

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:**CPD teams up with Denmark for economic reform, green transition**

- Time has come to work on institutional strengthening, good governance, and make the systems transparent and accountable for Bangladesh, said Christian Brix Møller, the Danish ambassador to Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/cpd-teams-denmark-economic-reform-green-transition-3799311>

Bangladesh's foreign debt exceeds USD 104 Bn

- Bangladesh's foreign debt stock has exceeded USD 104 Bn, with the government and public sector loans totalling USD 84.45 Bn. The remaining USD 19.91 Bn has been taken by the private sector, bringing the total foreign debt to USD 104.36 Bn.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/foreign-debt-exceeds-104b>

FBCCI's Anti-Discrimination Reform Council calls on govt to revoke VAT hike

- The Anti-Discrimination Reform Council of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) has demanded the government withdraw its decision to increase VAT and supplementary duties (SD) on nearly 100 products.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/fbccis-anti-discrimination-reform-council-calls-govt-revoke-vat-hike-1042676>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Cenbank makes non-resident taka account usage easier for Bangladeshi expats**

- The Bangladesh Bank has streamlined the process for Non-Resident Taka Accounts (NITAs), allowing online transactions and removing caps on deposits and withdrawals to make it easier for expatriate Bangladeshis to access and utilise the country's banking system.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/cenbank-makes-non-resident-taka-account-usage-easier-bangladeshi-expats-1043126>

FUEL & POWER | BPDB seeks BDT 80 Bn urgent subsidy payment from government

- The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has sought a BDT 80 Bn urgent fund from the government to maintain uninterrupted power supply across the country. The government owes BPDB around BDT 265 Bn in subsidy payments. It will pay the subsidy to fill the gap created by BPDB's sale of electricity to bulk consumers at lower-than-production rates.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bpdb-seeks-tk-80b-urgent-subsidy-payment-from-government-1736875718>

FUEL & POWER | BDT 45 Bn pipeline planned to feed Bhola gas to energy-poor South

- The government plans to build a BDT 45 Bn pipeline from Bhola to Khulna. This will integrate the island's natural gas into the national grid. It aims to address energy shortages in the south and south-western regions. Additionally, it will enable gas-based power plants, industries, and employment-driven economic growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/tk4500cr-pipeline-planned-feed-bhola-gas-energy-poor-south-1043201>

BANK | BFIU crackdown after Aug 5: BDT 150 Bn of 366 people, entities frozen

- The bank accounts of 366 individuals and entities with a BDT 150 Bn combined balance were frozen between August and December last year over money laundering allegations. About 225 investigation reports, including those about suspicious transactions, were sent to the police's Criminal Investigation Department and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in August-December.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/bfiu-crackdown-after-aug-5-tk-15000cr-366-people-entities-frozen-3799561>

Stocks:

BEXIMCO | Govt to find jobs for 40,000 workers laid off by Beximco

- The government is trying to find jobs for 40,000 laid-off workers of Beximco Group in factories within the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (Bepza) and the Bangladesh Export Zones Authority (Beza), a senior labour ministry official said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-find-jobs-40000-workers-laid-beximco-3799516>

EXCHANGE | BSEC halts BDT 50 Mn fundraising by Doer Services

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has halted the subscription for qualified investors offer (QIO) by homegrown software firm Doer Services Ltd to raise BDT 50 Mn, following several media reports about the company's problematic client agreements and profitability.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bsec-halts-tk-5cr-fundraising-doer-services-3799501>

Stock and Commodities*

| Index Name | Close Value | Value Change YTD | % Change YTD |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Crude Oil (WTI)* | USD 77.52 | USD 6.09 | 8.53% |
| Crude Oil (Brent)* | USD 79.88 | USD 5.49 | 7.38% |
| Gold Spot* | USD 2,670.55 | USD 62.07 | 2.38% |
| DSEX | 5,150.87 | -65.58 | -1.26% |
| S&P 500 | 5,842.91 | -64.03 | -1.08% |
| FTSE 100 | 8,201.54 | 80.53 | 0.99% |
| BSE SENSEX | 76,499.63 | -1,700.30 | -2.17% |
| KSE-100 | 114,804.17 | -454.83 | -0.39% |
| CSEALL | 12,003.29 | 0.00 | 0.00% |

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.73 BDT****1 GBP = 148.44 BDT****1 Euro = 125.35 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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