

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:****Universal pension: Protttoy scheme introduced for newly-recruited employees**

- Under the Protttoy scheme, if an individual contributes BDT 2,500 monthly from their own salary upon joining an institution and continues to contribute the same amount for 30 years, they will receive a pension of BDT 62,330 per month upon retirement, starting from the age of 60 years.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/universal-pension-protttoy-scheme-introduced-newly-recruited-employees-812214>

**Jul-Feb FY24 ADP implementation hits decade-low**

- During the first eight months of this fiscal year, ADP implementation reached 31.17% – the lowest rate in more than a decade. Even during the government's austerity drive in the last fiscal year, the implementation rate stood at 32.10%. The ministries and departments have spent BDT 856.82 Bn during this period out of the BDT 2746.74 Bn allocated in the ADP for the current fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/adp-implementation-3117-after-8-months-lowest-10-years-812266>

**Financial imbalances feared for hefty debt servicing**

- Government debts go ballooning, with the volume rising by BDT 378.43 Bn to BDT 16.552 Tn as of last September, entailing hefty repayment inclusive of interest. The domestic borrowings stood at BDT 9.741 Tn at the end of September 2023 while the external debt at BDT 6.811 Tn, the data said.
- Total debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio stood now at 33.35%, as of September 2023. And domestic debt-GDP ratio was 19.63% while external debt-GDP at 13.72%, according to the data.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/financial-imbalances-feared-for-hefty-debt-servicing-1710959226>

**Sector & Industry:****MFS | Mobile financial services lose 1.28 Mn users in January despite surge in transactions**

- Data from Bangladesh Bank shows that between 1 to 31 January, clients made transactions of a total of BDT 1294.45 Bn through various MFS platforms, marking a 3.93% increase compared to BDT 1245.48 Bn transactions in December.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/mobile-financial-services-lose-1284-lakh-users-january-despite-surge-transactions>

**BANK | How banks' cash excess liquidity drops by BDT 150 Bn in just one month**

- According to Bangladesh Bank data, banks' cash excess liquidity over the past year has fluctuated around BDT 50 Bn -100 Bn. Suddenly, at the end of December, it increased to BDT 199.66 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/how-banks-cash-excess-liquidity-drops-tk15000cr-just-one-month-811890>

**BANK | Bangladeshi banks' profitability lowest in South Asia**

- The return on assets (ROA), also known as profitability, was 0.52% in Bangladesh in 2022 and it further slipped to 0.43% in June last year, Bangladesh Bank data showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bangladeshi-banks-profitability-lowest-south-asia-3571336>

**RMG | Garment export to USA falls 2.58%**

- Garment exports to the USA, the single largest export destination for Bangladesh, fell by 2.58% year-on-year to USD 5.46 Bn in the July-February period of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/garment-export-usa-falls-258-3571271>

**Stocks:**

**EXCHANGE | CSE gets conditional licence to launch country's first commodity exchange**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) conditionally awarded the country's first commodity exchange licence to the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) on Wednesday (20 March). The condition is that strategic investors must divest their ownership of brokerage firms within three months of receiving the licence.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/cse-gets-conditional-licence-launch-countrys-first-commodity-exchange-812358>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 81.68	USD 10.03	14.00%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 86.48	USD 9.44	12.25%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,204.28	USD 141.30	6.85%
DSEX	5,872.58	-373.91	-5.99%
S&P 500	5,224.62	454.79	9.53%
FTSE 100	7,737.38	4.14	0.05%
BSE SENSEX	72,101.69	-138.57	-0.19%
KSE-100	65,716.97	3,337.56	5.35%
CSEALL	11,276.31	622.15	5.84%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.32 BDT****1 GBP = 139.90 BDT****1 Euro = 119.52 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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