

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:**Foreign loan commitment jumps 300% in Jul-Feb**

- In the July-February period, loan commitments from development partners increased to USD 7.2 Bn, up 304%, according to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the finance ministry.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/foreign-loan-commitment-jumps-300-jul-feb-3577121>

Rate rise invites government thumps-down on SMART

- The government now seems to hold the grip of the rising interest rate in the money market with keeping the yield in 182-day treasury auctions in check, officials and experts said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/rate-rise-invites-government-thumps-down-on-smart-1711732886>

Loan repayment swallows one-third of operating budget

- Already, 52.3% of the total outlay earmarked for interest payment in debt service had been spent in the first half (H1) of the current fiscal year (FY) 2023-24, insiders said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/loan-repayment-swallows-one-third-of-operating-budget-1711732964>

Forex reserves keep eroding despite currency swap

- The reserves stood at USD 19.45 Bn on Wednesday, down by a staggering USD 533.82 Mn in the span of a week due to the selling spree of the American greenback by the central bank to commercial banks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/forex-reserves-keep-eroding-despite-currency-swap-3577131>

Net FDI inflows down 9.81% from July to January

- Net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Bangladesh during July-January period of 2023-24 fiscal year (July 2023-June 2024) fell by 9.81%, compared with the same period of the previous 2022-2023 fiscal year, showed the recently published central bank data.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/net-fdi-inflows-down-981pc-from-july-to-january>

Sectors & Industries:**TRADE | BD sees rise in re-exports on border infra upgrade**

- Data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) shows that the re-export value stood at BDT 9,404 Mn in December 2023. Previous months saw lower figures: BDT 2,357 Mn in November.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/bd-sees-rise-in-re-exports-on-border-infra-upgrade-1711732920>

TRADE | NBR moves to align tariff structure with WTO obligations

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has undertaken a comprehensive review of Bangladesh's tariff regime, identifying 60 tariff lines where current customs duties and associated charges surpass the bound rates established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements, reports UNB.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/nbr-moves-to-align-tariff-structure-with-wto-obligations-1711814797>

Stocks:**NAVANAPHAR | Navana Pharmaceuticals receives approval for BDT 1.5 Bn partial convertible bond**

- The bond, priced at a face value of BDT 100,000 per unit, aims to refinance the company's existing bank loan, according to a filing on the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/navana-pharmaceuticals-receives-approval-tk-150-crore-partial-convertible-bond-3576796>

EXCHANGE | Dollar crunch dampens multinationals' mood for eye-popping dividends

- Although the listed multinational companies in Bangladesh posted healthy profits in 2023, the dividend payout dropped for most of them since they struggled to repatriate funds to their foreign owners owing to the US dollar crunch.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/dollar-crunch-dampens-multinationals-mood-eye-popping-dividends-3577106>

IPDC | IPDC Finance's profit hits seven-year low in 2023

- IPDC Finance, has reported a net profit of BDT 341 Mn, the lowest in seven years, for the year 2023, largely due to higher provisions against loans and a decline in income from the stock market.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/ipdc-finance-profit-hits-seven-year-low-in-2023-1711729742>

WALTONHIL | Why Walton struggles to ensure 10% share offloading

- Walton Hi-Tech Industries has been struggling to meet the regulatory requirement of offloading a minimum of 10% stake in the capital market, primarily due to the absence of available buyers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/why-walton-struggles-ensure-10-share-offloading-819266>

RECKITT BEN | Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh declares decade-lowest dividends

- Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh declared a 550% cash dividend to its shareholders for the calendar year 2023, the lowest in a decade.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/reckitt-benckiser-bangladesh-declares-decade-lowest-dividends-819261>

ICBIBANK | ICB Islamic Bank in dire straits

- The Shariah-based bank, which took shape from the ruins of Oriental Bank in 2008, is struggling to continue its operations on a fully-fledged basis after running into a severe liquidity crisis at the turn of the year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/icb-islamic-bank-dire-straits-3577166>

EXCHANGE | Provisioning against margin loan portfolio deferred

- Stockbrokers and merchant banks that failed to ensure the provisioning against the unrealized losses in their portfolio of margin loans given to clients would have time till 31 January, 2025, said BSEC.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/provisioning-against-margin-loan-portfolio-deferred-818141>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 83.17	USD 11.52	16.08%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 87.00	USD 9.96	12.93%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,229.87	USD 166.89	8.09%
DSEX	5,778.33	-468.16	-7.49%
S&P 500	5,254.35	484.52	10.16%
FTSE 100	7,952.62	219.38	2.84%
BSE SENSEX	73,651.35	1,411.09	1.95%
KSE-100	67,094.63	4,715.22	7.56%
CSEALL	11,444.38	790.22	7.42%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 110.11 BDT****1 GBP = 139.02 BDT****1 Euro = 118.91 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 BDT**

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