Government Procurement, or e-GP, shows that 5% of contractors dominate 61% of the projects in the 10 ministries with the highest spending, according to Transparency International Bangladesh, or TIB. Meanwhile, the bottom 10% of contractors hold less than 1.0% of the market share across all ministries.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/5pc-contractors-secure-61pc-of-projects-tib-1740508282>

Salehuddin slams businessmen for 'lopsided talks'

- Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed on Tuesday lambasted businessmen for "lopsided talks" saying while one group is in favour of lowering taxes the other group is opposed to it. "You know the businesses very well. I know them even better. They sometimes speak one-sidedly. I must make decisions considering multiple factors," he said replying to a query over businessmen's claims of unavailability of dollars to open letters of credit.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/salehuddin-slams-businessmen-for-lopsided-talks-1740508323>

Businesses urge improvement in law and order

- Businesses at a dialogue on Tuesday stressed the need for an improved law and order situation to support their operations. They also demanded the government's prioritised measures for resolving the energy crisis to ensure manufacturers' competitiveness in the global market, warning the ongoing crisis could severely impact manufacturing. Besides, they emphasised the importance of better consultations with local and foreign investors to improve the trade and investment climate.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/businesses-urge-improvement-in-law-and-order-1740507897>

Sector & Industries:**MISCELLANEOUS | Struggling paint industry looks to innovation for revival**

- The local paint industry is facing challenges from high taxes, rising costs, and low demand due to the ongoing economic slowdown, but innovation and eco-friendly products offer hope for a sustainable future, according to industry insiders. Industry, which currently has a market size of around BDT 62.50 Bn, has been growing alongside the country's development, which has led to an increasing number of high-rise buildings.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/struggling-paint-industry-looks-innovation-revival-3833951>

FUEL & POWER | Govt approves LNG import to address gas shortfall

- The government has decided to import one cargo of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market by the first week of March through the direct purchase method to prevent a shortfall in gas supply. The Advisory Council Committee on Purchase approved a proposal in this regard yesterday. TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited of Switzerland emerged as the recommended bidder, offering a unit price of USD 16.43 per Mn British thermal units (MMBtu), with a total purchase cost of BDT 7.88 Bn, including VAT and tax.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-approves-lng-import-address-gas-shortfall-3833356>

FUEL & POWER | Progress of Rooppur N-power plant to be reviewed as Rosatom DG due today

- Terming the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant a signature initiative in Bangladesh-Russia bilateral cooperation, Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain on Tuesday said that both the countries will review the progress of the project during the visit of Alexey Likhachev, Director General of Rosatom. Mr Likhachev is expected to arrive in Dhaka today.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/progress-of-rooppur-n-power-plant-to-be-reviewed-as-rosatom-dg-due-today-1740506260>

BANK | BB to introduce platform soon to boost automated transactions

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) is actively considering introducing a platform for mobile interoperability within a short period of time to further facilitate automated transactions, Governor Dr Ahsan H. Mansur said on Tuesday. "We don't have mobile interoperability and it is something that we would be working on shortly," he told an event titled "Transforming the Payment Landscape: An Era of Evolution", speaking as the chief guest.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bb-to-introduce-platform-soon-to-boost-automated-transactions-1740508189>

BANK | Banks balk at rescheduling non-wilful defaulters' loans

- A bailout policy-support committee constituted by the central bank for the affected businesses sits with all commercial banks' chief executives soon to motivate them as the lenders hesitate to reschedule non-wilful defaulters' loans. Sources said at the last meeting with the committee, some commercial banks had expressed unwillingness to reschedule such loans as they said the lenders were already struggling with massive non-performing loans (NPLs) and a financial crisis.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-balk-at-rescheduling-non-wilful-defaulters-loans-1740507556>

BANK | Weak banks may face closure

- Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur's comment that some ailing banks may face closure drew flak yesterday. "We are trying to keep the troubled banks running, but not all of them will survive," he told a conference titled Recommendations by the Task Force on Re-strategising the Economy. "We are trying, but it is difficult to keep some banks operational," Mansur said, adding, "We all know that the banks have been systematically looted."

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/weak-banks-may-face-closure-3833546>

BANK | MFS transactions to top BDT 25 Tn this yr

- The volume of transactions through mobile financial services (MFS) is expected to exceed BDT 25 Tn this year, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said yesterday. He stated that current annual transactions through MFS amount to BDT 17 Tn, but this figure is likely to surpass BDT 25 Tn by the end of the year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mfs-transactions-top-tk-25-lakh-cr-yr-3833516>

Stocks:**BATBC | BATBC to spend BDT 250 Mn on printers**

- British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company (BATBC) has decided to invest BDT 249 Mn to purchase and install laser jet printers at 36 SMD packing lines in its factories in Dhaka and Savar. The cigarette producer relayed its decision through a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday. Out of BDT 249 Mn, BDT 145.5 Mn will be spent on buying printers. The remaining BDT 103.5 Mn will be used for installation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/batbc-spend-tk-25cr-printers-3833846>

BEXIMCO | Beximco urges govt to extend BDT 4 Bn loan instead of closing factories

- Beximco Textiles has requested the government to avoid closing its factories under the Beximco Textiles Division by settling worker and employee dues of BDT 5.5-6 Bn. The Beximco Group, which owns Beximco Textiles, has also requested BDT 4 Bn in short-term credit assistance – known as a CC loan – at an average rate of BDT 1 Bn per month to maintain factory operations and ensure regular payment of salaries and allowances.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/beximco-urges-govt-extend-tk400cr-loan-instead-closing-factories-1078526>

SINGERBD | Singer Bangladesh secures Beza approval for commercial operation of new plant

- Singer Bangladesh has announced that the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) has granted commercial operation approval for its new plant located at the Bangladesh Special Economic Zone in Narayanganj. The multinational home appliance manufacturer announced to the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today it secured approval from Beza on 24 February.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/singer-bangladesh-secures-beza-approval-commercial-operation-new-plant-1078486>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 69.04	(USD 2.39)	-3.35%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 73.16	(USD 1.23)	-1.65%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,920.13	USD 311.65	11.95%
DSEX	5,267.89	51.44	0.99%
S&P 500	5,955.25	48.31	0.82%
FTSE 100	8,668.67	547.66	6.74%
BSE SENSEX	74,602.12	-3,597.81	-4.60%
KSE-100	114,528.09	-730.91	-0.63%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.42 BDT****1 GBP = 153.68 BDT****1 Euro = 127.58 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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