

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:**Beza to focus on 5 economic zones, attract USD 5.5 Bn in 2 years**

- Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) is focusing on making five economic zones fully functional within the next two years in order to attract USD 5.5 Bn in investments and create over 0.2 Mn job opportunities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/beza-focus-5-economic-zones-attract-55b-2-years-3794316>

Beza cannot ensure gas, electricity supply to private EZs: Executive chair

- While a roadmap has been prepared to ensure gas and electricity supply for government economic zones, the new Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (Beza) administration has not developed a similar plan for private zones.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/beza-cannot-ensure-gas-electricity-supply-private-ezs-executive-chair-1037431>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Bleeding in banks halted, but stability to take time**

- The Bangladesh Bank riding on immediate and proactive policy interventions has managed to stop financial bleeding in the banking sector, but achieving full stability will require more time, its officials say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bleeding-in-banks-halted-but-stability-to-take-time-1736274801>

BANK | Govt to reduce its ownership in Grameen Bank from 25% to 5%

- The government is set to reduce its ownership in Grameen Bank by lowering its shareholding from 25% to 5% and slim down its authority on the board by limiting its director appointments from three, including the chairman, to just one.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/govt-reduce-its-ownership-grameen-bank-25-5-1037446>

TOBACCO | Govt bans import of e-cigarettes

- The commerce ministry today issued a notification through a gazette, saying that e-cigarettes have been added to the list of banned items under the Import Policy Order 2021-2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-bans-import-e-cigarettes-3793901>

TELECOM | Mobile internet users dropped by 4.4 Mn in November

- The number of mobile internet subscribers in Bangladesh witnessed a significant drop of 4.4 Mn in November, contributing to an overall decline in internet subscribers to 132.8 Mn from that in October.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mobile-internet-users-dropped-44-lakh-november-3794346>

FUEL & POWER | Petrobangla's gas price hike proposal sparks industrial concerns

- If implemented, the gas price increase could lead to widespread factory closures, job losses, and a decline in industrial output, industry owners said. They warned that such a move would be detrimental to the country's economic growth and could even lead to social unrest.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/petrobanglas-gas-price-hike-proposal-sparks-industrial-concerns-1037406>

FUEL & POWER | Power producers demand payment of half of dues within 10 days to avert Ramadan blackout

- Local independent power producers (IPPs) have urged the government to clear at least half of their outstanding dues, approximately BDT 90 Bn, within 10 days to prevent power shortages during the upcoming Ramadan in March and the subsequent rice-growing season, which requires heavy irrigation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/power-producers-demand-payment-half-dues-within-10-days-avert-ramadan-blackout>

Stocks:

GENNEXT | DSE demotes Generation Next Fashions to Z category

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has downgraded Generation Next Fashions to the Z category, commonly referred to as the junk stocks category, due to its failure to hold the annual general meeting (AGM) for the fiscal year 2023-24.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-demotes-generation-next-fashions-z-category-1037401>

EXCHANGE | As trade dries up, stock exchanges turn to FDRs for survival

- The country's two stock exchanges logged operating losses in the last fiscal year thanks to sluggish trading activities, according to official data, compelling the markets to resort to their fixed deposit income to avoid a net loss.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trade-dries-stock-exchanges-turn-fdrs-survival-3794351>

EXCHANGE | Govt to incentivise companies to go public

- The interim government of Bangladesh will give incentives for encouraging both large private and public firms to get listed in the stock market, according to Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-incentivise-companies-go-public-3794331>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 74.72	USD 3.29	4.61%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 77.40	USD 3.01	4.05%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,648.03	USD 39.55	1.52%
DSEX	5,190.78	-25.66	-0.49%
S&P 500	5,909.00	2.06	0.03%
FTSE 100	8,245.28	124.27	1.53%
BSE SENSEX	78,129.13	-70.80	-0.09%
KSE-100	116,052.68	793.68	0.69%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.77 BDT****1 GBP = 152.03 BDT****1 Euro = 126.07 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 BDT**

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