

*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:****Flow of foreign loans on the decline**

- Bangladesh has continued to witness a decline in the inflow of foreign loans as it has yet to accelerate the implementation of development projects. In the first eight months of the current fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, the country, which has been facing a foreign exchange crisis for the past three years, was able to secure USD 4.13 Bn in foreign loans.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/flow-foreign-loans-the-decline-3856321>

**Maintain transparency and accountability in budget implementation**

- Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed today instructed secretaries to maintain transparency and accountability in implementing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2025–26. "I have told them to ensure that the allocated budget is implemented for the welfare of the people and that everything is done on time," he told the media after a discussion on the upcoming budget for FY26 at the secretariat.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/maintain-transparency-and-accountability-budget-implementation-3856611>

**Bangladesh underperforms in zero-duty trade with China**

- Bangladesh has hardly been able to utilise the generous zero-duty trade benefits offered by China due to a lack of product diversity, whereas Chinese imports have steadily risen, given the country's increasing reliance on a single sourcing destination. In the July-December period of the current fiscal year, Bangladesh imported goods worth USD 8.89 Bn and exported goods worth USD 461.05 Mn, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank (BB) and Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-underperforms-zero-duty-trade-china-3856831>

**Banks, NBFIs asked to provide data of entities over financial frauds**

- Banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) have received letters from the revenue authority asking them to provide information about fixed assets of and transactions conducted by business groups infamous for financial scams committed during the ousted regime. As many as 90 financial institutions received the letter for the second time on March 23. A majority of them are listed on the stock exchanges.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/banks-nbfis-asked-to-provide-data-of-entities-over-financial-frauds>

**Sector & Industries:****TEXTILE | Govt may ban yarn imports through land ports**

- The government may stop yarn imports through land ports in consideration of the greater interests of the local textile and spinning sector, Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman said yesterday. "So, the ministry will consider the matter further and may take a decision within the next week. However, yarn imports through seaports will continue as usual," Rahman said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-may-ban-yarn-imports-through-land-ports-3856576>

**RMG | 52 subcontract RMG factories in Ctg shut over order slump**

- At least 52 garment factories, both small and large, have closed in the past six months in Chattogram thanks to a 25% drop in work orders amid political instability, according to Industrial Police sources. Sources say at least 52 of these factories have closed in the past six months due to a lack of orders and turmoil related to the political changeover.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/52-subcontract-rmg-factories-ctg-shut-over-order-slump-3856796>

**HEALTHCARE | CA's China visit likely to seal USD 138 Mn healthcare grant**

- The government expects to sign a deal with Beijing during Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' upcoming visit to China, under which Bangladesh will receive a grant of 1 Bn CNY, equivalent to USD 138 Mn or BDT 16.78 Bn – meant for projects selected jointly by both countries, including the construction of a world-class hospital in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/foreign-policy/yunus-china-visit-likely-seal-138m-healthcare-grant-1101181>

**BANK | Banks won't get 28-day repo facility from April 10**

- Bangladesh Bank has decided to discontinue its 28-day repo facility for commercial banks, effective from April 10. On Monday, Bangladesh Bank's Debt Management Department issued a notification announcing the change, which said from April 10 onwards, only 7-day and 14-day repo auctions would take place.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/banks-wont-get-28-day-repo-facility-from-april-10>

**BANK | Subsidies to no-frills bank accounts fall by 43.81% in Jan**

- Though low-income people are grappling with high inflation and rising cost of living, government subsidy allocations to their bank accounts dropped substantially in January compared to December last year. The subsidies to the no-frills bank accounts -- typically maintained by marginalised people with an initial deposit of BDT 10, BDT 50 or BDT 100 -- dropped by over 43.81% to BDT 1.38 Bn in January from BDT 2.47 Bn in December, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/subsidies-to-no-frills-bank-accounts-fall-by-4381pc-in-jan-1742840594>

**BANK | Liquidity pressure on banks to intensify for repo squeeze**

- Shadows of intensified liquidity pressure hover over banks as the banking regulator decides to phase out from April 10 the prime borrowing instrument used for feeding funds to the commercial lenders. According to BB data, the commercial banks all together borrowed a total of BDT 645 Bn on the first three repo window-opening dates (March 5, March 12 and March 18) of this month.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/liquidity-pressure-on-banks-to-intensify-for-repo-squeeze>

**Stocks:****PADMALIFE | Padma Islami Life to sell land to settle claims**

- The board of directors of Padma Islami Life Insurance has decided to sell its property, particularly land, to settle claims from policyholders, the company said in a disclosure today. The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has already approved the sale, according to the disclosure posted on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/padma-islami-life-sell-land-settle-claims-3856171>

**EBL | Eastern Bank declares 35% dividend for 2024**

- Eastern Bank has recommended a 35% dividend comprising 17.50% cash and 17.50% stock to its shareholders for the year of 2024. The dividend declaration came after its board meeting held on Monday, according to a bank source. Last year, its consolidated earnings per share was BDT 4.86, which was BDT 4.51 a year ago.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/eastern-bank-declares-35-dividend-2024-1101166>

**Stock and Commodities\***

| Index Name         | Close Value  | Value Change YTD | % Change YTD |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Crude Oil (WTI)*   | USD 69.08    | (USD 2.35)       | -3.29%       |
| Crude Oil (Brent)* | USD 72.99    | (USD 1.40)       | -1.88%       |
| Gold Spot*         | USD 3,010.79 | USD 402.31       | 15.42%       |
| DSEX               | 5,196.89     | -19.55           | -0.37%       |
| S&P 500            | 5,767.57     | -139.37          | -2.36%       |
| FTSE 100           | 8,638.01     | 517.00           | 6.37%        |
| BSE SENSEX         | 77,984.38    | -215.55          | -0.28%       |
| KSE-100            | 116,439.62   | 1,180.62         | 1.02%        |
| CSEALL             | 15,912.61    | -32.00           | -0.20%       |

**Exchange Rates**

**1 US Dollar = 121.70 BDT**

**1 GBP = 157.17 BDT**

**1 Euro = 131.41 BDT**

**1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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