

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:**Bangladesh receives over USD 1.20 Bn remittance in 18 days of January**

- According to the latest update from Bangladesh Bank, expatriate Bangladeshis have sent this amount of remittance through banking channels between 1-18 January. If this remittance inflow continues, the volume of inward remittance will cross USD 2 Bn in January.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-receives-over-120b-remittance-18-days-january-1047251>

IMF defers loan proposal by five days

- The proposal to release USD 645 Mn, the fourth tranche of a USD 4.7 Bn loan programme for Bangladesh, was due to go before the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board on February 5. But this has now been pushed back by five days to February 10, a senior finance ministry official confirmed The Daily Star yesterday. However, the date was deferred due to internal procedures, said the official.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/imf-defers-loan-proposal-five-days-3803601>

Only 45% of foreign investments qualify as actual FDI: Bida

- Just 45% of all foreign investments in Bangladesh qualify as actual foreign direct investments (FDI), while the rest is either intercompany loans or reinvestments, according to a report by the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (Bida).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/only-45-foreign-investments-qualify-actual-fdi-bida-3803606>

Reforms may cause short-term economic slowdown: BB

- Economic activities may slow down in the near term as the government has opted to initiate massive economic reform measures, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) said yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/reforms-may-cause-short-term-economic-slowdown-bb-3803611>

BB eases rules for small remittance houses to curb aggregator influence

- The Bangladesh Bank has removed the security deposit and minimum balance requirements for small exchange houses, aiming to reduce the influence of aggregators in collecting remittance dollars and stabilising the foreign exchange market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-eases-rules-small-remittance-houses-curb-aggregator-influence-1047396>

Sectors & Industries:**RMG | Apparel exports to EU grow 24% in Nov last year**

- Bangladesh's apparel exports to the European Union grew 24.09%, reaching EUR 1.53 Bn (USD 1.57 Bn) in November last year, primarily driven by easing inflation and declining interest rates in Western countries.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/rmg/apparel-exports-eu-grow-24-nov-last-year-1047336>

RMG | Yarn imports soar 39% amid local spinners' struggles

- Bangladesh imported 680.43 Mn kilograms of cotton yarn under bonded facility last year, which was 39.16% higher than the 2023 figure of 488.96 Mn kg, according to the data compiled by Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/yarn-imports-soar-39pc-amid-local-spinners-struggles-1737307554>

BANK | Treasury bills' yield fall frustrates well-off banks

- As the investment opportunities squeeze over the last several months because of prevailing economic slowdown after the July-August mass uprising, commercial banks made a beeline for using the window of high-yielding government treasuries to make handsome gains on stakes.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/treasury-bills-yield-fall-frustrates-well-off-banks-1737306892>

ENERGY | Power producers call for clearing dues citing forex losses

- The BIPPA members, comprising mostly owners of liquid fuel-based power plants, told Mansur that they incurred combined losses of BDT 85 Bn due to delayed payments by the PDB following the start of currency fluctuations.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/power-producers-call-clearing-dues-citing-forex-losses-3803586>

ENERGY | Adani Group sets June deadline to settle outstanding bill

- Adani Group has given Bangladesh's Power Development Board (PDB) until June to settle an outstanding electricity bill of USD 845 Mn for supplies made until January 6. In a letter to the PDB on Sunday, the Indian conglomerate warned that late fees will apply if the bill is not paid by the set deadline, as per the terms of the contract.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/adani-group-sets-june-deadline-to-settle-outstanding-bill>

BANK | BDBL seeks BDT 10 Bn special liquidity support amid withdrawal spree

- The Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), a state-run commercial bank, has sought a special long-term liquidity facility to the tune of BDT 10 Bn to meet its capital shortage amid substantial withdrawal by the depositors in recent times, sources said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bdbl-seeks-tk-10b-special-liquidity-support-amid-withdrawal-sprees-1737307873>

Stocks:**POWERGRID | Power Grid remains in the red for heavy foreign loan burden**

- Despite higher revenue, Power Grid Company endured losses for the second year in a row in FY24, owing to a significant forex conversion loss. However, the state-owned power transmission company reduced its loss by 27% year-on-year to BDT 4.57 Bn in FY24, with a 14% rise in revenue in the year compared to the year before.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/power-grid-remains-in-the-red-for-heavy-foreign-loan-burden-1737300191>

EXCHANGE | Stocks at record low, rebound expected later this year

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has reached a point where its shares are record cheap due to the recent macroeconomic turbulence and higher interest rates, which have diverted investments away from securities, according to leading stockbroker IDLC Securities.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/stocks-record-low-rebound-expected-later-year-3803621>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 78.00	USD 6.57	9.20%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 80.77	USD 6.38	8.58%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,693.93	USD 85.45	3.28%
DSEX	5,145.08	-71.36	-1.37%
S&P 500	5,996.66	89.72	1.52%
FTSE 100	8,505.22	384.21	4.73%
BSE SENSEX	76,619.33	-1,580.60	-2.02%
KSE-100	115,272.08	13.08	0.01%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.56 BDT****1 GBP = 148.34 BDT****1 Euro = 125.24 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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