

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:**Govt borrows BDT 690 Bn from banks in H1 for deficit financing**

- The ministry of finance borrowed BDT 690.54 Bn from all the scheduled banks through issuing treasury bills and bonds during the July-December period of the current fiscal year (FY), 2024-25, while BDT 544.14 Bn was paid into the central-bank coffer, according to a confidential report prepared by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) on government borrowing from the banking system.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/govt-borrows-tk-690b-from-banks-in-h1-for-deficit-financing-1736359207>

Interest rate on savings certificates to be raised

- The interim government is set to increase the interest rates against various savings certificates to upwards of 12% as it looks to provide some relief to the fixed-income group squeezed by the elevated inflation.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/interest-rate-savings-certificates-be-raised-3795166>

Monetary policy likely in last week of January

- Bangladesh Bank will soon announce its monetary policy for the second half of the ongoing fiscal year (2024-25) with the aim of addressing several economic challenges plaguing the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/monetary-policy-likely-last-week-january-3795146>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Shrinking rural banking weakening CMSMEs**

- Commercial banks' position in rural Bangladesh keeps weakening with the constant fall in formal credit disbursements and the number of branches in the least- developed areas, bankers say.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/shrinking-rural-banking-weakening-cmsmes-1736359464>

NBFI | NBFIs' classified loans average 35%, with over 90% at 7 firms

- Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) are burdened with non-performing loans, which reached 35.52% by the end of September 2024, with seven institutions reporting NPLs between 90% and 99%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbfis-classified-loans-average-35-over-90-7-firms-1036611>

BANK | Banks can now issue power-energy import payment guarantees without BB approval

- To streamline the import process for essential government goods and services, banks will now have the authority to independently issue payment guarantees for power and energy imports, eliminating the need for prior approval from the central bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/banks-no-longer-require-cenbank-approval-payment-guarantees-power-and-energy-imports>

FUEL & POWER | Adani pushes for payment roadmap as PDB arrears mount to USD 845 Mn

- While recent months have seen improvements in PDB's payment patterns, Adani points out that these payments barely cover current monthly bills, leaving the staggering outstanding amount of USD 845 Mn, of which USD 771 Mn is overdue, untouched.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/adani-pushes-payment-roadmap-pdb-arrears-mount-845m-1038346>

FUEL & POWER | Payra thermal power plant resumes full production

- The Payra 1,320MW Thermal Power Plant in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali has resumed full production following a roughly two-month halt for maintenance works on its second unit and test runs of a neighbouring facility.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/payra-thermal-power-plant-resumes-full-production-3794941>

FUEL & POWER | BERC panel to review proposal

- A seven-member technical committee will review the proposed gas tariff hike to the height of LNG import cost for new industries and expansions of the existing ones. Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has constituted the panel for vetting the Petrobangla proposal that implies that these industrial subscribers would have to pay nearly double the current tariffs on natural gas.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/berc-panel-to-review-proposal-1736359020>

Stocks:**ISLAMIBANK | Embezzlement of BDT 9.93 Bn from Islami Bank: ACC to sue 54, including S Alam's son Ahsanul**

- The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is set to file a case against 54 people, including S Alam's son Ahsanul Alam, over alleged embezzlement of nearly BDT 9.94 Bn from an Islami Bank branch.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/corruption/tk993cr-embezzlement-islami-bank-acc-sue-54-including-s-alams-son-ahsanul>

SALAMCRST | What S Alam Cold Rolled Steels says about assets auction

- S Alam Cold Rolled Steels – the only capital market-listed company owned by the S Alam Group – stated that it has been severely affected by unforeseen circumstances beyond its control.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/what-s-alam-cold-rolled-steels-says-about-assets-auction-1038236>

EXCHANGE | Listed firms' profit drops 24% amid economic slowdown, political turmoil

- Listed companies across all sectors saw their profits fall by around 24% on average year-on-year during the last January-September period, due mainly to an economic slowdown and widespread political turmoil, according to an unofficial estimate.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/listed-firms-profit-drops-24-amid-economic-slowdown-political-turmoil-3795171>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.95	USD 1.52	2.13%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.81	USD 1.42	1.91%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,657.08	USD 48.60	1.86%
DSEX	5,185.00	-31.44	-0.60%
S&P 500	5,918.30	11.36	0.19%
FTSE 100	8,251.03	130.02	1.60%
BSE SENSEX	78,148.49	-51.44	-0.07%
KSE-100	114,148.46	-1,110.54	-0.96%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.48 BDT****1 GBP = 150.20 BDT****1 Euro = 125.36 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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