

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:**BB introduces currency swap with banks**

- The Bangladesh Bank has introduced currency swaps with banks for the first time, a move that will enable the country to meet the net reserve condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with its USD 4.7 Bn loan programme.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-introduces-currency-swap-banks-3544791>

GDP growth slows to 6.07% in Q1 FY24

- The gross domestic product (GDP) grew at estimated 6.07% in the first quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year, while real growth in the last fiscal year stood at 5.78% in the final count, lower than official projection, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics said today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/gdp-growth-falls-607-q1-fy24-793730>

January sees resurgence in inflation following December dip

- The overall inflation again saw a spike in January reaching 9.86% following a drop in December last year, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data released today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/inflation-rise-793718>

Sector & Industry:**AVIATION | Record 17 Mn air passengers last year propel Dhaka airport to BDT 24 Bn revenue**

- Bangladesh's airports saw a record 17.4 Mn air passengers last year, predominantly international travellers, marking a nearly 23.4% growth from the previous year, resulting in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka generating the highest revenue of around BDT 23.88 Bn in FY 23, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aviation/record-17m-air-passengers-last-year-propel-dhaka-airport-tk2400cr-revenue-794054>

ENGINEERING | Growing market for fire safety items creates opportunity for local manufacturing

- Bangladesh has an annual market of around BDT 140 Bn -BDT 150 Bn for fire safety and security-related items, but has to import such items from the United Kingdom, the US, UAE, Germany, Turkey, and Japan, said Md Niaz Ali Chisty, president of the Electronics Safety and Security Association of Bangladesh (ESSAB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/news/growing-market-fire-safety-items-creates-opportunity-local-manufacturing-3546116>

FOOD & ALLIED | Coca-Cola sells its Bangladeshi bottler to Turkish associate

- Global beverage giant The Coca-Cola Company (TCCC) is going to sell its Bangladeshi bottling business Coca-Cola Bangladesh Beverages Ltd (CCBB) to its Turkish associate Coca-Cola İçecek (CCI).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/coca-cola-sells-its-bangladeshi-bottler-turkish-associate-793902>

JUTE | Govt giving BDT 74.9 Mn incentives to jute farmers to boost production

- The government will provide around BDT 74.9 Mn as incentives to farmers to boost jute cultivation across the country.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/govt-giving-tk-749m-incentives-to-jute-farmers-to-boost-production>

TRADE | BD lags behind competitors

- Bangladesh could add only a few new products to its export basket during one and a half decades, showing exceedingly high concentration on ready-made garment and poor diversification of products.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-lags-behind-competitors-1708189350>

POWER | Power production from coal up, several oil plants shut

- Energy transition leads Bangladesh to plan substantial cut in import of petroleum products in 2024 as gasoil demand falls amid increasing switch to power production from coal-fired plants, sources said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/power-production-from-coal-up-several-oil-plants-shut-1708189663>

Stocks:**ROBI | Robi clocks 75% higher profit in 2023**

- Robi-Axiata Ltd, the second-largest mobile phone operator in Bangladesh, made a profit of BDT 3.21 Bn in 2023, which was an increase of 75% year-on-year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/robi-clocks-75-higher-profit-2023-3544816>

BSCCL | Submarine Cable approved to allocate shares to govt at 55% discount

- Shareholders approved the Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company to allocate its shares to the government at a 55% discount on the prevailing market price on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/submarine-cable-approved-allocate-shares-govt-55-discount-794594>

EXCHANGE | 22 stocks likely to be downgraded to Z on Sunday

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has identified 22 companies for downgrading to the "Z" category on Sunday, in accordance with an order issued by the market regulator on Thursday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/22-stocks-likely-be-downgraded-z-sunday-794506>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 79.19	USD 7.54	10.52%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 83.47	USD 6.43	8.35%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,013.59	(USD 49.39)	-2.39%
DSEX	6,336.25	89.76	1.44%
S&P 500	5,005.57	235.74	4.94%
FTSE 100	7,711.71	-21.53	-0.28%
BSE SENSEX	72,426.64	186.38	0.26%
KSE-100	59,800.99	-2,578.42	-4.13%
CSEALL	10,586.11	-68.05	-0.64%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.60 BDT****1 GBP = 138.09 BDT****1 Euro = 118.10 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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