

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:****Online income tax return filings increased over 250% in FY 2024-25**

- Bangladesh has witnessed a rise in online income tax return submissions, with the number of e-returns increasing by more than 250% in the 2024-25 fiscal year, during the penalty-free period for filing income tax returns. The digital tax filing system, developed by local technology firm Synesis IT, has seen over 1.43 Mn taxpayers submit their returns online according to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) on February 25, compared to approximately 0.526 Mn in the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/tech-startup/news/online-income-tax-return-filings-increased-over-250-fy-2024-25-3834391>

**DCCI, Dubai Chambers sign MoU to boost trade**

- The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Dubai Chambers inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) today to enhance bilateral trade and investments. DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed and Dubai Chambers President and CEO Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah signed the deal during a "Dubai-Bangladesh Business Briefing" at the latter's office in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dcci-dubai-chambers-sign-mou-boost-trade-3834516>

**Russia agrees to extend loan disbursement for Rooppur until 2026**

- Russian nuclear corporation Rosatom has agreed to extend the credit utilisation period by two years for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP), a key project for strengthening Bangladesh's energy security. During a meeting with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus yesterday (26 February), Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev agreed to revise the Intergovernmental Credit Agreement (IGCA), extending the credit utilisation period until the end of 2026.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/russia-agrees-extend-loan-disbursement-rooppur-until-2026-1079571>

**China can be one of those special friends Bangladesh can trust most: Chinese vice minister**

- China can be one of Bangladesh's most trusted special friends, Chinese Vice Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Sun Haiyan said today (26 February). "Bangladesh is situated in a very special strategic geographical location. You have a strong neighbor. It is necessary for Bangladesh to have amicable and reliable neighbors who are stable, believe in peace, peaceful coexistence, and willing to share development opportunities without interfering in each other's internal affairs," the Chinese leader said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/foreign-policy/china-could-be-one-bangladeshs-best-friends-chinese-vice-minister-1079421>

**BEPZA to launch scheme for EPZ workers**

- The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) will introduce an employment injury scheme (EIS) to enhance social protection for EPZ workers in case of death or permanent physical disability due to workplace incidents. A 'letter of intent' (LoI) to this end was inked at the BEPZA office on Wednesday. Through the EIS, any EPZ-based garment worker will receive a specified financial benefit per month in the case of death or permanent disability resulting from an accident that occurs in the workplace or while commuting to and from the workplace.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bepza-to-launch-scheme-for-epz-workers-1740593264>

**Lighter vessels ordered to leave Ctg port area within 72 hours of unloading goods**

- The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has issued a directive requiring lighter vessels to leave the port limit within 72 hours after loading goods from mother vessels at the outer anchorage. This measure aims to prevent artificial supply chain disruptions and price manipulation by importers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/lighter-vessel-ordered-leave-ctg-port-area-within-72-hours-unloading-goods-1079576>

**Sector & Industries:****BANK | State banks ahead in remittance race**

- State-owned banks attracted a higher inflow of remittances than private banks by offering more competitive rates to settle payments for government Letters of Credit (LCs) in the absence of dollar support from the central bank. According to central bank data, state-run banks – Sonali, Agrani, Janata, and Rupali – received USD 687 Mn in just the first 22 days of February this year, exceeding the USD 659 Mn received between January and March 2024.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/state-banks-ahead-remittance-race-1079616>

**INSURANCE | Corruption-plagued insurance sector overlooked by reforms**

- Although Bangladesh's insurance sector has suffered a confidence crisis due to widespread corruption over the past 15 years, the interim government has not taken notable reform measures for the industry. The liquidity crisis has intensified so much in the sector that the accumulated amount of unsettled life insurance claims increased by over 66% in the last five years to the second quarter of 2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/corruption-plagued-insurance-sector-overlooked-reforms-3834766>

**BANK | True extent of bad loans emerges**

- Defaulted loans in the country's banking sector reached a record BDT 3.46 Tn at the end of 2024 as toxic loans increased sharply following the political changeover in August last year. At the end of last year, total outstanding loans stood at BDT 17.11 Tn, 20.20% of which have turned sour, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bank, which was released through a press conference for the first time.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/true-extent-bad-loans-emerges-3834806>

**FUEL & POWER | CAB boycotts BERC hearing on proposed gas tariff hike**

- The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) has boycotted Wednesday's public hearing over the proposed gas tariff hike and demanded the cancellation of the tariff hike move of the energy regulatory commission by Monday or face mass movement. The CAB members, along with different stakeholders and consumers, at the halfway stage, demanded an immediate halt of the hearing, but the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) continued it after lunch amid protests.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/cab-boycotts-berc-hearing-on-proposed-gas-tariff-hike>

**TEXTILE | Unit prices of Bangladesh's RMG exports to the EU fell in 2024**

- Bangladesh's readymade garment (RMG) exports to the European Union grew in 2024, but exporters saw unit prices decline as the growth in volume outpaced the increase in value. The South Asian nation's apparel shipments to the EU rose by 4.86% year-on-year to USD 19.77 Bn in 2024, according to Eurostat data. During this period, Bangladesh exported 1,230.51 Mn kilograms (kg) of readymade garments to the EU, up 10.18% from the previous year's 1,116.77 Mn kg. Within a year, the per-unit price fell to USD 16.07 per kg in 2024 from USD 16.88 per kg in the previous year, marking a sharp 5% drop

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/unit-prices-bangladeshs-rmg-exports-the-eu-fell-2024-3834756>

**NBFI | BHBFC's home, other loans get costlier**

- Home loans from Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC) now get costlier as the government approves a proposal raising interest rates for its various credit schemes, officials say. The corporation presently charges 9.0% interest on all types of loans for metropolitan areas in Dhaka and Chattogram and flat loans across the country. With the latest government approval, the corporation can charge 10% interest in this case.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bhbfc-home-other-loans-get-costlier>

**MISCELLANEOUS | BD yet to tap into USD 200 Bn global gaming industry**

- Speakers at a seminar highlighted the rapid expansion of the global gaming industry, now valued at USD 200 Bn surpassing both the music and film industries combined with its potential to establish a strong foothold in Bangladesh. As one of the fastest-growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region, Bangladesh stands to benefit greatly from the gaming sector, offering a unique opportunity to diversify its digital economy and contribute significantly to the national GDP.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-yet-to-tap-into-200b-global-gaming-industry-1740594084>

**Stocks:****MPETROLEUM | Meghna Petroleum profit soars 66% in Q2**

- State-run Meghna Petroleum's profit rose in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024-25. It posted a profit of BDT 1633.2 Mn in the October-December quarter of 2024, marking a 66% year-on-year increase. Its earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 15.09 for the quarter, up from BDT 9.06 in the same period the previous year, according to its financial statements.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/meghna-petroleum-profit-soars-66-q2-3834241>

**EMERALDOIL | Emerald Oil in crisis again**

- Emerald Oil, a rice bran oil maker, has seen a bumpy performance since being listed with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), which in turn has led its investors down a tumultuous road. Now, the latest development from its banking partner -- BASIC Bank -- has plunged investors into real jeopardy yet again. The state-owned lender said it would auction off the assets -- land and machinery -- pledged as collateral by Emerald Oil Industries.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/emerald-oil-crisis-again-3834761>

**BEXIMCO | Beximco Textiles: All factories closed, workers terminated**

- All factories under Beximco Textiles have been shut down and all workers terminated from 28 February. The dues of workers from these factories will be paid in phases starting 9 March. The ministries of finance and labor will provide the funds, with the labor ministry directly responsible for disbursing the payments, according to a Beximco notice. When asked about the matter last night, M Sakhawat Hossain declined to comment, saying the meeting's decision would be announced at a press conference today (27 February).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/beximco-textiles-all-factories-closed-workers-terminated-1079581>

**EXCHANGE | Stock market shrank 38% over 16-year span**

- The stock market has declined 38% in real value over the past 16 years, largely due to negative returns and poor management practices. While some companies showed growth, widespread mismanagement limited overall income generation. Combined with high inflation, these factors eroded the market's real value, leaving investors holding the bag.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/stock/news/stock-market-shrank-38-over-16-year-span-3834776>

**EXCHANGE | DSE cuts trading session by 40 minutes during Ramadan**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has reduced its trading session by 40 minutes for the month of Ramadan to accommodate adjusted working hours during the holy month. According to its decision, share trading on both bourses will take place from 10 am to 1:50 pm during the month of Ramadan instead of the regular 10 am to 2:30 pm trading period, according to a press release. The 10-minute post-closing session will run from 1:40 pm to 1:50 pm, instead of from 2:20 pm to 2:30 pm.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-cuts-trading-session-40-minutes-during-ramadan-1079491>

**EXCHANGE | Stock market manipulated for political gains in past: Khosru**

- BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has said the government had used the stock market as a tool for political exploitation for the last 15-16 years, reports UNB. The BNP leader made the remarks while speaking at a discussion on 'The Current State of the Bangladesh Capital Market and Way Forward' at DSE Multipurpose Hall in the capital's Nikunja area on Wednesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/politics-policies/stock-market-manipulated-for-political-gains-in-past-khosru-1740592673>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 68.85	(USD 2.58)	-3.61%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 72.77	(USD 1.62)	-2.18%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,913.69	USD 305.21	11.70%
DSEX	5,253.79	37.35	0.72%
S&P 500	5,956.06	49.12	0.83%
FTSE 100	8,731.46	610.45	7.52%
BSE SENSEX	74,602.12	-3,597.81	-4.60%
KSE-100	113,862.33	-1,396.67	-1.21%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.53 BDT****1 GBP = 153.89 BDT****1 Euro = 127.28 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 BDT**

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