

*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 to give Bangladesh USD 1 Bn loan for five projects**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed multiple agreements with Bangladesh to provide the country with USD 1.026 Bn in loans for five different projects. The projects are taken for energy efficiency, vaccine production, clean water and sanitation in Chattogram Hill Tracts, improving computer and software engineering education in three universities and upgrade Dhaka-Northwest international road corridor.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-give-bangladesh-1-billion-loan-five-projects-3481076>

**Govt to provide BDT 2.7 Bn incentive to 0.2 Mn overseas returnees**

- The government has undertaken a project to provide BDT 2.70 Bn as incentive to 0.2 Mn people who returned from overseas countries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/govt-provide-tk-270cr-incentive-2-lakh-overseas-returnees-748034>

**Three firms spending BDT 10 Bn on first private submarine cable**

- Three local companies are spending about BDT 10 Bn for the first private submarine cable that will connect Bangladesh with the outside world for data transmission. Three private licensees of submarine cable -- Summit Communications, CdNet Communications and Metacore Subcom Ltd -- have formed a consortium to install the cable, which will have the capacity to supply 45,000 Gbps bandwidth.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/three-firms-spending-tk-1000cr-first-private-submarine-cable-3481351>

**Only approved appraisers to assess loan collateral: Cenbank**

- The Bangladesh Bank has ordered commercial banks to engage third-party evaluation firms, licenced by the central bank, to assess the valuation of mortgaged assets against loans. This regulatory move is designed to instill transparency and discipline within the banking sector by ensuring fair appraisal of collateral.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/only-approved-appraisers-assess-loan-collateral-cenbank-748126>

**Apparel owners tighten regulatory noose around export industry**

- Apparel owners tighten the regulatory noose around the export industry, in an apparent backlash against furious wage protests, by ordering moratorium on fresh recruitment and information holdback to forestall any recurrence. Two apparel apex bodies-BGMEA and BKMEA--have made a number of instructions to their members in this regard, including an update on workers' biometric database, keeping service books and not sharing information with any third party without their consent.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/apparel-owners-tighten-regulatory-noose-around-export-industry-1701192096>

**Pvt provident funds struggle to navigate tax filing maze**

- The revenue board's existing electronic system has yet to incorporate any option to register private-sector provident funds as taxpayers even though 27.5% tax levied on them since June 22, 2023.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pvt-provident-funds-struggle-to-navigate-tax-filing-maze-1701192139>

**Micro, small, medium enterprises in Bangladesh face a financing gap of USD 2.8 Bn**

- In Bangladesh, the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector faces a financing gap of USD 2.8 Bn, according to IFC, a member of the World Bank Group. With nearly 10 Mn SMEs contributing to about 25% of the country's GDP, enhancing SME financing is key to boosting economic growth, it said on Tuesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/micro-small-medium-enterprises-bangladesh-face-financing-gap-28-billion-747726>

**Prices of three products from Bangladesh drop**

- Prices per unit of three garment items sourced from Bangladesh by buyers in the European Union (EU) and US declined year-on-year over the last July-September period, according to data from government agencies Eurostat and Otexa.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/prices-three-products-bangladesh-drop-3481346>

**BB goes shopping to private banks for dollar**

- Bangladesh Bank is hunting for dollars to rebuild its depleting foreign exchange reserves ahead of the January 7 national election. As part of the move, the banking regulator has approached private commercial banks, most of whom are in short supply of the greenback and have been struggling to settle letters of credit, The Daily Star has learnt from bank executives who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bb-goes-shopping-private-banks-dollar-3481401>

**Reserves now at USD 19.52 Bn: Bangladesh Bank**

- The Bangladesh Bank has said the country's reserves, according to the IMF calculation method, stands at USD 19.52 Bn. It said the BPM6 calculation was based on the accounting method of the International Monetary Fund, which excluded local investment. It said the gross reserve was USD 25.16 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/reserves-now-1952-billion-bangladesh-bank-748042>

**Bangladesh's imports drop over 24% in July-October**

- Bangladesh's imports dropped 24.07% year-on-year to nearly USD 22 Bn in the first four months of the 2023-24 fiscal year (July 2023-June 2024), showed the latest central bank data.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bangladeshs-imports-drop-over-24pc-in-july-october>

**Stocks:****NHFIL | National Housing allowed to issue BDT 3.74 Bn bond**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has allowed National Housing Finance and Investment to issue a zero-coupon bond worth BDT 3.744 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/national-housing-allowed-issue-tk374cr-bond-748074>

**IMAMBUTTON | Dhaka bourse directed to probe unusual price surge in Imam Button shares**

- The securities regulator has instructed the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) to investigate the abnormal increase in share price of Imam Button Industries Ltd. In an order issued on Tuesday, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) conveyed the directive for investigation to the DSE.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dhaka-bourse-directed-probe-unusual-price-surge-imam-button-shares-748114>

**EXCHANGE | Asiatic Lab's IPO subscription finally gets BSEC nod**

- The securities regulator has finally given its go ahead to the initial public offering (IPO) subscription of Asiatic Laboratories, which was held up for almost a year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/asiatic-labs-ipo-subscription-finally-gets-bsec-nod-748078>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 76.68	USD 1.47	1.95%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 81.85	USD 4.07	5.23%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,048.66	USD 274.51	15.47%
DSEX	6,202.81	-4.19	-0.07%
S&P 500	4,554.89	715.39	18.63%
FTSE 100	7,455.24	3.50	0.05%
BSE SENSEX	66,174.20	5,333.46	8.77%
KSE-100	60,845.53	20,425.08	50.53%
CSEALL	10,480.02	1,977.53	23.26%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.99 BDT****1 GBP = 139.83 BDT****1 Euro = 121.01 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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