

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:**Pvt Sector External Debt: Repayments outstrip new loans in 2023**

- Last year, the private sector took on USD 25.8 Bn in short-term foreign loans and repaid USD 31.14 Bn in both principal and interest. In 2022, total private sector short-term foreign loans stood at a record USD 37.25 Bn and repayment USD 36.73 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/pvt-sector-external-debt-repayments-outstrip-new-loans-2023-3564621>

Saving certificate sales drop BDT 12.87 Bn in Jan

- The net sales of national saving certificates dropped BDT 12.87 Bn in the first month of this year as people opted for encashing their savings amid inflationary pressure.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/saving-certificate-sales-drop-tk1287cr-jan-807654>

NEC likely to trim ADP by 7% today

- Current development budget of the country may be downsized by 7% to BDT 2.45 Tn today amid slow-paced implementation of projects.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nec-likely-to-trim-adp-by-70pc-today-1710180115>

Sector & Industry:**ENERGY | 55 cos invited for offshore exploration**

- As per the floated tender, a total of 24 offshore blocks - of which nine are shallow blocks - and 15 deep sea blocks are available for the bidding round. Prime Minister's Energy Adviser informed that so far, the bidding invitation was sent to 55 IOCs who have contacted the government as potential bidders.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/55-cos-invited-for-offshore-exploration-1710180198>

TELECOM | GP, Robi, Teletalk receive unified licences

- Telecom operators Grameenphone, Robi, and Teletalk today received unified licences, which will enable them to provide all sorts of services and streamline operations. The annual fee for the licence was set at BDT 100 Mn. It will remain valid for 15 years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gp-robi-teletalk-receive-unified-licences-3564491>

Stocks:**BEXIMCO | Beximco to raise BDT 15 Bn thru zero-coupon bonds**

- Beximco's board, in a meeting on March 10, approved the issuance of the "Beximco 1st Zero Coupon Bond", to repay the company's existing loans and invest in a joint venture with Sreepur Township.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/beximco-raise-tk-1500-crore-thru-zero-coupon-bonds-3564221>

EBL | Eastern Bank logs BDT 6.12 Bn profit in 2023

- Eastern Bank PLC recorded a profit of BDT 6.12 Bn in 2023, an increase of 20 % year-on-year. Thus, earnings per share (EPS) was BDT 5.07 last year, up from BDT 4.24 the previous year. The board of the bank recommended a 12.50 % cash dividend and a 12.50 % stock dividend for all shareholders.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/eastern-bank-logs-tk-612-crore-profit-2023-3564276>

SQURPHARMA | Tapan Chowdhury to buy 2 Mn shares of Square Pharma

- Square Pharmaceuticals PLC Director Tapan Chowdhury is set to purchase 2 Mn shares of the company within 30 working days. He made this disclosure via the Dhaka Stock Exchange's website, outlining his plans to acquire the shares through public and block market transactions.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/tapan-chowdhury-buy-20-lakh-shares-square-pharma-807586>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 78.10	USD 6.45	9.00%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 82.42	USD 5.38	6.98%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,179.96	USD 116.98	5.67%
DSEX	6,058.39	-188.10	-3.01%
S&P 500	5,117.94	348.11	7.30%
FTSE 100	7,669.23	-64.01	-0.83%
BSE SENSEX	73,502.64	1,262.38	1.75%
KSE-100	65,745.20	3,365.79	5.40%
CSEALL	11,125.03	470.87	4.42%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.80 BDT****1 GBP = 140.77 BDT****1 Euro = 120.05 BDT****1 INR = 1.33 BDT**

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