

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:**Govt borrowing through bonds, bills rises fivefold**

- According to the central bank, the government secured BDT 211.29 Bn through the auction of treasury bonds in FY24. In contrast, it did not borrow any money through the tool in 2022-2023. Rather, such debts went down by BDT 6.15 Bn compared to the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-borrowing-through-bonds-bills-rises-fivefold-3658861>

BB to keep policy rates high to curb inflation

- The monetary authority is likely to keep unchanged the policy rate, a major tool of monetary policy, as it has little scope to raise it, officials of the central bank said, seeking anonymity. If the rate goes up further, it will adversely impact the GDP (gross domestic product) growth since the lending rate would cross 15%, making investments costlier.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bb-keep-policy-rates-high-curb-inflation-3658851>

BD's IsDB stake shrinks, raising risks for petroleum imports

- Bangladesh's stake in the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has fallen due to an increase in the bank's special capital, sources said, as it consequently could make loan negotiations for petroleum product imports difficult.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/bds-isdb-stake-shrinks-raising-risks-for-petroleum-imports>

Sectors & Industries:**TELECOM | BTCL recorded BDT 3.16 Bn unrealised dues as 'current asset': CAG**

- Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) has failed to realise dues worth around BDT 3.16 Bn from different companies and falsely recorded it as a "current asset" in its financial statement.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/btcl-recorded-tk-316cr-unrealised-dues-current-asset-cag-3658831>

BANK | Borrowers under pressure as lending rate hits 16% in July

- The interest rate on consumer loans hit a maximum of 16% in July, as banks drastically raised lending rates due to high inflationary risks, putting borrowers under severe repayment pressure, according to banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/borrowers-under-pressure-lending-rate-hits-16-july-901226>

AVIATION | Cargo piles up at HSIA as C&F agents observe strike for 3 days

- Nearly 1,500 tonnes of cargo have been stockpiled at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka over the past three days due to a strike called by clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/cargo-piles-hsia-cf-agents-observe-strike-3-days-3658856>

Stocks:**GP | GP declares 160% interim dividend for Q2 despite profit fall**

- Revenue for the largest mobile phone operator in Bangladesh rose around 6% year-on-year to BDT 42.23 Bn in the second quarter of 2024, according to the financial report. However, the bottom line plunged around 28% to BDT 8.61 Bn.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/gp-declares-160-interim-dividend-q2-despite-profit-fall-3658846>

LHBL | LafargeHolcim's profit declines

- LafargeHolcim Bangladesh Limited (LHBL), a building material solutions provider, saw its profit decline by 33% in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period the year prior due to a sales decline amidst ongoing economic challenges. The company's earnings per share dropped to BDT 2.09 from BDT 3.11 in the same period.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/lafargeholcims-profit-declines-3658841>

ROBI | Auditor general finds Robi didn't pay BDT 3.65 Bn in taxes

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of Bangladesh has found that Robi Axiata Limited paid BDT 3.65 Bn less in taxes for 2019 by reporting lower income through deductions in unallowable costs that did not comply with the income tax law.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/auditor-general-finds-robi-didnt-pay-tk365cr-taxes-901091>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 83.44	USD 11.79	16.45%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 85.50	USD 8.46	10.98%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,462.83	USD 399.85	19.38%
DSEX	5,483.14	-763.35	-12.22%
S&P 500	5,588.27	818.44	17.16%
FTSE 100	8,187.46	454.22	5.87%
BSE SENSEX	80,716.55	8,476.29	11.73%
KSE-100	81,120.97	18,741.56	30.04%
CSEALL	11,876.35	1,222.19	11.47%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 117.44 BDT****1 GBP = 152.73 BDT****1 Euro = 128.43 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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