

*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:****Import curbs pay off – country's external position finally turns green**

- The country's external position improved significantly in the first six months of the current fiscal year as the current account balance turned to surplus from deficit, narrowing down trade gap with trading partner countries, thanks to controlled imports giving the central bank a considerable relief.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/import-curbs-pay-countrys-external-position-finally-turns-green-791898>

**Financial account deficit narrows slightly**

- The deficit in the financial account narrowed slightly in July-December of the current financial year, highlighting an easing of stress facing Bangladesh. The shortfall, almost a rare in the country's history, stood at USD 5.39 Bn in the first half of 2023-34, showing an improvement from USD 5.48 Bn registered in the first five months of the year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/financial-account-deficit-narrows-slightly-3542316>

**Labour exports tumble to 9-month low in Jan**

- Bangladesh's labour exports tumbled to a nine-month low in January, driven by decreases in employment opportunities in Malaysia and Oman.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/migration/labour-exports-tumble-9-month-low-jan-791434>

**Govt brings changes to export cash incentive regime**

- The new cash incentive on export receipts became effective from February 1 instead of the first day of January as announced earlier while some markets and products have been brought back under the facility following pleas from the business community.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-brings-changes-export-cash-incentive-regime-3542306>

**Sector & Industry:****TEXTILE | BD geotextile market surpasses BDT 7.0 Bn**

- The country's geotextile market has crossed BDT 7.0 Bn mark in recent years, ushering in possibility for massive extension of its export.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/bd-geotextile-mkt-surpasses-tk-70b-1707760471>

**TELECOM | Summit plans to use Bangladesh as transit point to supply bandwidth to northeast India**

- The telecom regulator has sought consent from the government after Summit Communications Ltd applied to use Bangladesh as a transit point to supply bandwidth to the northeastern states of India.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/summit-plans-use-bangladesh-transit-point-supply-bandwidth-northeast-india-3542251>

**BANK | Banks' non-performing loans soar to BDT 1.46 Tn**

- Classified loans in the banking sector showed an annual bulge by around 21% to BDT 1.46 Tn in 2023, until a downturn towards the yearend under regulatory push.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/banks-non-performing-loans-soar-to-tk-146t>

**Stocks:****APEXFOOT | Apex chairman to buy 11,000 company shares**

- Apex Footwear Chairman Syed Manzur Elahi has announced to buy 11,000 shares of the company in the secondary market of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/apex-chairman-buy-11000-company-shares-791866>

**EXCHANGE | DSE launches disclosure submission system**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today launched a smart data and document submission system in order to ease and speed up the process for listed companies to submit disclosures.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dse-launches-disclosure-submission-system-3542191>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 77.00	USD 5.35	7.47%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 82.04	USD 5.00	6.49%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,019.44	(USD 43.54)	-2.11%
DSEX	6,424.93	178.44	2.86%
S&P 500	5,021.84	252.01	5.28%
FTSE 100	7,573.69	-159.55	-2.06%
BSE SENSEX	71,072.49	-1,167.77	-1.62%
KSE-100	61,279.32	-1,100.09	-1.76%
CSEALL	10,584.02	-70.14	-0.66%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.76 BDT****1 GBP = 138.47 BDT****1 Euro = 118.16 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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