

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:**Inflation declines in February**

- The overall inflation in Bangladesh slid 19 basis points to 9.67% in February thanks to a fall in the prices of both food and non-food items, according to sources at the planning ministry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/inflation-declines-february-3560541>

How Bangladesh govt plans to help exporters post-LDC

- In the draft Export Policy 2024-27, seen by The Business Standard, the commerce ministry has proposed a 5%-10% rebate on electricity bills for industrial establishments that produce major export products as an alternative to cash incentives.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/how-govt-plans-help-exporters-post-ldc-804098>

Reserves may fall below USD 21 Bn after ACU payment

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves are likely to fall below USD 21 Bn next week after the Bangladesh Bank clears import bills of around USD 1.35 Bn with the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), said a senior central bank official.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/reserves-may-fall-below-21b-after-acu-payment-3560526>

47% factories fail to implement corrective measures: Bida

- Of the 106 at-risk factories identified by Bida in May last year, 17 high-risk ones were instructed to implement a corrective action plan (CAP) within three months

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/47-factories-fail-implement-corrective-measures-bida-3560496>

Sector & Industries:**RMG | Bangladesh's growing prowess in RMG makes Chinese investors upbeat**

- On the back of higher demand for fabrics, yarns, chemicals, dyes, and capital machinery used in the textile and garment sectors, China has turned into the largest supplier for Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladeshs-growing-prowess-rmg-makes-chinese-investors-upbeat-3560511>

CONSUMER | Pran-RFL to set up another industrial park in Natore

- The Group plans to set up noodle, spice, mustard oil, and fish processing plants at the planned Natore industrial park, which, it hopes, will create an additional 1,000 jobs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/node/804830>

BANK | Janata, Agrani lag far behind in recovering NPLs among state banks

- Janata Bank had a target for recovering NPLs at BDT 15.15 Bn, but could recover only BDT 2.25 Bn or 14.85% of the goal. Agrani Bank recovered BDT 3.89 Bn or 25.34% of the target set at BDT 15.35 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/janata-agrani-lag-far-behind-recovering-npls-among-state-banks-804906>

Stocks:**HEIDELBCEM | Heidelberg Cement declares 25% cash dividend**

- To secure the shareholders' approval for the dividend and the annual audited report, it will conduct the annual general meeting on 8 May and the record date is 2 April.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/heidelberg-cement-declares-25-cash-dividend-804722>

FEKDIL | BSEC rejects reappointment of Far East Knitting independent director

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), citing lack of supporting documents, has cancelled an application of the composite textile manufacturer Far East Knitting and Dyeing Industries seeking reappointment of an independent director on the company's board.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/node/804834>

MIRAKHTER | Mir Akhter under BSEC scanner over fund utilization

- Mir Akhter Hossain Limited, a local real estate company, is under scrutiny of The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission for a BDT 3.32 Bn expenditure, the money it earned through issuing initial public offering (IPO) and zero-coupon bonds.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mir-akhter-under-bsec-scanner-over-fund-utilisation-804118>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 79.11	USD 7.46	10.41%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 82.96	USD 5.92	7.68%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,150.52	USD 87.54	4.24%
DSEX	6,166.14	-80.35	-1.29%
S&P 500	5,104.76	334.93	7.02%
FTSE 100	7,679.31	-53.93	-0.70%
BSE SENSEX	74,085.99	1,845.73	2.55%
KSE-100	65,606.34	3,226.93	5.17%
CSEALL	10,881.72	227.56	2.14%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.64 BDT****1 GBP = 139.57 BDT****1 Euro = 119.48 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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