

*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:****Smart investors loving T-bonds, bills for secured double-digit returns**

- Prioritising capital preservation with higher returns, smart investors are playing it safe by stashing their cash in treasury bonds and bills amid economic uncertainties and tightening monetary policies, say industry insiders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/smart-investors-loving-t-bonds-bills-secured-double-digit-returns-797602>

**Cash transactions creep up despite digital push**

- Some BDT 22.8621 Tn was transacted in cash in fiscal year 2022-23, up by around 8% from a year ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/cash-transactions-creep-despite-digital-push-3550411>

**Financial sector sees stunted growth for underperformance**

- The growth in the financial sector-in the grip of severe volatility for several years now---in the fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 tumbled to 2.55% in from 5.87% in the previous fiscal, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data showed.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/financial-sector-sees-stunted-growth-for-underperformance>

**Poverty, inequality, food insecurity rise in urban areas: Sanem**

- Food security declined, inequality deepened and poverty rose in Bangladesh in the last five years owing to the twin shocks of the coronavirus pandemic and price spiral, said the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/poverty-inequality-food-insecurity-rise-urban-areas-sanem-3551806>

**Sector & Industry:****RMG | RMG exports to EU up 1.32% in Jul-Jan**

- Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) export to the European Union (EU) reached USD 13.92 Bn during the July-January period of the current fiscal year with a growth of 1.32% compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year, according to the latest data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/bangladeshs-rmg-export-europe-reaches-1392b-july-january-period-798414>

**RMG | Garment export grows in non-traditional markets**

- Garment shipment to non-traditional markets grew 11.69% year-on-year to USD 5.46 Bn in July-January of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/garment-export-grows-non-traditional-markets-3551526>

**BANK | Currency swap pays both ways**

- Forex reserves show a rebound as the USD-BDT-swap mechanism proves a boon for both the Bangladesh Bank and cash-strapped commercial banks amid liquidity stress in the country's banking sector. According to BB sources, the central bank purchased USD 390 Mn from the commercial banks under the swap in first two days of the special exchange arrangement meant for circumventing the crunch.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/currency-swap-pays-both-ways-1708624697>

**TELECOM | BTRC allows mobile operators to offer wireless broadband**

- The internet regulator has allowed telecom operators in Bangladesh to provide fixed wireless access (FWA), enabling their users to get wifi connections without cables.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/btrc-allows-mobile-operators-offer-wireless-broadband-3550436>

**AUTOMOBILE | Rancon Motor Bikes gets nod for BDT 1.5 Bn bond**

- Rancon Motor Bikes Limited, Suzuki motorcycle manufacturer and distributor, has been allowed to raise BDT 1.5 Bn through issuing an unsecured, non-convertible and fully redeemable zero-coupon bond.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/rancon-motor-bikes-gets-nod-tk150cr-bond-798578>

**BANK | Bank lending slows amid subdued economic activity, import**

- The industry advances-to-deposit ratio (ADR) decreased to 78.51% at the end of June 2023 from 79.0% at end-December 2022.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/bank-lending-slows-amid-subdued-economic-activity-import-1708710106>

**POWER | Gas, power price hikes likely in tandem**

- A successive hike in gas tariffs, too, for all consumers but households over next three years is likely to phase out government subsidy under a reform recipe.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/gas-power-price-hikes-likely-in-tandem-1708797436>

**Stocks:****BRACBANK | BRAC Bank to invest BDT 3 Bn on land for new head office**

- BRAC Bank plans to invest BDT 3 Bn in purchasing a piece of land for constructing its new head office in Dhaka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brac-bank-invest-tk300cr-land-new-head-office-798574>

**PTL | Paramount Textile to raise BDT 2.5 Bn**

- Paramount Textile PLC is going to raise funds of BDT 2.5 Bn by issuing a type of non-convertible, fully redeemable and unsecured zero-coupon bond.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/paramount-textile-raise-tk-250-crore-3551696>

**GEMINISEA | Gemini Sea Foods to raise BDT 1.28 Bn through 21.4 Mn right shares**

- Gemini Sea Foods, a prominent frozen shrimp and fish exporter in the nation, has opted to issue more than 21.3 Mn right shares to raise BDT 1.28 Bn to bolster its paid-up capital, settle outstanding bank loans, and facilitate business expansion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/gemini-sea-foods-raise-tk128cr-through-214cr-right-shares-798550>

**ASIATICLAB | Retailers, NRBs receive Asiatic Lab IPO shares at 60% discount**

- Each general investor received 86 initial public offering (IPO) shares of Asiatic Laboratories, while non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) got 143 shares against a deposit of BDT 10,000.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/retailers-nrbs-receive-asiatic-lab-ipo-shares-at-60pc-discount-1708623497?date=23-02-2024>

**KBPPWBIL | Institutional investors sell off 32% shares of Khan Brothers**

- Some institutional investors sold their 32% stake, or 32.3 Mn shares, of Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries Ltd in the second half of 2023.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/institutional-investors-sell-32-shares-khan-brothers-3550421>

**EXCHANGE | Corporate bonds' yield reaches 12% to lure investors from govt securities**

- Corporate bond rates have been increased up to 12% to stay competitive with risk-free government securities, a manifestation of the financial distress that companies are in while trying to raise much-needed funds.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/corporate-bonds-yield-reaches-12pc-to-lure-investors-from-govt-securities-1708796166>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 76.49	USD 4.84	6.76%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 81.62	USD 4.58	5.94%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,035.40	(USD 27.58)	-1.34%
DSEX	6,273.96	27.47	0.44%
S&P 500	5,088.80	318.97	6.69%
FTSE 100	7,706.28	-26.96	-0.35%
BSE SENSEX	73,142.80	902.54	1.25%
KSE-100	62,926.11	546.70	0.88%
CSEALL	10,655.35	1.19	0.01%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.60 BDT****1 GBP = 138.82 BDT****1 Euro = 118.74 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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