

*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:****Call money rate hits 12-year high**

- On January 23, banks borrowed BDT 24.76 Bn from their counterparts at an average interest of 9.57% calculated on overnight basis as demand for money from cash-strapped banks and the government exceeded supply, data released by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) showed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/call-money-rate-hits-12-year-high-3526441>

**Bay Economic Zone wooing local, foreign investors**

- Bay Economic Zone, set up by Bay Group on 65 acres of land in Konabari, Gazipur with modern facilities, is now fully ready to woo local and foreign investments with 40% of the land already leased out to potential investors.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bay-economic-zone-wooing-local-foreign-investors-779794>

**World Bank to provide USD 700 Mn for Rohingyas, host communities**

- Out of the amount, USD 315 Mn will be provided as grant for the Rohingyas and the rest, USD 385 Mn, will be provided to support the community in Cox's Bazar as soft loan," the minister said while addressing a press briefing at the foreign ministry.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/world-bank-to-provide-700m-for-rohingyas-host-communities>

**Foreign loan servicing surges 49% in Jul-Dec 2023**

- The pressure of repaying foreign loans, a key source of financing development projects, is mounting on Bangladesh with rising interest rates and conclusion of loan grace period of several mega projects.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/foreign-loan-servicing-surges-49-jul-dec-2023-780294>

**Sector & Industry:****ENERGY | Govt to procure 3.36 Mn MMBtu LNG from Swiss TotalEnergies**

- The government is going to procure 3.36 Mn MMBtu liquified natural gas (LNG) from the Switzerland-based TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited. This LNG import will cost BDT 4.70 Bn, which translates to USD 10.88 per MMBtu, officials of the Cabinet Division told the media after the meeting.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-procure-3360-lakh-mmbtu-lng-swiss-totalenergies-780114>

**POWER | Power price hikes ahead to phase out subsidy**

- Power tariffs at both bulk and retail levels are planned for serial hikes to phase out government subsidy in three years, under reforms which economist say would further add to people's cost of living.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/power-price-hikes-ahead-to-phase-out-subsidy>

**ENERGY | Economy to take a beating for acute gas crisis**

- The severe gas crisis is increasing the cost of manufacturing of goods for both local and export markets, which may ultimately hit the pockets of consumers in the form of higher prices and the economy since overseas sales could see further slowdown.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-take-beating-acute-gas-crisis-3526526>

**Stocks:****SICL | Sikder Insurance makes share trading debut today**

- Sikder Insurance will commence trading of its shares on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) today under "N" category.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sikder-insurance-makes-share-trading-debut-today-780298>

**ASIATICLAB | Asiatic Laboratories IPO subscription to run during 4-8 Feb**

- According to the stock market regulator's consent letter, for buying shares local investors should have a minimum BDT 50,000 investment in the secondary market of the stock exchanges, and the non-resident Bangladeshis should have BDT 0.1 Mn on 8 January or 25 January.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/asiatic-laboratories-ipo-subscription-run-during-4-8-feb-780262>

**BSC | Shipping Corporation profits sink**

- Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) saw its earnings per share (EPS) plunge 26% year-on-year to BDT 3.29 in the October-December period of the current fiscal year, according to disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shipping-corporation-profits-sink-3526451>

**BDLAMPS | BD Lamps logs big loss in Q2**

- Electric bulb producer Bangladesh Lamps Limited – commonly known as BD Lamps – posted a big loss in the second quarter of the current fiscal year 2023-24 due to an increase in material costs and finance costs.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bd-lamps-logs-big-loss-q2-780270>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 74.50	USD 2.85	3.98%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 79.69	USD 2.65	3.44%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,026.09	(USD 36.89)	-1.79%
DSEX	6,276.26	29.77	0.48%
S&P 500	4,864.60	94.77	1.99%
FTSE 100	7,485.73	-247.51	-3.20%
BSE SENSEX	70,370.55	-1,869.71	-2.59%
KSE-100	64,423.94	2,044.53	3.28%
CSEALL	10,371.69	-282.47	-2.65%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.77 BDT****1 GBP = 139.28 BDT****1 Euro = 119.18 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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