

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:**Food inflation drops to single digit in Feb, overall price index edges down to 9.32%**

- Inflation in Bangladesh continued its downward trend in February, reaching 9.32%, down from 9.94% in January, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) released today (6 March). The general point-to-point inflation at the national level was 9.67% in February last year. This is the second time in five months that inflation has fallen to a single-digit level. The last time inflation was below 10% was in September 2024, when it stood at 9.92%.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/february-inflation-edges-down-slightly-932-food-inflation-down-924-1086081>

Turkey's Koç Group reaffirms commitment to Bangladesh

- Koç Holding, an investment holding company in Türkiye, has reiterated its commitment to Bangladesh following a high-profile visit by senior executives from Koç Holding, Beko, and Aygaz. The visit, hosted by Singer Bangladesh Limited — a subsidiary of Beko, the flagship brand of Koç Group — in collaboration with United Aygaz LPG and Aygaz, highlights the strategic vision Koç Group has for Bangladesh and its dedication to enhancing business relationships within the region.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/turkeys-koc-group-reaffirms-commitment-bangladesh-3841166>

Interest payments consuming most part of govt budget

- Interest payments on government's domestic and foreign borrowings emerge as the highest actual expenditure as percentage of budget spending in the first half of this fiscal year, coming to BDT 625.6 Bn. Official statistics show the July-December 2024 interest payments by the government, totalling BDT 625.6 Bn, account for over 55% of the total allocation for this purpose for the entire fiscal year 2024-25 ending next June 30. This amount of interest payments represents a 27% increase compared to the same period in FY2023-24.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/interest-payments-consuming-most-part-of-govt-budget-1741454699>

Food subsidies raised by nearly 12%

- The interim government is set to increase its allocation for food subsidies by nearly 12%, raising the total to BDT 81 Bn, to intensify food distribution programmes and provide a cushion to low-income groups. The move was prompted by production losses from two rounds of flash floods last year and persistent inflation, which has hovered above nine for 24 straight months.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/food-subsidies-raised-nearly-12-3842841>

Help factory workers facing job risk

- According to a Prothom Alo report, 95 factories in Gazipur, Savar, Narayanganj and Narsingdi have permanently shut down over the past seven months, while several others have temporarily ceased operations, resulting in 62,000 job losses so far. Many of these factories, including those belonging to Beximco, Gazi and Bengal groups—whose owners were closely associated with the fallen Awami League regime —came under attack during and after the July mass uprising.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/editorial/news/help-factory-workers-facing-job-risk-3842411>

Sector & Industries:**FUEL & POWER | Adani deal: Govt body for renegotiating tax rebate, surcharge, coal price**

- A government review committee will recommend renegotiating key clauses in the Adani Power deal, citing "one-sided" terms that favour the Indian conglomerate. The 2017 agreement, facilitating electricity exports from India, is under scrutiny for contentious provisions regarding tax rebates, excessive late payment surcharges, and skewed coal pricing.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/adani-deal-govt-body-renegotiating-tax-rebate-surcharge-coal-price-1087866>

BANK | Banks now to borrow at unified repo rate of 10%

- Commercial banks will now borrow funds at a unified rate by using repo instrument as the central bank is eliminating the existing differentials in lending to the lenders. The country's scheduled banks currently get liquidity feeding from the Bangladesh Bank against repo using three windows: 7-day, 14-day and 28-day-tenure instruments at varied rates. As part of the wrap-up decision, the central bank will only charge the policy or repo rate--now 10%--for the borrowed funds from March 9 (tomorrow), whatever the tenure is.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/banks-now-to-borrow-at-unified-repo-rate-of-10pc>

TELECOM | Bangladeshi firms partner with Starlink

- Several Bangladeshi firms have partnered with Starlink to support the setup of ground earth stations in Bangladesh. The firms have signed contracts with Starlink for collaboration as a team from the US telecommunications service provider is currently visiting Bangladesh. The collaboration includes space allocation, construction support, and ongoing infrastructure maintenance.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/top-news/news/bangladeshi-firms-partner-starlink-3842701>

TEXTILE | Textile sector shines in Oct-Dec quarter: CAL Securities report

- Listed textile firms posted robust growth in both revenue and profit in the October-December quarter of FY25, driven by increased demand from the US and Europe, along with currency depreciation that boosted their topline. According to the report, companies in the listed textile sector achieved robust year-on-year revenue growth of 20%, reaching BDT 44 Bn in the second quarter, with apparel exporters and spinning mills leading the way.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/textile-sector-shines-oct-dec-quarter-cal-securities-report-1087836>

Stocks:**MJLBD | MJL Bangladesh to sell 20-year-old ship at USD 22.7 Mn**

- MJL Bangladesh PLC has decided to sell one of its second-hand oil tankers, MT Omera Legacy, as part of its strategic asset management. The MT Omera Legacy, a 20-year-old vessel with a displacement capacity of 1,07,000 tonnes, will be sold for USD 22.7 Mn (approximately BDT 2.72 Bn). A 3% commission will be deducted from the sale proceeds, resulting in MJL Bangladesh receiving BDT 2.64 Bn net from the transaction.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/mjl-bangladesh-sell-20-year-old-ship-227m-1086431>

PIONEERINS | Pioneer Insurance declares 25% cash dividend for 2024

- Pioneer Insurance Company Ltd has proposed a 25% cash dividend for its shareholders for the year ending on 31 December 2024. The figure marks a decrease from the previous year's payout, where the company distributed a 20% cash dividend and a 10% stock dividend for 2023.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/pioneer-insurance-declares-25-cash-dividend-2024-1086441>

BEXGSUKUK | With maturity looming, Beximco's sukuk repayment uncertain as incomes dry up

- The Beximco Green Sukuk, a five-year financial instrument, is set to mature in December 2026, requiring Beximco Limited to repay approximately BDT 28 Bn to investors. However, growing concerns surround the timely repayment as Beximco's Textile Division, a major revenue source of the group, remains closed, and other revenue sources are minimal, leaving the solar park as the primary income stream.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/maturity-looming-beximcos-sukuk-repayment-uncertain-incomes-dry-1087066>

RINGSHINE | HC stays Bepza's land lease termination for Ring Shine

- The High Court has passed a three-month stay order on the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority's (Bepza) decision to terminate the land lease agreement for six plots allocated to Ring Shine Textiles Limited. On 20 February, Bepza terminated the lease agreement due to Ring Shine's prolonged failure to pay its dues. The order stipulated that the company must vacate the plots within seven days, or Bepza would take possession. As of 31 January 2025, Ring Shine owed Bepza USD 12.8 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/hc-stays-bepzas-land-lease-termination-ring-shine-1087786>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 67.04	(USD 4.39)	-6.15%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 70.36	(USD 4.03)	-5.42%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,909.10	USD 300.62	11.52%
DSEX	5,203.96	-12.48	-0.24%
S&P 500	5,770.20	-136.74	-2.31%
FTSE 100	8,679.88	558.87	6.88%
BSE SENSEX	74,332.58	-3,867.35	-4.95%
KSE-100	114,398.70	-860.30	-0.75%
CSEALL	16,115.47	4,112.18	34.26%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.70 BDT****1 GBP = 157.18 BDT****1 Euro = 131.86 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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