

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:****Current account surplus crosses USD 3 Bn in Jul-Jan**

- Bangladesh's current account surplus has crossed USD 3 Bn in the first seven months of the current fiscal year, overcoming a deficit of USD 4.6 Bn in the corresponding period a year earlier, thanks to a steep fall in import expenditure.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/current-account-surplus-crosses-3b-jul-jan-806926>

**Financial account deficit widens to new level.**

- The nation registered a deficit of USD 7.3 Bn in its financial account, a key component of the external account termed as Balance of Payment (BoP), in the July-January period of this fiscal year, which was 9 times higher from year ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/financial-account-deficit-widens-new-level-3563766>

**Sector & Industry:****LEATHER | Govt may halve leather goods export tax**

- The government is considering halving the source tax on leather goods exports from 1% to 0.5% in a bid to boost the sector's competitiveness.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/govt-may-halve-leather-goods-export-tax-807070>

**TRADE | Cenbank allows import, export thru countertrade.**

- Bangladeshi exporters, importers, or traders can voluntarily enter counter-trade arrangements with counterparts abroad for settlement of import payments against proceeds of goods exported from Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-allows-import-export-thru-counter-trade-807030>

**BANK | Deposits in Islamic banks rise but liquidity challenge persists**

- Deposits in the Islamic banking sector of Bangladesh rose 8.16% last year but the liquidity challenge that it has been facing for months remained persistent.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/deposits-islamic-banks-rise-liquidity-challenge-persists-3563786>

**BANK | Nine banks in 'red zone'**

- The banks in the 'red zone' are AB, National, Bangladesh Commerce, Padma, BASIC, National Bank of Pakistan, Janata, Agrani and Rupali, according to the latest edition of the "Banks Health Index and HEAT Map".

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/news/nine-banks-red-zone-3563836>

**Stocks:****WEBCOATS | Web Coats stock debuts tomorrow**

- The Web Coats PLC, a paper product manufacturing company, is set to make its debut on the Dhaka Stock Exchange and Chittagong Stock Exchange on the SME platform tomorrow.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/web-coats-stock-debuts-tomorrow-807010>

**EASTLAND | Eastland Insurance's profit declines in 2023**

- Eastland insurance company ltd recorded BDT 136.7 Mn profits the previous year. Its profits fell 30 % year-on-year to BDT 95.6 Mn in 2023.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/eastland-insurances-profit-declines-2023-3563441>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 77.37	USD 5.72	7.98%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 81.46	USD 4.42	5.74%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,177.75	USD 114.77	5.56%
DSEX	6,075.24	-171.25	-2.74%
S&P 500	5,123.69	353.86	7.42%
FTSE 100	7,659.74	-73.50	-0.95%
BSE SENSEX	74,119.39	1,879.13	2.60%
KSE-100	65,836.35	3,456.94	5.54%
CSEALL	11,045.90	391.74	3.68%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.73 BDT****1 GBP = 120.04 BDT****1 Euro = 141.00 BDT****1 INR = 1.33 BDT**

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