

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:**Bangladesh gets USD 540 Mn in third tranche of Japanese loans for airport terminal**

- Bangladesh has signed a USD 540 Mn loan agreement with Japan for the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, a cargo terminal, and associated facilities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bangladesh-gets-540m-third-tranche-japanese-loans-airport-terminal-3501891>

Construction cost eases for third straight month

- Construction costs in Bangladesh dropped for a third straight month in November, driven by a fall in prices of building materials, showed official figures.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/construction-cost-eases-third-straight-month-3502246>

Loan disbursement to small entrepreneurs rises 28% in Q2

- Loan disbursements to cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) increased by BDT 136.79 Bn marking a 28% rise in the April-June quarter compared to the previous quarter, thanks to increased interest of banks in the sector and the central bank's BDT 200 Bn refinance scheme.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/loan-disbursement-small-entrepreneurs-rises-28-q2-763778>

Additional BDT 14 Bn sought for law enforcers in revised budget

- The Home Ministry has sought an extra allocation of around BDT 14 Bn for law enforcement forces in the revised budget of the current fiscal year to support their preparations for the upcoming national polls and to address increased financial demands caused by inflation, officials have said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/additional-tk1400cr-sought-law-enforcers-revised-budget-763350>

Importers seek wider access to loans as currency slides

- The devaluation of the taka has squeezed the import capacity of industries, particularly essential commodity importers and exporters.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/importers-seek-wider-access-loans-currency-slides-3502211>

43% farm credit disbursed so far

- Agricultural loan disbursement witnessed a significant increase this July-November period compared to the matching period of fiscal year (FY) 2022-23.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/43pc-farm-credit-disbursed-so-far>

Deposits drop in accounts of farmers, vulnerable

- Deposits in the special accounts of farmers, hardcore poor and in their social safety net accounts dropped in October amidst high inflationary pressure in Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/deposits-drop-accounts-farmers-vulnerable-3503016>

Red Sea impasse to push up cost of importers-exporters

- Importers and exporters in Bangladesh started to feel the pinch of the transit disruption through the Red Sea route as major shipping lines announced, and in some cases even began implementing, additional surcharges to cover costs for re-routing their vessels around Africa's Cape of Good Hope following attacks by the Yemen-based Houthi militant group.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/red-sea-impasse-push-cost-importers-exporters-3502996>

Inflation shock: A weaker taka accounts for half of it

- The pass-through of a sharp depreciation of the local currency accounted for half of the inflation surge seen in Bangladesh in the last financial year, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-shock-weaker-taka-accounts-half-it-3502266>

Sector & Industry:**MICROFINANCE | SAJIDA Foundation files for BDT 3 Bn bond to finance microcredit**

- SAJIDA Foundation, a non-governmental, non-profit voluntary organisation, has submitted an application to the securities regulator to issue a BDT 3 Bn bond for the purpose of funding microcredit initiatives.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sajida-foundation-files-tk300cr-bond-finance-microcredit-763786>

GLASSWARE | Pran-RFL setting up another industrial park in Habiganj

- Pran-RFL Group is establishing a new industrial hub named Habiganj Industrial Park-2 with an investment of BDT 7 Bn. The new industrial park to be built on 40 acres of land will start production in early 2024, Pran-RFL Group officials said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/pran-rfl-setting-another-industrial-park-habiganj-763814>

CONSUMER | Pran-RFL to start producing essential goods by March

- Pran-RFL Group, a leading food processor and conglomerate in Bangladesh, plans to produce flour, refined flour and semolina for consumers in their factories by March next year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/pran-rfl-start-producing-essential-goods-march-3502981>

RMG | Pacific Jeans Group to invest USD 55 Mn in Adamjee EPZ

- Pacific Denimwear Limited, a sister concern of Pacific Jeans Group, is going to invest USD 54.55 Mn to set up a garment factory in the Adamjee Export Processing Zone.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/pacific-jeans-group-invest-55m-adamjee-epz-763458>

INSURANCE | Regulator bars four life insurers from spending until claims are cleared

- The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA) has ordered four life insurance companies to not spend any amount from their income through premiums, investments and life funds unless they settle claims of policyholders by the end of December.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/regulator-bars-four-life-insurers-spending-until-claims-are-cleared-3502221>

Stocks:**SSSTEEL | SS Steel's Q1 profit doubles on subsidiaries**

- Despite prevailing economic challenges, SS Steel Ltd. displayed a remarkable performance by doubling its profits year-on-year in the first quarter of this financial year, driven by increased earnings of its subsidiaries.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/ss-steels-q1-profit-doubles-on-subsidiaries>

INTECH | Intech to sell land for debt repayment

- Publicly listed information technology (IT) company Intech Limited is set to sell its 1849 decimal land in Mymensingh in a move to pay off its debt and expand business.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/intech-sell-land-debt-repayment-763746>

ANWARGALV | Anwar Galvanizing to issue BDT 500 Mn bond for expansion

- Publicly listed Anwar Galvanizing Ltd, a manufacturer of galvanized iron-pipe (GI) fittings, is set to issue a BDT 500 Mn bond for business expansion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/anwar-galvanizing-issue-tk50cr-bond-expansion-764214>

EXCHANGE | IPO approvals on the decline as businesses reluctant to go public

- The approval of initial public offerings (IPOs) to raise capital from the stock market fell in the fiscal 2022-23 compared to the previous year, as entrepreneurs were reluctant to go public.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/ipo-approvals-decline-businesses-reluctant-go-public-764210>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 73.64	(USD 1.57)	-2.09%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 79.03	USD 1.25	1.61%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,053.08	USD 278.93	15.72%
DSEX	6,238.98	31.98	0.52%
S&P 500	4,754.63	915.13	23.83%
FTSE 100	7,697.51	245.77	3.30%
BSE SENSEX	71,106.96	10,266.22	16.87%
KSE-100	61,608.15	21,187.70	52.42%
CSEALL	10,605.60	2,103.11	24.74%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.85 BDT****1 GBP = 139.71 BDT****1 Euro = 121.20 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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