

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:****Ctg customs see 12.57% revenue growth in 11 months of FY24**

- Chattogram Customs House, the country's largest customs station, has collected BDT 620.25 Bn in revenues in the first 11 months of the fiscal year 2023-24.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-custom-revenue-sees-1257-growth-current-fiscal-year-over-tk62000cr-868691>

**Cautiously crafted BDT 7.97 Tn budget tomorrow amid economic pains**

- Higher inflation, lower investment and forex crunch remain pains in the neck as the government goes to place in parliament tomorrow a cautiously crafted BDT 7.97 Tn new national budget.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/cautiously-crafted-tk-797t-budget-tomorrow-amid-economic-pains-1717524082>

**Lower budget deficit planned as foreign financing seen slowing**

- The finance ministry is estimating a significantly lower overall deficit for the fiscal 2024-25 compared to the current fiscal year, while formulating a contractionary budget amid high inflation, volatile dollar exchange rates, and sluggish import-export growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/lower-budget-deficit-planned-foreign-financing-seen-slowing-868941>

**Source tax on fruit imports may double; hotels, clinics to come under new tax net**

- The existing source tax on imported fruits and flowers may be doubled in the upcoming budget, raising it from the current 5% to 10%, sources in the finance ministry say.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/source-tax-fruit-imports-may-double-hotels-clinics-come-under-new-tax-net-868931>

**Thumbs-down on treasuries to bridle bank-lending rate**

- The strategy change of the government on interest regime in order to ease the business climate here becomes clear in very recent auctions of treasury bills where the auction committee only accepted bids within the target, so the cut-off yields of the treasury auctions did not increase further, according to them.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/thumbs-down-on-treasuries-to-bridle-bank-lending-rate-1717524034>

**Sectors & Industries:****IT | Govt may offer another 3-year tax exemption for IT sector**

- The government is planning to provide another three-year tax exemption for the IT sector with the condition to ensure cashless transactions aiming to support the government's vision of Smart Bangladesh and transforming the country into a prosperous, developed, and technologically sophisticated nation by 2041, according to the Finance Ministry officials.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/budget/govt-may-offer-another-3-year-tax-exemption-it-sector-868911>

**BANK | bKash generates BDT 700 Mn profit in March quarter**

- The country's leading mobile financial service (MFS) provider bKash generated BDT 700 Mn in profit in the first quarter, marking 95% year-on-year growth.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bkash-generates-tk70cr-profit-march-quarter-868876>

**BANK | Excise duty exemption likely on offshore banking deposits**

- The central bank allowed Bangladeshis and foreign nationals to avail the benefit and permitted domestic commercial banks' OBUs to offer an interest or profit rate markup over a benchmark rate for term deposits in foreign currencies to eligible customers.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/excise-duty-exemption-likely-offshore-banking-deposits-3626821>

**Stocks:**

**SINGERBD | Special economic zone gets 8 investors, Singer Bangladesh in production**

- Bangladesh Special Economic Zone (BSEZ) has attracted eight investors, with Singer Bangladesh Ltd already in trial production, said the zone's Managing Director Taro Kawachi.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/special-economic-zone-gets-8-investors-singer-bangladesh-production-868761>

**PUBALIBANK | Pubali Bank, UCB Fintech Company strike deal on fund transfer facilities**

- Pubali Bank recently signed an agreement with UCB Fintech Company for fund transfer facilities between the bank's mobile banking apps and UCB Fintech's Upay Wallet.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/news/pubali-bank-ucb-fintech-company-strike-deal-fund-transfer-facilities-3626766>

**EXCHANGE | Debt funds to pay dividends for FY24, having enjoyed favourable climate**

- Funds designed to invest in risk-free securities have generated positive returns for FY24 while other mutual funds having a larger share of the money in equity securities endured erosion of assets in the year.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/debt-funds-to-pay-dividends-for-fy24-having-enjoyed-favourable-climate-1717526164>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 73.21	USD 1.56	2.18%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 77.51	USD 0.47	0.61%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,332.29	USD 269.31	13.05%
DSEX	5,247.53	-998.96	-15.99%
S&P 500	5,291.34	521.51	10.93%
FTSE 100	8,232.04	498.80	6.45%
BSE SENSEX	72,079.05	-161.21	-0.22%
KSE-100	74,661.11	12,281.70	19.69%
CSEALL	12,050.44	1,396.28	13.11%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 117.35 BDT****1 GBP = 149.97 BDT****1 Euro = 127.73 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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