

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:**NBR squeezes source tax benefits for some exporters**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) issued a new circular on Sunday clarifying its 4 March circular that allowed some exporters enjoying less than 12% corporate tax to pay source tax below 1%. In its clarification, the NBR has asked exporters to take new tax certificates while banks have been asked to collect taxes from them at a new rate.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-squeezes-source-tax-benefits-some-exporters-820106>

Demographic dividend: How long can Bangladesh enjoy it?

- The proportion of working-age people declined to 65.08% in 2023 from 66.58% in 2021, according to a survey of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). A year before, the proportion was 65.67%. Similarly, the dependency ratio of people who are over 65 rose to 9.4% last year from 8.6% in 2022.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/demographic-dividend-how-long-can-bangladesh-enjoy-it-3578701>

Sectors & Industries:**BANK | Bank lending rates leap despite reference rate cut**

- As the SMART rate climbed to 10.55% applicable for April from the bygone March count of 9.61% despite various cautious approach of the Bangladesh Bank and decided to reduce the interest-rate margin by 50 basis points to 3.0% from the existing 3.50% to ease the doing-business ambiance.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bank-lending-rates-leap-despite-reference-rate-cut>

FUEL & POWER | Govt to procure 24 LNG cargoes from Gunvor Singapore as demand surges

- To address surging domestic gas demand, the government has decided to purchase 24 cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Gunvor Singapore Pvt Ltd under a short-term contract for the first time. Each cargo will contain 33.60 lakh mmbtu (million British thermal units) LNG and the pricing will be determined based on the JKM (Japan Korea Marker) index.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-procure-24-lng-cargoes-gunvor-singapore-demand-surges-819386>

FUEL & POWER | Diesel, kerosene prices cut by BDT 2.25 a litre

- The government has reduced the prices of diesel and kerosene by BDT 2.25 per litre to BDT 106 under the automatic fuel-pricing formula. The new rate will come into effect today.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/diesel-kerosene-prices-cut-by-tk-225-a-litre-1711907526>

BANK | Preparation underway for bank reform commission

- The government is going to form the banking sector reform commission, the revenue reform commission, and the public expenditure reform commission, said Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/preparation-underway-bank-reform-commission-3579201>

Stocks:

BEXIMCO | Beximco gets nod to issue bond

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission today gives the go-ahead to a zero-coupon bond for Beximco, one of Bangladesh's leading conglomerates, to raise BDT 15 Bn from institutional and high net worth individuals.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/beximco-gets-nod-issue-bond-3579036>

AGRANINS | Agrani Insurance again proposes issuing rights issues

- The general insurer aims to raise BDT 68 Mn by issuing 6.8 Mn rights shares this time. If the regulator approves the rights shares, the company will be able to meet the minimum capital requirement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/agrani-insurance-again-proposes-issuing-rights-issues-1711902690>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 83.43	USD 11.78	16.44%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 87.21	USD 10.17	13.20%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,256.86	193.88	9.40%
DSEX	5,829.70	-416.79	-6.67%
S&P 500	5,254.35	484.52	10.16%
FTSE 100	7,952.62	219.38	2.84%
BSE SENSEX	73,651.35	1,411.09	1.95%
KSE-100	67,094.63	4,715.22	7.56%
CSEALL	11,444.38	790.22	7.42%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.79 BDT****1 GBP = 138.66 BDT****1 Euro = 118.43 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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