

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:**Inflation control in focus of next monetary policy**

- Current tightfisted monetary stance may last another six months as the central bank starts crafting its upcoming monetary policy with top priority on curbing inflationary pressure on the economy by keeping exchange rate stable.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-control-in-focus-of-next-monetary-policy-1736702877>

Rising interest rates deter new investment, expansion plans

- "Businesses are adopting a wait-and-see approach and will take one to one and a half years to consider fresh investment with the high interest rates," said Rupali Haque Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/rising-interest-rates-deter-new-investment-expansion-plans-3798106>

Introduce national minimum wage, uniform labour law

- Experts and members of a labour reform commission formed by the government have suggested the introduction of a national minimum wage for workers and a uniform labour law applicable to employees both inside and outside the Export Processing Zones (EPZs).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/introduce-national-minimum-wage-uniform-labour-law-3798101>

Business revenues dropping due to high inflation: BCI

- High inflation in the country has led to a decline in sales revenues across various sectors, while higher interest rates have further exacerbated the situation, Leaders of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) said today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/business-revenues-dropping-due-high-inflation-bci-1041406>

Sector & Industries:**TELECOM | BTRC allows flexible mobile data package offerings**

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has published a significant update on its guidelines, giving mobile network operators (MNOs) a greater flexibility in data package offering and promoting digital inclusion across the country.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/btrc-allows-flexible-mobile-data-package-offerings-1736702116>

NBFI | Independent directors not liable for finance company's default: BB

- Under the existing rules, independent directors, though separate from the shareholding of a finance company, were deemed defaulters when the company defaulted.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/independent-directors-not-liable-finance-companys-default-bb-3798081>

BANK | BDT 23 Bn irregularities detected in Nagad: Governor

- The Bangladesh Bank has so far detected irregularities amounting to BDT 23 Bn including excess creation of e-money worth BDT 6 Bn in mobile financial services provider Nagad.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/cenbank-finds-tk2300-crore-irregularities-nagads-operations-governor-1041386>

BANK | Cenbank plans real-time FX reporting to curb manipulation

- The Bangladesh Bank plans to introduce real-time reporting of dollar purchases and sales in banks to curb manipulation and enhance transparency in the foreign exchange market. In addition to real-time reporting, the meeting also covered the dollar reference rate, export bill discounting, and dollar forward rates, according to officials and bankers present.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-plans-real-time-fx-reporting-curb-manipulation-1041516>

Stocks:**GPHISPAT | BSEC seeks feedback on GPH Ispat's preference share proposal**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has decided to seek the opinions of the stock exchanges regarding GPH Ispat Limited's application to issue preference shares worth BDT 5 Bn. GPH Ispat is one of the leading steel manufacturers in Bangladesh.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-seeks-feedback-gph-ispats-preference-share-proposal-1041486>

SSSTEEL, BANKASIA | Bank Asia to auction off SS Steel assets to recoup BDT 1.68 Bn debt

- Bank Asia has announced plans to auction the assets of publicly listed SS Steel Limited in a bid to recover an outstanding loan of BDT 1.68 Bn. An auction notice, published in daily newspapers today, invited interested buyers to submit price quotations by 30 January. The auction follows provisions of the Money Loan Court Act, 2003.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bank-asia-auction-ss-steel-assets-recoup-tk168cr-debt-1041436>

EXCHANGE | DSE elite club: Beximco, Summit, Islami Bank slip, while Walton, Prime Bank, Kohinoor gain

- Nine heavyweight firms, including Beximco Limited, Summit Power, Islami Bank, Heidelberg, Linde, and Orion Pharma, have dropped out of the Dhaka bourse's elite club of top 30 stocks due to their underperformance in the past three months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/87-listed-firms-join-dsex-beximco-islami-bank-dropped-ds30-1041131>

EXCHANGE | Mutual fund industry struggles as investor confidence wanes

- Mutual funds (MF) investors are in a tight corner as almost all the listed funds witnessed significant price erosion in 2024, reflecting the broader downtrend in the stock market. Except for one, all closed-end mutual funds saw price drops ranging from 5% to 50% year-on-year. Reliance One, the first scheme of Reliance Insurance Mutual Fund, the only exception, surged 73%.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mutual-fund-industry-struggles-as-investor-confidence-wanes-1736698027>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 77.87	USD 6.44	9.02%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 80.96	USD 6.57	8.83%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,689.12	USD 80.64	3.09%
DSEX	5,156.23	-60.21	-1.15%
S&P 500	5,827.00	-79.94	-1.35%
FTSE 100	8,248.49	127.48	1.57%
BSE SENSEX	77,378.91	-821.02	-1.05%
KSE-100	113,247.29	-2,011.71	-1.75%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.92 BDT****1 GBP = 148.51 BDT****1 Euro = 124.84 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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