

*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:****Dhaka expects IMF's 4th tranche, plus USD 80 Mn from additional loan, on 10 Feb**

- The fourth tranche of the ongoing USD 4.7 Bn loan programme from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will include an instalment from an additional USD 750 Mn loan, said Finance Secretary Khairuzzaman Mozumder today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-provide-645-million-within-10-feb-if-conditions-fulfilled-1022426>

**WB approves USD 1.16 Bn loans for BD**

- Bangladesh is receiving another sum of USD 1.16 Bn in three World Bank loans as the WB Board of Executive Directors Friday approved the funds mainly meant for budget support and ramping up reforms.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/wb-approves-116b-loans-for-bd-1734717756>

**BB hits NIR target before deadline**

- The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has finally reached the net international reserve (NIR) target, a condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as part of its USD 4.7 Bn loan package for stabilising the country's macroeconomic situation.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/bb-hits-nir-target-before-deadline-1734634859>

**Dollar market unstable for immature decisions by bankers: Cenbank governor**

- The dollar market has become unstable due to immature decisions by a few bankers, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday when the remittance rate reached a new all-time high of BDT 127.70.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/dollar-market-unstable-immature-decisions-bankers-cenbank-governor-1023041>

**Imports slide amid sluggish business**

- Import continued to stay stymied, with the November volume valued down at USD 5.27 Bn, as private-sector businesses struggled on to gather momentum in business activity.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/imports-slide-amid-sluggish-business-1734717872>

**Oligarchic market power, inflation among problems plaguing economy: Hossain Zillur Rahman**

- Hossain Zillur Rahman, chairman of the Almanac and a former adviser to the caretaker government, today (21 December) identified five problems that are plaguing the economy.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/oligarchic-market-power-inflation-among-problems-plaguing-economy-hossain-zillur-rahman>

**NBR to revoke tax exemption for 2 Summit Group subsidiaries**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has decided to revoke the source tax exemption on dividend transfers for two Singapore-based subsidiaries of Summit Group – Summit Power International and Summit Corporation.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/nbr-revoke-tax-exemption-2-summit-group-subsidiaries-1023046>

**BD may face severe challenges in non-traditional markets**

- Readymade garment exports to many non-traditional markets, especially India and Japan, would face severe challenges due to high duty obligation to be applicable after the country's graduation from the least developed country status, industry insiders feared.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bd-may-face-severe-challenges-in-non-traditional-markets-1734805112>

**Sector & Industries:****BANK | Loan disbursements through agent banking rise 48.60% YoY in September**

- Loan disbursements through agent banking surged 48.60% year-on-year, reaching BDT 210.89 Bn at the end of September, on the back of improved access to finance for rural people, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/loan-disbursements-through-agent-banking-rise-4860-yoy-september-1023371>

**BANK | Cash flowing back into banks**

- The currency is flowing back into banks, driven by rising deposit rates and growing confidence in the well-performing institutions, after a surge in cash outflow from the banking system for about a five-month period.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/last-page/cash-flowing-back-into-banks-1734634989>

**BANK | Padma Bank seeks BDT 13 Bn liquidity support from cenbank**

- Padma Bank, which is on the list of weak banks, has sent a letter to the Bangladesh Bank, seeking BDT 13 Bn liquidity support. Confirming the receipt of the letter, Bangladesh Bank's Executive Director and Spokesperson Husne Ara Shikha today (19 December) said the central bank has yet made no decision regarding the matter.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/padma-bank-seeks-tk1300cr-liquidity-support-cenbank-1022971>

**PHARMACEUTICALS | Drug sales growth slows amid high inflation**

- Sales growth of drugs slowed down in fiscal year 2023-24 ending last June, which could be an effect of high inflationary pressure prevailing in the country over the last two years.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/drug-sales-growth-slows-amid-high-inflation-3781816>

**Stocks:****LHB | Govt to renew gas supply deal with LafargeHolcim**

- The interim government has decided to extend an agreement between the Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System and LafargeHolcim Bangladesh PLC on gas supply from January 17 of 2026, allaying concerns of investors.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/govt-renew-gas-supply-deal-lafargeholcim-3781701>

**SUMITPOWER | Two Summit companies evade BDT 11 Bn in taxes, NBR alleges**

- The Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has alleged that two Summit companies evaded BDT 11.12 Bn in source taxes related to dividend transfers.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/two-summit-companies-evade-tk1100cr-taxes-nbr-alleges-1024271>

**TRUSTBANK | Trust Bank to invest more in MFS subsidiary**

- Trust Bank has decided to invest BDT 312.5 Mn to strengthen its position in the rapidly growing mobile financial services industry, aiming to capture a bigger market share.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/stock-corporate/trust-bank-to-invest-more-in-mfs-subsiary-1734632954>

**UCB | UCB to recover only BDT 600 Mn auctioning collateral against Adnan's 2 companies' BDT 6.87 Bn default**

- UCB Bank issued auction notices yesterday for collateral tied to defaulted loans amounting to BDT 10.67 Bn from three companies, including two chaired by Mohammed Adnan Imam, former executive committee chairman of NRBC Commercial Bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/ucb-recover-only-tk60cr-auctioning-collateral-against-adnans-2-companies-tk687cr>

**NBL | How a phantom company syphoned off BDT 11.62 Bn from National Bank**

- Securing loans worth hundreds of crores from National Bank was as effortless as snapping of fingers for Manha Precast Technology Limited, a company that apparently existed only on paper. It had no office or factories, yet between 2017 and 2020, it managed to bag a staggering BDT 6.47 Bn in loans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/how-phantom-company-syphoned-tk1162cr-national-bank-1023016>

**CONFIDCEM | Why Confidence Cement revises rights offer**

- Confidence Cement has revised its rights offer – lowering the price by BDT 10 per share, considering volatility and liquidity shortages in the capital market – to raise funds for investment in an associate company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/why-confidence-cement-revises-rights-offer-1024236>

**EPGL | Energypac Power faces BDT 350 Mn loss in Q1 amid rising loan expenses**

- Energypac Power Generation, a publicly listed company in the power sector, reported a BDT 350 Mn loss for the first quarter of the current fiscal year, primarily driven by a significant increase in finance costs from the previous year, along with a sharp rise in interest rates.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/energypac-power-faces-tk35cr-loss-q1-amid-rising-loan-expenses-1024231>

**FIRSTSBANK | First Security Islami Bank: Almost 90% of BDT 22.54 Bn loan to Sikder Group sours**

- As much as 89.3% of the credit extended by First Security Islami Bank, when controlled by the major Awami League beneficiary S Alam Group, to AL-affiliated Sikder Group by violating banking rules and regulations has become defaulted.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/first-security-islami-bank-almost-90pc-tk-2254cr-loan-sikder-group-sours-3780511>

**EXCHANGE | Weak regulator, 'players' responsible for volatile share market: Salehuddin**

- Weaknesses of the regulatory body and market "players" are responsible for the volatile situation lingering in the share market, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/weak-regulator-players-responsible-volatile-share-market-salehuddin-1023816>

**EXCHANGE | Penalty less than illegal gains fuels stock manipulation**

- Market experts say that penalties handed down by the BSEC over share price manipulation are tellingly lower than the global practice of the fines being two to three times higher than the illegal gains.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/penalty-less-illegal-gains-fuels-stock-manipulation-3781821>

**EXCHANGE | Write-offs needed to liberate market from negative equity burden**

- Writing off bad debts behind negative equity partially or fully is the ultimate solution of the problem that has been gnawing away at the market's growth potential for more than a decade.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/write-offs-needed-to-liberate-market-from-negative-equity-burden-1734796399>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 69.46	(USD 2.19)	-3.06%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 72.94	(USD 4.10)	-5.32%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,622.91	USD 559.93	27.14%
DSEX	5,221.57	-1,024.92	-16.41%
S&P 500	5,930.90	1,161.07	24.34%
FTSE 100	8,084.61	351.37	4.54%
BSE SENSEX	78,041.59	5,801.33	8.03%
KSE-100	109,513.15	47,133.74	75.56%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 120.00 BDT****1 GBP = 150.76 BDT****1 Euro = 125.13 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

#### Research

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

#### International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	<a href="mailto:bappi@bracepl.com">bappi@bracepl.com</a>	01730 357 991
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### BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

[www.bracepl.com](http://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](mailto:research@bracepl.com)