

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:**Forex reserves rebounding slowly, but banks still in dearth**

- With the help of higher inflow, the current account balance turned to a USD 579 Mn surplus in July-November of the current fiscal year, which was in deficit of USD 5.6 Bn in the same period of the last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/forex-reserves-rebounding-slowly-banks-still-dearth-772514>

Forex reserves fall after USD 1.27 Bn ACU payment

- Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves fell to USD 20.38 Bn yesterday after the central bank settled import bills of two months through the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), a top official said today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/forex-reserves-fall-after-127b-acu-payment-3515211>

Inflation stays stubborn despite rate hikes. Can it be tamed?

- When Abdur Rouf Talukder unveiled his first monetary policy statement as the governor of the central bank in January last year, inflation was already above 8.5%. Since then, he presented one more statement and raised the benchmark lending rate eight times.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/inflation-stays-stubborn-despite-rate-hikes-can-it-be-tamed-3515371>

Sector & Industry:**RMG | Bangladesh retains top position in RMG export to UK by volume**

- Bangladesh retained the top position in garment export to the UK in terms of volume, but the nation's apparel exporters continue to be paid one of the lowest prices in British markets.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-retains-top-position-rmg-export-uk-volume-3515346>

RMG | Jordan a potential hub for BD apparel workers

- Jordan's apparel units, which rely heavily on foreign workers, are witnessing a rise in demand for manpower as they begin to recover from the effects of the Russia-Ukraine war.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/jordan-a-potential-hub-for-bd-apparel-workers>

TRADE | Exports thru Ctg port surge, shifting gears away from Europe, America

- Export volume surged by 21.75%, while customs-assessed value rose by 16%, according to data compiled by the Chattogram Custom House (CCH).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/exports-thru-ctg-port-surge-shifting-gears-away-from-europe-america>

CEMENT | Not bound by rules, they eye revenue boost. Environ benefits are byproducts

- Two listed cement makers have been adopting technologies in moving towards high production at an expense of less energy and less emission of dust.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/not-bound-by-rules-they-eye-revenue-boost-enviro-benefits-are-byproducts-1704821118>

Stocks:**EASTRNLUB | Eastern Lubricant's profit falls 42% in Oct-Dec**

- Publicly listed Eastern Lubricant Blenders Ltd has reported a 42% year-on-year decline in profit in the October-December quarter of the ongoing 2023-24 fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-lubricants-profit-falls-42-oct-dec-772486>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.60	USD 0.95	1.33%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 77.93	USD 0.89	1.16%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,030.93	(USD 32.05)	-1.55%
DSEX	6,267.82	21.33	0.34%
S&P 500	4,756.50	-13.33	-0.28%
FTSE 100	7,683.96	-49.28	-0.64%
BSE SENSEX	71,386.21	-854.05	-1.18%
KSE-100	64,060.80	1,681.39	2.70%
CSEALL	10,750.36	96.20	0.90%

Exchange Rates

1 US Dollar = 109.72 BDT

1 GBP = 139.42 BDT

1 Euro = 119.98 BDT

1 INR = 1.32 BDT

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