

*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 Bank unveils SMART-derived interest rates for January**

- The consumer loan (retail loan) receivers have to pay the higher 13% interest starting from the new year, while other borrowers have to pay almost 12%, at 11.89%, in interest to the banks.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bangladesh-bank-unveils-smart-derived-interest-rates-for-january>

**Job market expected to grow in second half of 2024**

- The job market in Bangladesh is expected to grow in 2024, with the country's GDP projected to increase by 6.5%. The service sector is expected to continue being the largest employer, with 41.2% of the workforce employed in this sector in 2021.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/job-market-expected-grow-second-half-2024-767034>

**Fund crunch, inflation force startups to downsize**

- Struggling with funding shortages and high inflation, startups in Bangladesh have resorted to aggressive cost-cutting and downsizing for over a year, decreasing the headcount on startup payrolls by nearly one-third since mid-2022, industry insiders say.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fund-crunch-inflation-force-startups-downsize-766962>

**More attention needed for those in greatest need**

- The government has allocated BDT 1262.72 Bn for social safety net for FY2023-24, which is around 7.4% more than last year's allocation of BDT 1135.76 Bn. Also, the allocated number this year is 16.58% of the total budget allocation and 2.52% of GDP.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/supplement/more-attention-needed-those-greatest-need-767058>

**One in five households food insecure: BBS**

- One in every five households in Bangladesh experienced food insecurity, according to the primary findings of a government survey -- conflicting with the government's claims of ensuring food security for all.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/health/food/news/one-five-households-food-insecure-bbs-3507571>

**Sector & Industry****BANK | Banks yet pocket some operating profit**

- Numerous banks outsmarted odds like dollar dearth, import fall and liquidity hardship in the adversity-strung bygone year and posted EBIT or operating profits in a significant growth. Of the dozen, Rupali Bank PLC tops the list by posting over a 556% growth. Its operating profits rose to BDT 6.96 Bn in 2023 from BDT 1060 Mn a year before.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/banks-yet-pocket-some-operating-profit-1704040138>

**BANK | BDT 10 Bn released to incentivise remittance flow through banks**

- The government has disbursed a second tranche of BDT 10 Bn as a cash incentive for scheduled banks in the October-December period of 2023, said sources. This initiative aims to boost remittance inflows through official channels amid a slight dip in November.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/tk-10b-released-to-incentivise-remittance-flow-through-banks-1704040338>

**ENERGY | BPC to get USD 125 Mn ITFC loan soon**

- Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) would soon get released a loan of USD 125 Mn from the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) under an annual lending programme to facilitate importing petroleum products.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bpc-to-get-125m-itfc-loan-soon>

**BANK | Seven banks take emergency BDT 220 Bn from BB**

- The central bank has extended a total of BDT 220 Bn in emergency funds to seven beleaguered banks including five Islamic banks to dress up their balance sheet ahead of the year's end.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/seven-banks-take-emergency-tk-22000cr-bb-3507626>

**ENERGY | PDB owes private producers BDT 250 Bn in unpaid bills**

- The government owes private power producers a total of BDT 250 Bn in unpaid bills with some companies having unsettled payments for more than nine months.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/pdb-owes-private-producers-tk-25000cr-unpaid-bills-3507556>

**Stocks:****SINOBANGLA | Sinobangla's right share subscription starts 28 January**

- Public subscription for the right shares of Sinobangla Industries Limited is set to start on 28 January and continue till 15 February.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sinobanglas-right-share-subscription-starts-28-january-767474>

**EXCHANGE | NRB Bank's IPO subscription begins 28 January**

- The initial public offering (IPO) subscription of NRB Bank will begin on 28 January 2024 and continue till 1 February.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/nrb-banks-ipo-subscription-begins-28-january-767466>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 71.65	(USD 3.56)	-4.73%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 77.04	(USD 0.74)	-0.95%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,062.98	USD 288.83	16.28%
DSEX	6,246.49	39.49	0.64%
S&P 500	4,769.83	930.33	24.23%
FTSE 100	7,733.24	281.50	3.78%
BSE SENSEX	72,240.26	11,399.52	18.74%
KSE-100	62,379.41	21,958.96	54.33%
CSEALL	10,654.16	2,151.67	25.31%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.74 BDT****1 GBP = 139.72 BDT****1 Euro = 121.24 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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