

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:****Remittance inflow crosses USD 2 Bn again in January, registers 3% growth**

- Bangladesh has registered a total remittance inflow of USD 2.19 Bn in the first month of the year. According to the central bank, remittances increased by 3.40% in January compared to last year. Analysis of the central bank's data shows that state-owned and specialised banks received USD 627 Mn in remittances in January and private banks received USD 1.55 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/remittance-inflow-crosses-2b-again-january-1059046>

**Exports in Jan up 7% to USD 4.5 Bn YoY**

- The country's merchandise exports grew by over 7% to USD 4.5 Bn in January, compared to USD 4.2 Bn in the same month a year ago, primarily driven by increased shipments of ready-made garments. With this, export earnings surpassed USD 29 Bn in the first seven months of the current fiscal year, reflecting growth of over 12%, according to provisional data from the National Board of Revenue (NBR). Export earnings from July to January of the previous fiscal year stood at USD 25.93 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/exports-jan-7-45b-yoy-1059266>

**China-aided seaport dev project gets all-clear**

- A major project finally gets the go-ahead to expand and modernize Mongla seaport with enhanced container-handling capacity under a plan to upgrade it to a regional shipping hub. The Mongla Port Authority, under the Ministry of Shipping, will implement the project by December 2028 at a total cost of over BDT 4.07 Bn, including a loan of about BDT 3.56 Bn.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/china-aided-seaport-dev-project-gets-all-clear-1738519570>

**Trump's tariff war 2.0: A windfall for Bangladesh?**

- When US President Donald Trump imposed a 25% tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico and a 10% tariff on Chinese goods, the shockwaves were felt far beyond these three economies. With a 10% tariff driving up the price of Chinese garments, American retailers and brands might look elsewhere for cost-effective sourcing. As the world's second-largest RMG exporter, Bangladesh stands to gain significantly.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/trumps-tariff-war-20-windfall-bangladesh-1059261>

**Sector & Industries:****FUEL & POWER | Ha-Meem Group installs 4.4MWp rooftop solar power plant**

- They installed a second rooftop solar power plant capable of producing 4.4-megawatt peak (MWp) of electricity, raising its total renewable power generating capacity to 12.2MWp. The group says this is the largest PV system among those at Bangladeshi-owned garment and textile factories.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/ha-meem-group-installs-44mwp-rooftop-solar-power-plant-3814796>

**BANK | Banks' deposit, lending rates likely to follow suit**

- The yields on treasury bills (T-bills) dropped below 11% on Sunday. According to market insiders, the falling trend in T-bill rates suggests that interest rates on both deposits and loans are likely to decrease soon.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/banks-deposit-lending-rates-likely-to-follow-suit>

**BANK | Regulatory policy skewed towards govt banks on the exchange rate**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) is now favouring the state-owned commercial banks for collection of more remittances even bypassing the upper ceiling of the existing managed floating exchange rate, bankers and officials said. On the other hand, the country's central bank has intensified its regulation over many of the private commercial banks to make them purchase remittance within the upper ceiling at BDT 122 a USD of the recently introduced reference-rate-driven taka-dollar exchange mechanism, according to them.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/regulatory-policy-skewed-towards-govt-banks-on-exchange-rate>

**FUEL & POWER | 12kg LPG cylinder to cost BDT 19 more Price now BDT 1,478**

- The price of a 12-kg LPG cylinder has risen by BDT 19. According to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, it will sell at BDT 1,478 retail points starting today in February. The BERG authorities, in a press conference at their office yesterday, set the new prices of the bottled Liquefied Petroleum Gas for February.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/environment/natural-resources/energy/news/price-12kg-lpg-cylinder-hiked-tk-19-3814391>

**BANK | Cash-strapped Padma Bank struggling to pay employees**

- Padma Bank, formerly Farmers Bank, has sunk into such a financial abyss that the lender is struggling to pay its employees' monthly salaries and has sought a BDT 50 Bn bailout package from Bangladesh Bank to stay afloat.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/banking/news/cash-strapped-padma-bank-struggling-pay-employees-3814776>

**Stocks:****MTB | MTB focuses on digital growth, loan diversity**

- Mutual Trust Bank (MTB) is expanding its digital services to cater to Generation Z while diversifying its loan portfolio to reduce its concentration in wholesale lending. We are prioritising digital banking because the future belongs to digitalisation and Generation Z," said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of MTB, in an interview with The Daily Star.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/mtb-focuses-digital-growth-loan-diversity-3814771>

**OLYMPIC | Olympic to buy land worth BDT 170 Mn for expansion**

- Olympic Industries Ltd, a leading biscuit manufacturer, announced yesterday that it has decided to purchase land worth BDT 170.3 Mn in various locations in Sonargaon, Narayanganj, for future expansion.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/olympic-buy-land-worth-tk-17cr-expansion-3814246>

**DESCO | Desco returns to profit in Q2**

- The company posted a profit of BDT 261.6 Mn in Q2, up from a loss of BDT434.6 Mn in the same period a year ago. Desco's revenue surged by 116% year-on-year to BDT 2.23 Bn in the October–December period of 2024.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/desco-returns-profit-q2-3814296>

**UPGDCL | United Power secures higher profit after bulk electricity tariff hike**

- United Power Generation & Distribution Company secured a 5% year-on-year growth in profit to BDT 2.92 Bn in the second quarter of FY25, driven by higher revenue amid bulk power tariff hike. The power generation company's consolidated earnings per share (EPS) stood at BDT 4.98 in the second quarter, up from BDT 4.71 in the same quarter a year ago, according to its un-audited financial statements.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/united-power-secures-higher-profit-after-bulk-electricity-tariff-hike-1738512423>

**SQUARETEXT | Square Textiles' profit jumps 53% in Q2**

- Square Textiles reported a 53% year-on-year growth in profit for the second quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year, driven by increased yarn production. The company posted a profit of BDT 381.3 Mn in the second quarter.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/square-textiles-profit-jumps-53-q2-3814181>

**AMCL(PRAN), RANFOUNDRY | Two listed PRAN-RFL firms post revenue, profit growth in H1**

- Agricultural Marketing Company reported a 14% growth in revenue, reaching BDT 1.75 Bn in the first half of the fiscal year, compared to the same period last year. Rangpur Foundry reported a 2% revenue growth, reaching BDT 815.6 Mn in the first half of FY25. Domestic sales rose by 2.31% to BDT 803.1 Mn during the period, while exports declined by 22% to BDT 12.5 Mn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/two-listed-pran-rfl-firms-post-revenue-profit-growth-h1-1059236>

**ACI | ACI ventures into herbal medicine market**

- ACI Ltd is expanding its footprint in the pharmaceutical industry, as it announced the opening of a new subsidiary yesterday to capitalise on the growing demand for high-quality herbal medicine in Bangladesh.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/aci-ventures-herbal-medicine-market-3814161>

**CROWNCEMNT | Crown Cement's profit plunges 48% in Q2**

- Crown Cement's profit fell in the second quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year despite registering higher revenue. According to the company's financial statement, its earnings per share (EPS) for the quarter stood at BDT 1.27, down from BDT 2.44 in the same period last year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/crown-cements-profit-plunges-48-q2-3814311>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 73.69	USD 2.26	3.16%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 76.08	USD 1.69	2.27%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,778.06	USD 169.58	6.50%
DSEX	5,126.15	-90.29	-1.73%
S&P 500	6,040.53	133.59	2.26%
FTSE 100	8,673.96	552.95	6.81%
BSE SENSEX	77,505.96	-693.97	-0.89%
KSE-100	114,255.73	-1,003.27	-0.87%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 122.03 BDT****1 GBP = 149.84 BDT****1 Euro = 124.86 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: + (88)-02-222282446-47

Fax: + (88)-02-222282452

E-Mail: [research@bracepl.com](mailto:research@bracepl.com)