

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:**EPL (Export Link) Accessories will invest USD 8 Mn in Bepza EZ**

- Md Ashraful Kabir, member for investment promotion of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), and Kazi Monowar Hossain, managing director of EPL (Export Link) Accessories, signed a lease agreement in this regard at the Bepza Complex in the capital today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/epl-export-link-accessories-will-invest-8-million-bepza-ez-3789421>

Businesses' 2025 wish list is long, but political stability tops all

- Businesses hope for the year 2025 to bring about stability as normalcy has started to be restored in businesses following turbulent times both at home and abroad.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/businesses-2025-wish-list-long-political-stability-tops-all-3789856>

Strengthen export base with investment

- "We need to enhance our exports. I urge all businesspeople to come forward to invest more in the services sector in addition to products to boost our exports," he said while inaugurating the 29th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF)-2025 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre at Purbachal, reports UNB.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/strengthen-export-base-with-investment-1735753845>

Airfares, cigarettes, hotel-restaurant costs likely to go up as NBR plans to slap more taxes

- Consumers may soon dig deeper in their pockets for air travel, cigarettes, LPG, clothing, restaurant meals, and hotel stays as the government plans to increase taxes on these goods and services at a time when the overall inflation is already high, over 11%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/airfares-cigarettes-hotel-restaurant-costs-likely-go-nbr-plans-slap-more-taxes-1032676>

Bangladesh's FY24 GDP USD 300 Bn, not USD 459 Bn: City Bank Capital

- The actual size of Bangladesh's GDP for the fiscal 2023-24 has been estimated at around USD 300 Bn by City Bank Capital Resources, significantly lower than the previous government's overstated figure of USD 459 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-fy24-gdp-300b-not-459b-city-bank-capital-1032751>

Sector & Industries:**TRADE | Container handling at Chattogram port records 7.42% growth**

- The container handling has increased by 7.42% compared to 2023, and cargo increased by 3.11%, Chittagong Port Authority Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman said during a briefing today (1 January).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/container-handling-chattogram-port-records-742-growth-1032026>

FUEL & POWER | BD to rely heavily on LNG this yr

- The country, for the first time, has planned to source a major portion of LNG from spot market compared to long-term LNG suppliers this year resulting in an increasing pressure on foreign currency reserves, they said, adding that the country's spot LNG imports are set to double this year compared to 2024.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bd-to-rely-heavily-on-lng-this-yr-1735753901>

REAL ESTATE | Flat, commercial space sales drop 27% in 2024: Bproperty

- Sales of flats and commercial spaces in Dhaka experienced a significant year-on-year decline of 26.91% in 2024, according to Bproperty, the country's leading digital real estate marketplace.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/flat-commercial-space-sales-drop-27-2024-bproperty-1032641>

Stocks:**DOERPL | Doer Services QIO subscription begins Jan 19**

- Share subscription of the company will begin on January 19 and continue until January 23 under the fixed price method through the electronic subscription system of the stock exchanges, according to a stock exchange filing on Wednesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/doer-services-qio-subscription-begins-jan-19-1735749355>

ICB, BGIC | ICB to regain trusteeship of Bangladesh Fund from BGIC

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to transfer the trusteeship of the "Bangladesh Fund" from Bangladesh General Insurance Company (BGIC) back to the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) under ICB Asset Management Company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icb-regain-trusteeship-bangladesh-fund-bgic-1032631>

HRTEX | HR Textile Mills revenue drops 54%

- HR Textile Mills—a concern of Pride Group—reported that its revenue dropped 54% and incurred a loss in the July-September quarter of this fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/hr-textile-mills-revenue-drops-54-1032661>

SALAMCRST | S Alam Cold Rolled assets face auction to recover BDT 20.03 Bn loans

- Janata Bank is set to auction the mortgaged assets of S Alam Cold Rolled Steels – the lone capital market-listed company owned by the S Alam Group.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/s-alam-cold-rolled-assets-face-auction-recover-tk2003cr-loans-1032626>

SKTRIMS | SK Trims reports loss in Jul-Sep

- SK Trims and Industries, a publicly traded company, reported losses in the July-September quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25 due to a temporary suspension of operations.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sk-trims-reports-loss-jul-sep-1032616>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	%Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.12	USD 0.69	0.97%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 74.99	USD 0.60	0.81%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,633.40	USD 24.92	0.96%
DSEX	5,218.16	1.72	0.03%
S&P 500	5,881.60	-25.34	-0.43%
FTSE 100	8,173.02	52.01	0.64%
BSE SENSEX	78,574.86	374.93	0.48%
KSE-100	117,008.08	1,749.08	1.52%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.54 BDT****1 GBP = 149.83 BDT****1 Euro = 123.99 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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