

*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:****10-year treasury bond yield reaches decade high**

- The yield of 10-year government bonds has increased to 12.05%, the highest in a decade, amidst tight liquidity in the market, indicating that money will turn expensive, said market insiders.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/10-year-treasury-bond-yield-reaches-decade-high-3548906>

**NBR revenue soars despite import decline. Is the target feasible yet?**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) demonstrated a significant achievement in the first seven months of the current fiscal year, with tax collections surging by nearly 15% year-on-year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/nbr-revenue-soars-despite-import-decline-target-feasible-yet-796330>

**Plan to raise fees of govt services to increase non-tax revenue**

- Amid slower-than-expected growth in revenue earning, the finance ministry looks for ways to raise incomes from non-tax sources by hiking fees and charges of government services to narrow the gap between the government's income and expenditures in the next fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/plan-raise-fees-govt-services-increase-non-tax-revenue-796354>

**MFS transactions grow fourfold in five years**

- Bangladesh is registering a consistent growth in transactions through mobile financial services (MFS) and it grew four times to over BDT 41 Bn in the last five years to December 2023.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mfs-transactions-grow-fourfold-five-years-3549466>

**62% young women not in employment, education**

- Three out of five young women in Bangladesh were considered NEETs (not in employment, education, or training) in 2022, a waste of the workforce in a country looking to thrive riding on the demographic dividend.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/62-young-women-not-employment-education-3549591>

**Suspicious transactions jump by 65% in FY23: BFIU**

- Suspicious transactions and activity reported across the country jumped by around 65% in the financial year 2022-2023, with 91% of such reports filed by commercial banks, according to the annual report of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/suspicious-transactions-jump-by-65pc-in-fy23-bfiu>

**Sector & Industry:****TRADE | Dhaka trade fair logs BDT 3.92 Bn in export orders**

- The 28th edition of the Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) has fetched export orders worth BDT 3.92 Bn, up 17% from the previous year, according to the commerce ministry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-trade-fair-logs-tk-392-crore-export-orders-3548811>

**PHARMACEUTICALS | Higher raw material imports signal end of pharma sector's slump**

- Bangladesh's pharmaceuticals sector is rebounding on the back of smooth imports of raw materials, a well-maintained supply chain, and a higher opening of letters of credit, highlighting the recovery following challenges over the last two years, industry people say.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/higher-raw-material-imports-signal-end-pharma-sectors-slump-3548926>

**AGRICULTURE | BD's fresh focus on contract farming abroad**

- In a latest development, Uganda has agreed to provide 20,000 hectares of land to Bangladeshi entrepreneurs for contract farming. According to officials, over 4.0 Mn Bangladeshis can be employed in agriculture in African countries, including Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Gambia, by 2027.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bds-fresh-focus-on-contract-farming-abroad-1708450860>

**FOOD & ALLIED | Food-grain imports drop over 42% in July-December**

- Bangladesh's food-grain imports from international markets plunged during the July-December period of fiscal year 2023-24, according to central bank data, amid ongoing import restrictions to stabilise the strained USD stocks.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/food-grain-imports-drop-over-42pc-in-july-december-1708537112>

**INSURANCE | Four insurance cos declare dividends for 2023**

- Crystal Insurance recommended a 7% cash and 10% stock dividend, while City General Insurance declared 12% cash, and Reliance Insurance and Green Delta Insurance each declared a 25% cash dividend to their shareholders, according to their stock exchange filings.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/four-insurance-cos-declare-dividends-2023-796910>

**BANK | Padma Bank to turn institutional deposits into preference shares**

- In a rare move, Padma Bank PLC is going to convert institutional deposits into preference shares and provide them to customers seeking to withdraw funds, exposing how deeper its liquidity crisis is.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/padma-bank-turn-institutional-deposits-preference-shares-3548891>

**Stocks:****BRACBANK | BRAC Bank issues BDT 7 Bn bond targeting small investors**

- BRAC Bank has launched a subordinated bond worth BDT 7 Bn to enhance its Tier II Capital base and it is now available for subscription by investors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/brac-bank-issues-tk-700-crore-bond-targeting-small-investors-3549496>

**POWERGRID | Power Grid allowed to issue preference shares in favour of govt**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has granted conditional approval to Power Grid Company's proposal to issue both ordinary and preference shares in exchange for government funds – known as share money deposits – received over the years to support various projects.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/power-grid-allowed-issue-preference-shares-favour-govt-796930>

**BERGERPBL | Berger Paints calls EGM for shareholders' nod of right offer**

- Berger Paints Bangladesh — a publicly-traded multinational company — has called an extra-ordinary general meeting (EGM) for getting shareholders' approval of issuance of right shares and renunciation offer of right shares by J&N Investments (Asia) to other shareholders and employees of the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/berger-paints-calls-egm-shareholders-nod-right-offer-796922>

**SUMITPOWER | Summit Power suffers 46% drop in profit**

- Summit Power Ltd (SPL) has suffered a 46% fall in profit in 2022-23 financial year. The private power producer made a profit of BDT 2.21 Bn in the year ended on June 2023, which was BDT 4.13 Bn in the same period previous year, according to company's audited financial statement.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/summit-power-suffers-46-drop-profit-3549386>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 77.91	USD 6.26	8.74%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 82.99	USD 5.95	7.72%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,027.20	(USD 35.78)	-1.73%
DSEX	6,256.13	9.64	0.15%
S&P 500	4,981.80	211.97	4.44%
FTSE 100	7,662.51	-70.73	-0.91%
BSE SENSEX	72,623.09	382.83	0.53%
KSE-100	61,620.86	-758.55	-1.22%
CSEALL	10,649.30	-4.86	-0.05%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.60 BDT****1 GBP = 138.50 BDT****1 Euro = 118.63 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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