

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:**Bhomra land port posts BDT 162.4 Mn revenue in first half of FY25**

- Bhomra land port in Satkhira has posted an impressive revenue of BDT 162.4 Mn from the export of various products to India in the first half of the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY), according to the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bhomra-land-port-posts-tk1624cr-revenue-first-half-fy25-1036026>

NBR now plans to double taxes on motorbikes, AC, refrigerator makers

- Currently, these industries pay a 10% tax on their income and a 2% advance income tax (AIT) on the import of machinery, parts, and equipment, which was supposed to remain in effect until 2032

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-now-plans-double-taxes-motorbike-ac-refrigerator-makers-1036571>

Direct tax expenditure declined to BDT 1.15 Tn in FY22

- Bangladesh's direct tax expenditure, a tax subsidy that includes rebates, exemptions, and reduced rates offered by the revenue authorities, fell 8% year-on-year to BDT 1.15 Tn in fiscal 2021-22, according to the tax expenditure estimation report.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/direct-tax-expenditure-declined-tk-115-lakh-crore-fy22-3793406>

Economy slows to 1.81% in volatile first quarter

- The Bangladesh economy saw its lowest quarterly growth in three-and-a-half years in the first quarter of the fiscal year on the back of political upheaval and severe flood in August.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-slows-181-volatile-first-quarter-3793006>

Inflation eased slightly in Dec but still above 10%

- Bangladesh concluded another year staring at prices of essential items taking a wild ride, the central bank scrambling to further tighten the money supply and penny-pinching among limited income people.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/inflation-eased-slightly-dec-still-above-10-3793631>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Digital banking transactions see steady growth**

- Transactions through digital and paperless banking system are gradually increasing in the country, with an expansion of the prevalence of ATMs, POS terminals and CRMs, reports BSS.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/digital-banking-transactions-see-steady-growth-1736183098>

BANK | Lawlessness in industries impacting banks' cash flow: BAB chief

- Lawlessness in industrial hubs has emerged as a major challenge for the economy, badly impacting cash flow to the banking sector, says Abdul Hai Sarker, newly appointed chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/lawlessness-in-industries-impacting-banks-cash-flow-bab-chief-1736182993>

NBFI | NBFIs' bad loans surge to record BDT 261.63 Bn

- Defaulted loans at the country's non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) reached a record 36% of all loans disbursed by them as of September 2024, a level that sector people described as a reflection of "massive irregularities and scams" seven to eight years ago.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbfis-bad-loans-surge-record-tk-26163cr-3793626>

Fuel & Power | Major gas price hike in the works for industrials

- Industrial and captive power connections would soon have to pay a much higher tariff for gas usage after the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources decided in principle to implement a new pricing structure to reflect the fluctuating global market.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/major-gas-price-hike-the-works-industrials-3793646>

Stocks:**RENETA | Renata ships first batch of psychiatric disorder medicines to US**

- The product, marketed as Sperid locally, was manufactured at Renata's Bangladesh facility approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, the company said in a statement today.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/renata-ships-first-batch-psychiatric-disorder-medicines-us-3793376>

CITYBANK | City Bank data breach: Client financial statements sold on underground forums

- In a recent cybersecurity breach in the country, City Bank PLC has had sensitive client financial statements exposed and sold on underground hacking forums, according to a recent blog post by the Bangladesh Cyber Security Intelligence (BCSI).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/tech-startup/news/city-bank-data-breach-client-financial-statements-sold-underground-forums-3793091>

BIFC | BIFC shows signs of dying: Auditor

- The cumulative loss of the scam-hit non-bank financial institution (NBFI) is BDT 13.58 Bn as of December 2023. Its total liabilities exceeded total assets by BDT 12.02 Bn, said its auditor in a qualified opinion published on Monday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bifc-shows-signs-of-dying-auditor-1736183057>

EXCHANGE | City Bank Capital corrects position on its GDP estimation

- City Bank Capital Resources Limited has said it "inadvertently" assumed the country's GDP at USD 300 Bn based on electricity consumptions only. In a clarification today, it said, "We understand and acknowledge that GDP involves several elements like productivity, trade, workforce dynamics and many other factors other than electricity consumption."

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/city-bank-capital-rectifies-position-its-gdp-estimation-1035936>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 73.32	USD 1.89	2.65%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 76.10	USD 1.71	2.30%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,638.55	USD 30.07	1.15%
DSEX	5,198.84	-17.60	-0.34%
S&P 500	5,975.40	68.46	1.16%
FTSE 100	8,249.66	128.65	1.58%
BSE SENSEX	78,000.66	-199.27	-0.25%
KSE-100	116,255.13	996.13	0.86%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.38 BDT****1 GBP = 151.99 BDT****1 Euro = 126.05 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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