

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:**Payra Port a painful burden on economy**

- The Payra Port, a seaport located in the southern coastal district of Patuakhali, has become a "painful abscess" on the country's economy, Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud said yesterday. "This port can barely function as a river port, let alone a seaport," he said at a press briefing following a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/payra-port-painful-burden-economy-3855726>

ASEAN countries urged to increase imports from Bangladesh

- ASEAN diplomats visited ICC Bangladesh and held a meeting with ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman and Vice Presidents A K Azad and Naser Ezaz Bijoy recently. ICC Bangladesh President mentioned that there is a huge trade gap between Bangladesh and ASEAN countries due to insignificant exports from Bangladesh. He, therefore, called for increasing imports from Bangladesh to reduce the trade gap. He urged the ASEAN diplomats to actively promote the inclusion of Bangladesh in ASEAN. He also emphasised the need for free trade agreements (FTAs) with these countries.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/asean-countries-urged-to-increase-imports-from-bangladesh>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Import LCs opening and settlement rise by 20% in February**

- Higher remittance inflow and export earnings have boosted the availability of dollars in the banking sector, leading to a nearly 20% year-on-year increase in both the opening and settlement of import letters of credit (LCs) in February. According to data from the central bank, import LCs worth USD 6.26 Bn were opened in February, marking a 19.92% increase from USD 5.22 Bn in the same month last year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/import-lcs-opening-and-settlement-rise-20-february-1100186>

BANK | CIB report mandatory for agricultural loans: Bangladesh Bank

- From now on, the CIB (Credit Information Bureau) report will have to be verified to approve any amount of agricultural loan or extend the loan tenure. Earlier, a CIB report was not required for agricultural and rural loans up to BDT 0.25 Mn, UNB reports. On Sunday (Mar 23), the Agricultural Credit Department of Bangladesh Bank issued a directive in this regard.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/cib-report-mandatory-for-agricultural-loans-bangladesh-bank>

AVIATION | 'A threat to travel sector'

- The Civil Aviation Ministry's draft directive prohibiting travel agencies from buying or selling tickets through other agencies has sparked criticism, with industry leaders warning of severe business disruptions. The Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB), which represents around 4,000 travel agencies, has strongly opposed the move, calling it a threat to the sector.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/threat-travel-sector-3855831>

NBFI | NBFIs to contribute to deposit protection fund from 2028

- The country's non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), which have so far remained exempt from paying premiums on their deposits to the central bank, will be required to do so starting in July 2028, according to a draft law prepared by the Financial Institutions Division (FID). Currently, only banks contribute premiums on deposits to the relevant department of the central bank.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/nbfis-to-contribute-to-deposit-protection-fund-from-2028-1742752355>

Stocks:**BSCPLC | Submarine Cables cuts bandwidth prices by 10%**

- Bangladesh Submarine Cables has decided to reduce bandwidth prices by 10%, which is likely to reduce internet bills at users' end. The information was disclosed in a press release issued by the Press Wing of the Chief Adviser to the interim government yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/submarine-cables-cuts-bandwidth-prices-10-3855516>

SUMITPOWER | Three Summit power plants to shut from April 1

- Three power plants of Summit Power Ltd (SPL), the country's largest private power producer, will cease operations from April 1 as the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) is not renewing their power purchase agreements (PPAs). The plants—Rupganj, Maona, and Ullapara—have a combined capacity of 77MW and have been supplying electricity to BREB since 2009 under 15-year agreements. The contracts expired between March and June last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/three-summit-power-plants-shut-april-1-3855656>

ISLAMIBANK | Islami Bank to auction S Alam's property to recover money

- Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC has issued a notice to auction the assets of Infinity CR Strips Industries Limited, a subsidiary of S Alam Group, to recover outstanding loans, reports UNB. According to the notice, the company in question owes BDT 27.38 Bn, including principal and interest thereof, as of March 20, 2025.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/islami-bank-to-auction-s-alams-property-to-recover-money-1742752064>

DESCO | DESCO invites bids to generate 120MW rooftop solar power

- Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) wants to generate 120 megawatts (MW) of solar power by setting up on-grid solar systems in its eight operational circles, officials have said. In this regard, it recently invited bids from international EPC contractors to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain the systems.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/desco-invites-bids-to-generate-120mw-rooftop-solar-power-1742752244>

EXCHANGE | Make it easy for companies to get listed

- Bangladesh needs to ensure an environment conducive to attracting companies, especially multinational ones, with good track records to the stock market, said Rupali Haque Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC), yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/make-it-easy-companies-get-listed-3855986>

EXCHANGE | Listed firms seek increased tax benefits, logistics privileges to attract MNC IPOs

- Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC) President and Berger Paints Bangladesh Managing Director Rupali Haque Chowdhury said if multinational or foreign companies operating in Bangladesh are to be brought into the capital market, they must be offered an attractive package.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/listed-firms-seek-increased-tax-benefits-logistics-privileges-attract-mnc-ipos>

EXCHANGE | BSEC plans to set up media monitoring service

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) plans to establish a news media monitoring service to systematically track stock market-related items and has issued a tender to select a suitable service provider. BSEC aims to use this monitoring service to strengthen investor protection and ensure regulatory compliance.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-plans-set-media-monitoring-service-1100146>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 68.06	(USD 3.37)	-4.72%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 71.90	(USD 2.49)	-3.35%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,016.82	USD 408.34	15.65%
DSEX	5,183.36	-33.09	-0.63%
S&P 500	5,667.56	-239.38	-4.05%
FTSE 100	8,646.79	525.78	6.47%
BSE SENSEX	76,905.51	-1,294.42	-1.66%
KSE-100	118,442.18	3,183.18	2.76%
CSEALL	15,879.33	-65.28	-0.41%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.57 BDT****1 GBP = 157.18 BDT****1 Euro = 131.68 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Rakibul Hasan	Research Associate	rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
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BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (88)-02-222282446-47

Fax: + (88)-02-222282452

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com