

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:**Japan atop the list of foreign aid providers**

- Japan tops the list of foreign-aid disbursements as the donor has enhanced the release of its funds to Bangladesh over the years, officials said on Tuesday. Historically the largest donor of Bangladesh, Japan disbursed the highest USD 610.98 Mn during the July-November period of this fiscal year (FY), 2023-24.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/japan-atop-the-list-of-foreign-aid-providers>

Debt-ridden cos cleared to take forex loans

- Despite debt-equity ratio of some private companies already having crossed the permissible limits, they have been allowed to take foreign-currency loans from multilateral lenders while Bangladesh reels from depleting foreign-exchange reserves.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/debt-ridden-cos-cleared-to-take-forex-loans>

No VAT on port services for exporters: NBR

- Export-oriented industries in Bangladesh will no longer have to pay value-added tax (VAT) on port services for raw material imports and finished goods exports, according to a new directive issued by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/no-vat-port-services-exporters-nbr-769014>

Private sector foreign loan repayment USD 5.21 Bn higher than receipt in 11 months

- Bangladeshi businesses repaid USD 5.21 Bn more in principal and interest for short-term foreign debt than loan receipt in the first 11 months of 2023.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/private-sector-foreign-loan-repayment-521b-higher-receipt-11-months-769058>

Seven major sectors fell from grace as export dropped

- Export of engineering products, including bicycles, which recorded roughly USD 800 Mn in FY22, are on the decline for the second consecutive year while the sector for woven garments, the second-largest export earner after knitwear, has also found itself on the list of sectors suffering from falling export earnings..

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/seven-major-sectors-fell-grace-export-dropped-3510136>

Sector & Industry:**TRADE | Chattogram customs sees 4% growth in revenues amid falling imports**

- The Chattogram Custom House witnessed a 4% revenue growth year-on-year in 2023 despite nearly 6% fall in imports through the country's largest Chattogram port.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-customs-revenue-falls-below-six-month-target-still-sees-9-yoy-growth-768930>

Stocks:**YPL | Yeakin Polymer's ownership transfer again gets BSEC nod**

- The securities regulator again approved the transfer of sponsor-director shares of publicly listed Yeakin Polymer Limited to Kapita Packaging Solutions Limited—a non-listed firm.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/yeakin-polymers-ownership-transfer-again-gets-bsec-nod-769046>

BANKASI1PB | Bank Asia first perpetual bond trading begins

- Bank Asia First Perpetual Bond, listed in the corporate bond sector of the capital market, started trading from January 1.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/news/bank-asia-first-perpetual-bond-trading-begins-3510061>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.97	USD 1.32	1.84%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 78.42	USD 1.38	1.79%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,042.74	(USD 20.24)	-0.98%
DSEX	6,236.07	-10.42	-0.17%
S&P 500	4,704.81	-65.02	-1.36%
FTSE 100	7,682.33	-50.91	-0.66%
BSE SENSEX	71,356.50	-883.76	-1.22%
KSE-100	64,685.70	2,306.29	3.70%
CSEALL	10,684.28	30.12	0.28%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.63 BDT****1 GBP = 138.93 BDT****1 Euro = 119.82 BDT****1 INR = 1.31 BDT**

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