

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:**World Bank offers cheaper USD 350 Mn loan guarantee for LNG imports**

- The "revolving letter of credit facility" offered by the WB's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (Miga) will provide a 100% guarantee for LCs issued by local and international banks to Petrobangla, ensuring secure and efficient access to LNG supplies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/world-bank-offers-cheaper-350m-loan-guarantee-Ing-imports-1048301>

Govt to send teams abroad to get it back

- The interim government is going to send teams to Dubai and other tax havens to identify Bangladeshis' ill-gotten assets abroad and bring the money back. Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed revealed the decision yesterday and said sending teams alone would not be enough. "We also need concrete evidence [against the money launderers]," he said.

<https://thedailystar.net/business/news/govt-send-teams-abroad-get-it-back-3803991>

Inflation control pivotal in new-look monetary policy

- The central bank sought individual opinions from the members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) "as soon as possible" for finalizing the monetary measures for another six months, starting from this January, officials said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-control-pivotal-in-new-look-monetary-policy-1737393158>

Financing Mongla port, other pending projects may come up for discussion

- Among other bilateral issues, Bangladesh would also request China to expedite confirmation of loans, including the one for Mongla seaport development that the development partner earlier proposed to finance, during Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain's four-day visit to China.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/financing-mongla-port-other-pending-projects-may-come-up-for-discussion-1737393783>

Sector & Industries:**RMG | BKMEA for easy FOC facility to spur exports**

- The country's knitwear exporters have demanded steps to resolve complexities related to the import of raw materials and exports of finished goods under the FOC (free of cost) facility. They also urged the government to extend the facility to all exporters by removing the existing conditions, terming it 'risk-free' and 'beneficial' and saying it ensures 100% value addition.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/bkmea-for-easy-foc-facility-to-spur-exports-1737393382>

ENERGY | NRPCL thermal power plant begins trial production in Patuakhali

- The newly constructed 1,320-megawatt coal-fired Norinco-Rural Power Company Limited (NRPCL) power plant in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali has started trial electricity production.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nrpcl-thermal-power-plant-begins-trial-production-patuakhali-3804036>

BANK | Banks can now open deferred import LCs for up to one year

- Banks can now open deferred letters of credit (LCs) for imports for up to one year, offering temporary relief to the country's foreign currency liquidity. In a circular issued yesterday, the Bangladesh Bank extended the payment period for imported raw materials and agricultural inputs from 180 days to 360 days.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bangladesh-bank-extends-import-bill-payment-period-360-days-1048041>

ENERGY | Govt to revisit IPP tariffs amid pricing concerns

- The interim government is set to form a committee to review the tariffs of independent power producers (IPPs), Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan told The Business Standard today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/govt-revisit-ipp-tariffs-amid-pricing-concerns-1048266>

CONSUMER DURABLES | USD 300 Bn furniture industry needs policy backup to boost exports: Stakeholders

- Furniture was declared the product of the year by the chief adviser, but the sector, despite having immense potential to be a major foreign-currency earner, is yet to get the necessary support from the government, they said at a seminar titled "Bangladesh Furniture Industry: Unlocking Export Potential".

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/300b-furniture-industry-needs-policy-backup-to-boost-exports-stakeholders-1737393626>

CEMENT | Cement sector struggles amid political, economic challenges

- "The cement sales in 2024 declined due to political instability, macroeconomic challenges, inflation, and the suspension of government infrastructure projects," said Mohammad Iqbal Chowdhury, chief executive officer (CEO) of LafargeHolcim Bangladesh PLC.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/cement-sector-struggles-amid-political-economic-challenges-3804466>

Stocks:**SAPORTL | Germany's Hellmann to buy 40% stake in Summit subsidiary**

- Germany's Hellmann Worldwide Logistics International GmbH, one of the world's largest international logistics service providers, is going to buy a 40% stake in Container Transportation Services Ltd (CTSL) to strengthen its presence in Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/germanys-hellmann-buy-40-stake-summit-subsiary-3804421>

BDLAMPS | BD Lamps returns to profit in Q2 on higher revenue, cost cuts

- The electric and energy saving bulbs' manufacturer secured a profit of BDT 0.27 Mn in the quarter, as against a loss of BDT 46.4 Mn in the same quarter the year before. The earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 0.03 in the Q2, while it was BDT 4.63 in the negative per share in the same quarter a year earlier.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/bd-lamps-returns-to-profit-in-q2-on-higher-revenue-cost-cuts-1737388827>

BEXIMCO | Advisory council undecided on Beximco factory sale

- A state advisory council yesterday remained undecided on whether to sell 16 textile and garment factories of Beximco Group, citing that further scrutiny of bank statements was required. The sale is aimed at repaying nearly BDT 500 Bn in bank loans owed by the group, more than half of which has become non-performing.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/advisory-council-undecided-beximco-factory-sale-3804456>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 76.74	USD 5.31	7.43%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 80.42	USD 6.03	8.11%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,722.69	USD 114.21	4.38%
DSEX	5,195.83	-20.61	-0.40%
S&P 500	5,996.66	89.72	1.52%
FTSE 100	8,520.54	399.53	4.92%
BSE SENSEX	77,073.44	-1,126.49	-1.44%
KSE-100	115,844.82	585.82	0.51%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.64 BDT****1 GBP = 149.51 BDT****1 Euro = 126.33 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

Analyst Certification: Each research analyst and research associate who authored this document and whose name appears herein certifies that the recommendations and opinions expressed in the research report accurately reflect their personal views about any and all of the securities or issuers discussed therein that are within the coverage universe.

Disclaimer: Estimates and projections herein are our own and are based on assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Information presented herein, while obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, is not guaranteed either as to accuracy or completeness. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes a solicitation of the purchase or sale of any security. As it acts for public companies from time to time, BRAC-EPL may have a relationship with the above-mentioned company(s). This report is intended for distribution in only those jurisdictions in which BRAC-EPL is registered and any distribution outside those jurisdictions is strictly prohibited.

Compensation of Analysts: The compensation of research analysts is intended to reflect the value of the services they provide to the clients of BRAC-EPL. As with most other employees, the compensation of research analysts is impacted by the overall profitability of the firm, which may include revenues from corporate finance activities of the firm's Corporate Finance department. However, Research analysts' compensation is not directly related to specific corporate finance transaction.

General Risk Factors: BRAC-EPL will conduct a comprehensive risk assessment for each company under coverage at the time of initiating research coverage and revisit this assessment when subsequent update reports are published, or material company events occur. Following are some general risks that can impact future operational and financial performance: (1) Industry fundamentals with respect to customer demand or product / service pricing could change expected revenues and earnings; (2) Issues relating to major competitors or market shares or new product expectations could change investor attitudes; (3) Unforeseen developments with respect to the management, financial condition or accounting policies alter the prospective valuation; or (4) Interest rates, currency or major segments of the economy could alter investor confidence and investment prospects.

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

Research

Salim Afzal Shawon, CFA	Head of Research	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Rakibul Hasan	Research Associate	rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Md Istiaz Uddin	Research Associate	mistiaz.uddin@bracepl.com	01708 805 202

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

www.bracepl.com

Symphony, Plot No.: S.E.(F) – 9(3rd Floor), Road No.: 142

Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka – 1212

Phone: + (880)-2-9852446-50

Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com