

*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:****CPD for coordinated approach to stabilise economy**

- The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) today (Wednesday) emphasized a coordinated approach to overcome the multifaceted challenges, stabilise the economy, and protect the vulnerable, low- and limited-income households.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/cpd-for-coordinated-approach-to-stabilise-economy>

**Bangladesh won't be exempted from Trump's transactional foreign policy: Kugelman**

- Stressing that US President Donald Trump's foreign policy is going to be staunchly transactional, American scholar Michael Kugelman anticipates a big shift in US-Bangladesh relations, from one focused on aid and assistance for development and reforms during the last months of Biden to one that will become much more governed by a what's-in-it-for-me and what's-in-it-for-America type of mindset.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/foreign-policy/bangladesh-wont-be-exempted-trumps-transactional-foreign-policy-kugelman-1055936>

**Money stolen from banks with high-level support: Foreign Affairs Adviser**

- Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain today (29 January) alleged that money was stolen from banks during the previous ousted Awami League governments with encouragement from high-level leadership. "The theft of money from our banks was not accidental. It was enabled by support from the highest levels of authority," he said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/money-stolen-banks-high-level-support-touhid-1056021>

**Growth of economic units slows amid capital shortages**

- The growth in the number of economic units in Bangladesh has slowed over the past decade, primarily due to capital shortages among rural entrepreneurs, according to the latest Economic Census of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Between 2013 and 2024, rural economic units grew by 49%, reaching 8.3 Mn. In contrast, the previous census saw a much higher growth rate of 141%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/growth-economic-units-slows-amid-capital-shortages-3811751>

**Source tax will be rationalised in next budget: NBR chairman**

- Source tax will be rationalised as much as possible in the next budget, National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan said today (29 January). "During the previous government's tenure, the finance ministry imposed 40% more source tax than the previous year, which created pressure on the actual taxpayers. One section of the country's population will pay tax, while the rest get a waiver – this will no longer happen," he said.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/source-tax-will-be-rationalised-next-budget-nbr-chairman-1055801>

**Prices remain high as government fails to curb extortion, hoarding: CPD**

- The interim government has failed to take significant steps to address irregularities such as extortion, hoarding, and irrational price-fixing of essential commodities, even as inflation remains persistently high, according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/prices-remain-high-government-fails-curb-extortion-hoarding-cpd-3811256>

**Sector & Industries:****FUEL & POWER | Market-based pricing can cut fuel prices by BDT 10-15 a litre: CPD**

- The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) today said the government could reduce fuel prices by BDT 10 to BDT 15 per litre by using a market-based pricing model. The government has reduced fuel prices under the automatic pricing formula, which does not reflect the international market, the independent think-tank said at a briefing at its office to present its assessment of the state of Bangladesh's economy for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/market-based-pricing-can-cut-fuel-prices-tk-10-15-litre-cpd-3811631>

**TELECOM | Bangladesh signs MoU with ADB to develop country's first green data centre**

- The Posts and Telecommunications Division under the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, BTCL, the Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 27 January to develop the country's first green data centre through international competitive bidding under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/tech-startup/news/bangladesh-signs-mou-adb-develop-countrys-first-green-data-centre-3811481>

**Stocks:****ASIATICLAB | Asiatic Laboratories downgraded to Z category**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has downgraded Asiatic Laboratories from the N category to the Z category due to its failure to disburse the approved dividend within the stipulated time frame within one year of its listing on the bourses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/asiatic-laboratories-downgraded-z-category-1055891>

**SIBL | SIBPLC set to sue embroiled S Alam Group**

- Revamped Social Islami Bank PLC prepares to sue S Alam Group in the Money Loan Court within February to realise default loans worth nearly BDT 70 Bn from the embroiled conglomerate. "We're also continuously discussing with officials of the S Alam Group how to recover these loans," the acting MD said in reply to a query.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/sibplc-set-to-sue-embroiled-s-alam-group>

**SEAPEARL | Sea Pearl incurs loss of BDT 170 Mn in Jul-Dec**

- Sea Pearl Beach Resort incurred a loss of BDT 170 Mn in the first half - July to December 2024 - of the ongoing fiscal year 2024-25. Its revenue also dropped by 69% to BDT 330 Mn in the July-December period from BDT 1.07 Bn compared to the same period of the last fiscal year, according to the company's financial statement released today (29 January).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sea-pearl-incurs-loss-tk17cr-jul-dec-1055916>

**TITASGAS | Titas Gas suffers BDT 5.23 Bn rout in Q2 as system loss mounts**

- Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company, the state-owned gas distributor, reported a significant loss in the second quarter of fiscal 2024-25, driven by a sharp increase in system loss. The company posted a loss of about BDT 5.23 Bn for the October-December quarter.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/titas-gas-suffers-tk-523cr-rout-q2-system-loss-mounts-3811341>

**ENVOYTEX | Envoy Textile posts 147% profit growth in Jul-Dec**

- Envoy Textile, a publicly listed company, reported a 147% increase in net profit to BDT 600 Mn during the first half of the current fiscal year. Its revenue grew by 30% in the July-December 2024 period, according to its price-sensitive information (PSI). During the July-December 2024 period, Envoy Textile's revenue rose to BDT 8.99 Bn, compared to BDT 6.91 Bn in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/envoy-textile-posts-147-profit-growth-jul-dec-1055906>

**ICB | ICB's loss narrows in Jul-Dec**

- The consolidated losses of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) narrowed in the first half - July to December 2024 - of the current fiscal year 2024-25. During the period, ICB, the state-owned non-bank financial institution, incurred a loss of BDT 1.17 Bn, with loss per share of BDT 1.36, according to data disclosed by the company after a board meeting today (29 January).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/icbs-loss-narrows-jul-dec-1055881>

**EXCHANGE | Cut-off yields of T-bonds fall sharply**

- The cut-off yield of Bangladesh Government Treasury Bonds (BGTBs), particularly of 15-year and 20-year-tenure ones, has dropped below 12%, shrinking commercial banks' earning opportunities from investing in risk-free government securities.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/cut-off-yields-of-t-bonds-fall-sharply>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 72.80	USD 1.37	1.92%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 76.69	USD 2.30	3.09%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,760.30	USD 151.82	5.82%
DSEX	5,112.51	-103.93	-1.99%
S&P 500	6,039.31	132.37	2.24%
FTSE 100	8,557.81	436.80	5.38%
BSE SENSEX	76,532.96	-1,666.97	-2.13%
KSE-100	111,487.36	-3,771.64	-3.27%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 121.65 BDT****1 GBP = 151.47 BDT****1 Euro = 126.78 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 BDT**

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