

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:**Forex reserves exceed USD 21 Bn: Cenbank**

- The country's foreign exchange reserves have exceeded USD 21 Bn after receiving USD 1 Bn from several lending institutions, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), in the last one week.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/forex-reserves-exceed-21-billion-cenbank-1030001>

Remittances grow 22% to record nearly USD 27 Bn in 2024

- Bangladesh received nearly USD 27 Bn in remittances this year – reflecting a 22% year-on-year increase – bolstered by a 9% rise in the official dollar rate and a decline in money laundering during the final five months.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/remittances-grow-22-record-nearly-27b-2024-1030081>

Foreign fund flow, new pledges dwindle as debt servicing surges

- Bangladesh's foreign debt servicing surged 28% year-on-year in the first five months of fiscal year 2024-25 owing to the country's expanded foreign loan portfolio and a rise in global interest rates.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/foreign-fund-flow-new-pledges-dwindle-debt-servicing-surges-3787436>

Robust laws, interventions key to protect informal sector workers: Oxfam

- Bangladesh's informal sector, which employs more than 85 %of the country's labour force, remains largely excluded from formal labour laws, leaving millions vulnerable to unsafe conditions, exploitation, and economic insecurity.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/robust-laws-interventions-key-to-protect-informal-sector-workers-oxfam>

Global commodity prices may drop in 2025. Can Bangladesh benefit from it?

- Global commodity prices are projected to decrease in 2025, but Bangladesh may fail to reap the benefits if the depreciation of the local currency continues. Bangladesh relies heavily on imports of essential food items such as edible oils, lentils, onions, sugar, and spices, which saw a 5% year-on-year price increase in December.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/global-commodity-prices-may-drop-2025-can-bangladesh-benefit-it-3787401>

Sector & Industries:**PHARMACEUTICALS | Sergel nearing BDT 10 Bn annual sales**

- Sergel is heading towards generating BDT 10 Bn in annual sales as over BDT 9 Bn worth of the gastrological medicine was sold in the first nine months of this year, according to information technology company IMS Health.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/sergel-nearing-tk-1000cr-annual-sales-3787426>

RMG | Can apparel industry weather any storm? 2024 offers clues

- For the local apparel industry, 2024 was a year marked by challenges, recoveries and a renewed sense of hope as the global market began to brighten -- proving once again the resilience of Bangladesh's apparel might.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/can-apparel-industry-weather-any-storm-2024-offers-clues-3787416>

NBFI | Financial services sector yet to reach full potential

- The financial services sector of Bangladesh is yet to reach its full potential despite the significant advancements seen so far, according to Ahsan H Mansur, governor of the Bangladesh Bank.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/financial-services-sector-yet-reach-full-potential-3787406>

TRADE | As old players disappear, small businesses step up to fill the commodity import gap

- Small and medium-sized importers in Dhaka and Chattogram, who once struggled to open letters of credit (LCs) because of a market monopoly, have now stepped in to fill in the gap in the commodity supply chain since October, significantly increasing their imports.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/old-players-disappear-small-businesses-step-fill-commodity-import-gap-1030071>

Stocks:

SUMITPOWER | Summit Power gets time to submit financial statement

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has granted Summit Power time to submit its financial statement, according to a disclosure published on the Dhaka Stock Exchange website yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/summit-power-gets-time-submit-financial-statement-3787376>

KARNAPHULI | Karnaphuli Paper Mill set for BDT 360 Bn revival plan

- Over the past decade and a half, outdated machinery, a lack of skilled manpower, mismanagement, and internal issues – such as a corrupt syndicate of officials – have led to a significant decline in production capacity and massive financial losses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/karnaphuli-paper-mill-set-tk36000cr-revival-plan-1029396>

EXCHANGE | Brokers get four months to migrate to uneditable back-office software

- Upon approval from the securities regulator, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has allowed its brokerage firms four extended months to migrate to uneditable back-office software.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brokers-get-four-months-migrate-uneditable-back-office-software-1029986>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 70.64	(USD 1.01)	-1.41%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 74.25	(USD 2.79)	-3.62%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,624.00	USD 561.02	27.19%
DSEX	5,204.78	-1,041.71	-16.68%
S&P 500	5,970.84	1,201.01	25.18%
FTSE 100	8,149.78	416.54	5.39%
BSE SENSEX	78,699.07	6,458.81	8.94%
KSE-100	111,351.18	48,971.77	78.51%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 119.57 BDT****1 GBP = 150.39 BDT****1 Euro = 124.66 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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