

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:**Higher tax rate for high-income people planned in FY25**

- The Income Tax Department of the NBR is working on the proposal of a 5%-point increase of the top marginal income tax rate for the upcoming FY25 budget to be unveiled in June.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/higher-tax-rate-high-income-people-planned-fy25-832056>

USD 31 Bn foreign loans in pipeline, transportation gets lion's share

- Transportation continues to remain the government's top priority, accounting for one-third of the USD 30.89 Bn in external loans expected in the current and next two fiscal years for projects that have been greenlighted by development partners.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/31b-foreign-loans-pipeline-transportation-gets-lions-share-832731>

IMF's 3rd loan tranche on track despite repeated failure to hit reserve goal

- Despite the shortfall, driven by lower-than-expected remittance and export receipts and foreign direct investments, the country managed to secure the first two instalments of the multi-year loan.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/imfs-3rd-loan-tranche-track-despite-repeated-failure-hit-reserve-goal-3590116>

Higher debt to put strain on Bangladesh as revenue remains low

- The debt-to-GDP ratio of Bangladesh is going to cross 40% in the current fiscal year as the government continues to borrow to bankroll its expenditures amid lower collections of revenues. In the last decade, the debt-to-GDP ratio rose by 13% points. The IMF forecasts that the ratio will reach 43.5% in 2028-29.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/higher-debt-put-strain-bangladesh-revenue-remains-low-3591486>

The cost-of-living crisis prolongs for wage workers

- The cost-of-living crisis in Bangladesh appears to have caused more trouble for daily workers as their wage growth has been lower than the inflation rate for more than two years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/the-cost-living-crisis-prolongs-wage-workers-3590096>

Corporate bonds: Why investors scorn the vital economic lifeline

- Lack of protection against loan defaults is the main reason as to why investors have evinced disinterest in corporate bonds, leading to many debt securities being undersubscribed or unsubscribed.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/corporate-bonds-why-investors-scorn-the-vital-economic-lifeline-1713628681>

Stagflation or not, Bangladesh economy slips into slow growth track

- The latest figures from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) reveal, Bangladesh's economic growth has slowed to a mere 3.78% in the second quarter of FY24, the slowest pace in the last three quarters.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/analysis/stagflation-or-not-bangladesh-economy-slips-slow-growth-track-832206>

Sectors & Industries:

BANK | Seven banks achieve record profits in 2023

- Despite economic challenges amid ongoing inflation and a dollar crisis, seven listed banks achieved record profits in 2023, credited to their effective business policies and strategies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/seven-banks-achieve-record-profits-2023-832691>

CERAMIC | MGI expands ceramic tiles production with USD 45 Mn investment.

- Meghna Ceramic Industries has increased its production capacity with an investment of USD 45 Mn (about BDT 5 Bn) to grab a bigger share of the growing half a Bn USD-worth tiles market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/mgi-expands-ceramic-tiles-production-45m-investment-3590131>

ENERGY | Govt set to augment LNG imports from spot market

- The government has decided to import a total of 23 spot LNG cargoes during the January-June 2024 instead of the previously set 13 to reap the benefits of lower prices in the international market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/govt-set-to-augment-lng-imports-from-spot-market-1713634140>

BANK | Basic, National Bank Mergers: Depositors in panic withdrawal.

- Depositors flocked to the two banks last week following reports that BASIC Bank would soon merge with City Bank and National Bank with UCBL.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/basic-national-bank-mergers-depositors-panic-withdrawal-3591496>

BANK | Cenbank cuts lending to banks by 10% to rein in inflation

- To tighten the money supply in the market and keep inflation under control, the Bangladesh Bank has reduced the loan amount given to state-owned and private banks through a repurchase agreement (repo) – a short-term lending instrument – by 10%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-cuts-lending-banks-10-rein-inflation-831491>

BANK | Savings deposits sink for slim returns.

- Disillusioned saving depositors begin diverting their funds into higher-paying term deposits to make up for waning interest income amid higher inflation. Officials said almost BDT 20 Bn was withdrawn from the bank in a couple of days last week.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/savings-deposits-sink-for-slim-returns-1713548359>

BANK | Anontex Loans: Janata in deep trouble as BB digs up scams.

- Bangladesh Bank has ordered Janata Bank to cancel the BDT 33.59 Bn interest waiver facility the lender had allowed to AnonTex Group, after an audit found forgeries and scams involving the loans.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/anontex-loans-janata-deep-trouble-bb-digs-scams-3590216>

Stocks:

PUBALIBANK | Pubali Bank posts highest ever annual profit in 2023

- Pubali Bank PLC registered profits of BDT 6.95 Bn in 2023, marking the company's highest annual earnings since its inception, thanks to higher interest income and treasury bond proceeds.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/pubali-bank-posts-highest-ever-annual-profit-2023-3591446>

BATBC | Monisha Abraham becomes new MD of BAT Bangladesh

- Monisha Abraham has been appointed as managing director of the British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh Company, effective from July 1.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/monisha-abraham-becomes-new-md-bat-bangladesh-3591276>

PRIMEBANK | Prime Bank receives bancassurance business approval from central bank

- Prime Bank PLC has recently received bancassurance business commencement approval from Bangladesh Bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/prime-bank-receives-bancassurance-business-approval-from-central-bank-1713631342>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 83.14	USD 11.49	16.04%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 87.29	USD 10.25	13.30%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,391.93	USD 328.95	15.95%
DSEX	5,686.69	-559.80	-8.96%
S&P 500	4,967.23	197.40	4.14%
FTSE 100	7,895.85	162.61	2.10%
BSE SENSEX	73,088.33	848.07	1.17%
KSE-100	70,944.20	8,564.79	13.73%
CSEALL	11,753.04	1,098.88	10.31%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 110.11 BDT****1 GBP = 136.31 BDT****1 Euro = 117.40 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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