

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:**ADB budget funding worth USD 400 Mn forthcoming**

- Another dollop of Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan worth USD 400 Mn may be forthcoming as budget support to Bangladesh this fiscal year, at a time when the country faces forex crunch.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/adb-budget-funding-worth-400m-forthcoming-1711213206>

Capital machinery imports on the mend

- During the July-January period of this fiscal year (FY), LC openings for capital machinery grew 3% year-on-year to USD 1,557 Mn, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/capital-machinery-imports-the-mend-3572021>

Window for easy loans narrowing

- In 2023, the government borrowed about USD 2.6 Bn at the market-based rate, which accounted for 30.7% of the total committed loans. In 2022, it was USD 3.42 Bn, which was 43.9% of the total.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/window-easy-loans-narrowing-3573466>

External debt crosses USD 100 Bn for first time

- At the end of 2023, the overall external debt stood at USD 100.6 Bn, up from USD 96.5 Bn a year earlier, as per the latest data from the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/external-debt-crosses-100b-first-time-3572206>

Sectors & Industries:**POWER | NBR extends duty benefit for Rampal power plant**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has granted permission to import spare parts for the coal-fired Rampal Power Plant without customs duty, according to a notification issued last week.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-extends-duty-benefit-rampal-power-plant-3573346>

MUTUAL FUNDS | Islamic mutual funds struggle due to lack of investment options

- Islamic mutual funds, which invest public funds in Shariah-compliant securities, are grappling with a shortage of investment tools necessary for diversifying portfolios and securing their investments.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/islamic-mutual-funds-struggle-due-lack-investment-options-814281>

Stocks:**RUPALIBANK | Govt to get more shares in Rupali Bank against equity**

- As per finance ministry officials, the issuance of ordinary shares priced at BDT 15 each, comprising a BDT 5 premium and BDT 10 face value, has been approved.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/govt-get-more-shares-rupali-bank-against-equity-814321>

ESQUIRENIT | Esquire Knit to invest BDT 50 Mn in its subsidiary

- According to a disclosure published Thursday on the stock exchange website, Esquire Knit's board approved the investment decision on 20 March as a part of continued investment in its subsidiary that will meet upcoming export opportunities and secure profit and dividends for the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/esquire-knit-invest-tk5cr-its-subsiidiary-813041>

SQURPHARMA | Square Pharma chairman announces to buy 2 Mn shares

- Square Pharmaceuticals Chairman Samuel S Chowdhury plans to acquire 2 Mn shares valued at BDT 430 Mn, aiming to increase his stake in the company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/square-pharma-chairman-announces-buy-20-lakh-shares-814271>

EXCHANGE | Commodity exchange to be an extension of CSE, not separate entity

- The country's maiden commodity exchange (CX) will function as a new segment of the port city bourse, not a subsidiary as was initially planned, since the new arrangement will help quicken the introduction of the market. It will be just another platform of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), similar to the SME board.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/commodity-exchange-to-be-an-extension-of-cse-not-separate-entity-1711209961>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 80.63	USD 8.98	12.53%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 85.43	USD 8.39	10.89%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,165.44	USD 102.46	4.97%
DSEX	5,941.66	-304.83	-4.88%
S&P 500	5,234.18	464.35	9.74%
FTSE 100	7,930.92	197.68	2.56%
BSE SENSEX	72,831.94	591.68	0.82%
KSE-100	65,178.75	2,799.34	4.49%
CSEALL	11,261.42	607.26	5.70%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 110.02 BDT****1 GBP = 138.67 BDT****1 Euro = 119.23 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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