

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:****Govt seeks USD 250 Mn in assistance from WB**

- The government has sought nearly USD 250 Mn in assistance from the World Bank (WB) to rehabilitate the flood-affected regions in the north- and south-east of the country, officials said on Tuesday.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/govt-seeks-250m-in-assistance-from-wb-1735064089>

**Economic stabilisation should be first priority**

- Bangladesh needs both economic and political reforms to address three major challenges, namely macroeconomic instability, rising inequality and poor governance, which are restricting the country's development potential, according to experts.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economic-stabilisation-should-be-first-priority-3784456>

**BB move for greater rate flexibility makes forex market volatile**

- The country's forex market turned volatile again with high fluctuations in the dollar rate as the Bangladesh Bank moves to implement greater flexibility in the exchange rate in line with a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-move-greater-rate-flexibility-makes-forex-market-volatile-1026751>

**Govt extends tax return submission deadline by another month**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has again extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for all categories of taxpayers, except companies, for 2024-25 by another month, until 31 January 2025.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/nbr/govt-extends-tax-return-submission-deadline-another-month-1026376>

**Short-term pvt external debt dips to USD 10.52 Bn in October**

- Corporate external borrowing continues to fall amid economic slowdown with the stock of short-term overseas debt having dropped to USD 10.52 Bn in October last.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/short-term-pvt-external-debt-dips-to-1052b-in-october-1735149487>

**Deep development fund cut by BDT 112 Bn for road transport**

- Road transport and highways division sees a deep cut in its development funds by BDT 112 Bn as the interim government struggles to make two ends meet through tightfisted spending amid inherited financial crunch.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/deep-development-fund-cut-by-tk-112b-for-road-transport-1735149061>

**Six industrial enterprises of embroiled S Alam shut**

- The factories are S Alam Refined Sugar Industries, S Alam Power Plant Ltd, S Alam Cold Rolled Steels Ltd, S Alam Cold Rolled Steels Ltd (SALAMCRST), S Alam Power Generation Ltd, and Infinity CR Strips Industries Lt. Of them, edible-oil and sugar factories were shut by issuing notices and the four others verbally.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/first-page/six-industrial-enterprises-of-embroiled-s-alam-shut-1735063865>

**Sector & Industries:****BANK | Remittances thru' MFS increasing**

- Inward remittances through Mobile Financial Services (MFS) have experienced a significant surge in recent times, according to data from Bangladesh Bank (BB).

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/remittances-thru-mfs-increasing-1735149283>

**TRADE | Ctg port set for new record in container handling**

- Chattogram Port, the country's premier seaport, is poised to set a new record in container handling this year, a positive indicator that businesses have overcome the challenges faced throughout the year, including the toppling of an autocratic regime.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-port-set-new-record-container-handling-1026731>

**TRADE | No advance tax, VAT for green shipyards: NBR**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has exempted advance tax and value-added tax (VAT) on capital machinery imported by green shipbreaking yards, to bring in more investment for such yards.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/no-advance-tax-vat-green-shipyards-nbr-3784386>

**TANNERY | Royal Footwear files to go public**

- Royal Footwear Limited – a footwear manufacturer and exporter – plans to raise BDT 120 Mn from the capital market's SME platform to expand its business and meet growing export demand.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/royal-footwear-files-go-public-1027271>

**BANK | BB directs banks to buy remittance dollars at BDT 123 max**

- The instruction came during a meeting of the central bank with 13 banks today (24 December), a day after the central bank instructed senior officials of most banks to collect remittances at the same rate.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bb-directs-banks-buy-remittance-dollars-tk123-max-1026581>

**INSURANCE | IDRA instructed to expedite accumulated claim settlement**

- Billions worth of money in unsettled insurance claims has accumulated with the companies in flagrant default that invites government instructions for the regulator to heighten efforts to save people from deception, officials said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/idra-instructed-to-expedite-accumulated-claim-settlement-1735148850>

**PHARMACEUTICALS | Pharma product imports soar**

- The imports of medicines, pharmaceutical products and intermediate goods have been on the rise despite significant domestic production for local and overseas markets, market insiders said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/pharma-product-imports-soar-1735149145>

**Stocks:****BATBC | BAT Bangladesh to invest BDT 280 Mn for capacity expansion**

- British American Tobacco Bangladesh Company – a leading multinational cigarette manufacturer – plans to invest BDT 280.38 Mn to enhance its production capacity and meet the growing demand for its products.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/bat-bangladesh-invest-tk28cr-capacity-expansion-1027246>

**UNIONBANK | Legal action looms for Union Bank over BDT 1.50 Bn unpaid tax**

- Troubled Union Bank PLC is facing potential legal action from the revenue authority after failing to pay BDT 1.50 Bn in tax despite repeated reminders.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/legal-action-looms-union-bank-over-tk150cr-unpaid-tax-1026756>

**EXIMBANK | Exim Bank calls off planned merger with troubled Padma Bank**

- Private commercial Exim Bank has decided to call off its planned merger with scam-hit Padma Bank, nearly nine months after it announced the decision to create a single entity.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/exim-bank-calls-planned-merger-troubled-padma-bank-1025896>

**HRTEX | HR Textile incurs record BDT 0.57 Bn loss in FY24**

- HR Textile Mills – a concern of Pride Group – incurred a record loss of BDT 0.57 Bn in the fiscal 2023-24, representing a loss of BDT 19.67 per share.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/hr-textile-incurs-record-tk57cr-loss-fy24-1026696>

**ALARABANK, LIBRAINFU | HC directs Al-Arafah Bank to provide financial assistance, claims Libra Infusions**

- Libra Infusions Limited has announced that the High Court has issued a rule directing Al-Arafah Islami Bank to provide all forms of financial assistance to the company by the agreement executed between the parties, as disclosed by the Dhaka Stock Exchange on Tuesday (24 December).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/hc-directs-al-arafah-bank-provide-financial-assistance-claims-libra-infusions-1026691>

**FIRSTSBANK | Alam-linked firms account for 56% of loans from First Security**

- Companies linked to the controversial S Alam Group took out 56% of the total disbursed loans of First Security Islami Bank (FSIB), one of six Shariah-based lenders controlled by the Chattogram-based business giant.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/s-alam-linked-firms-account-56-loans-first-security-3784576>

**SILCOPHL | Silco Pharma's financials under BSEC scanner**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has formed a three-member committee to investigate allegations of financial irregularities at Silco Pharmaceuticals, a publicly listed company engaged in the manufacturing, selling, and distribution of pharmaceutical products.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/silco-pharmas-financials-under-bsec-scanner-1025866>

**EPGL | Energypac sinking in the red, with higher finance cost, shrinking revenue**

- Energypac Power Generation (EPGL) is at risk of going out of business with its finance cost persistently going up and revenue shrinking. It bore half of its revenue as finance cost last year. Finance cost grew even further in FY25.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/energypac-sinking-in-the-red-with-higher-finance-cost-shrinking-revenue-1735142423>

**EXCHANGE | DSE seeks govt support for affected investors**

- The Dhaka Stock Exchange and the DSE Brokers Association have approached Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed for assistance to investors impacted by irregularities and corruption in the capital market.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-seeks-govt-support-affected-investors-1026686>

**EXCHANGE | Three stockbrokers come under probe**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has launched an investigation into the operations of three brokerage firms this month to dig up irregularities involving BO accounts with negative equity.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/three-stockbrokers-come-under-probe-1735142484>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 70.35	(USD 1.30)	-1.81%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 73.83	(USD 3.21)	-4.17%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,627.06	USD 564.08	27.34%
DSEX	5,169.32	-1,077.17	-17.24%
S&P 500	6,040.00	1,270.17	26.63%
FTSE 100	8,136.99	403.75	5.22%
BSE SENSEX	78,472.87	6,232.61	8.63%
KSE-100	112,414.81	50,035.40	80.21%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 119.33 BDT****1 GBP = 149.66 BDT****1 Euro = 124.08 BDT****1 INR = 1.40 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	<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
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

### 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)