

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:**ADB extends USD 250 Mn loan to strengthen social protection**

- This new ADB programme supports the government's Action Plan Phase II of the National Social Security Strategy, 2021–2026, to strengthen protective and preventive capacity of the social protection system in Bangladesh, the Manila-based global donor said in a statement.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-extends-250-million-loan-strengthen-social-protection-3631601>

Govt plans to increase non-tax revenue

- In the last five years, revenue from tax was around 86.8% while NTR was 13.2%. And even though NTR grew by an average of 11.9% from FY19 to FY23, the report highlighted this growth as volatile.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-plans-increase-non-tax-revenue-3631711>

Measures for macroeconomic stability, trade, investment insufficient

- Although some steps were taken in the right direction, the measures proposed in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year centring macroeconomic stability, trade and investment are insufficient, experts and businesspeople opined in a discussion.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/measures-macroeconomic-stability-trade-investment-insufficient-3631656>

Blow for private economic zones, hi-tech parks as tax benefits go

- Investors and developers of private economic zones (EZs) and hi-tech parks are going to lose the 10-year-long tax waiver on their incomes from the next fiscal year as the government phases out exemptions.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/blow-private-economic-zones-hi-tech-parks-tax-benefits-go-3631701>

Sectors & Industries:**TRADE | Patenga Container Terminal of Ctg Port operational from today**

- A container vessel, the Singapore-flagged 'MAERSK DAVAO,' anchored at the terminal this morning, initiating regular handling activities. Authorities anticipate the terminal will handle approximately 500,000 Twenty-ft Equivalent Units (TEUs) annually.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/patenga-container-terminal-ctg-port-operational-today-873771>

BANK | Recovery from crisis impossible without addressing banking sector's vulnerability

- Economists today expressed deep concerns over the current situation in the banking sector of Bangladesh and warned that the recovery from the current economic crisis would not be possible without addressing the sector's vulnerability.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/recovery-crisis-impossible-without-addressing-banking-sectors-vulnerability-3631406>

Stocks:

DUTCHBANGL | DBBL approves 35% dividend at its 28th AGM

- At the AGM, the shareholders approved a 17.50% cash dividend and a 17.50% cash dividend for the year 2023. During the year under review, earnings per share, attributable to shareholders, was BDT 10.72 compared to BDT 7.57 (restated) during the previous year.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/dbbl-approves-35pc-dividend-at-its-28th-agm>

MTB | Mutual Trust Bank PLC spearheads open banking revolution with Grameenphone Ltd.

- Mutual Trust Bank (MTB) announces a transformative collaboration with the leading telecom operator Grameenphone. This partnership heralds the dawn of Banking as a Service (BaaS) with the launch of credit card lead generation application services through MyGP app.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/mutual-trust-bank-plc-spearheads-open-banking-revolution-with-grameenphone-ltd-1718041908>

EBL | EBL launches co-brand credit cards for BKMEA

- Eastern Bank (EBL) has launched co-brand credit cards for the members and staff of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/ebel-launches-co-brand-credit-cards-for-bkmea-1718041923>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 77.66	USD 6.01	8.39%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 81.51	USD 4.47	5.80%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,300.51	USD 237.53	11.51%
DSEX	5,105.89	-1,140.60	-18.26%
S&P 500	5,360.79	590.96	12.39%
FTSE 100	8,228.48	495.24	6.40%
BSE SENSEX	76,490.08	4,249.82	5.88%
KSE-100	73,253.17	10,873.76	17.43%
CSEALL	12,381.49	1,727.33	16.21%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 117.35 BDT****1 GBP = 149.42 BDT****1 Euro = 126.36 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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