

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 research@bracepl.com

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:

#### IMF to release USD 1.1 Bn as fourth tranche by March: Finance adviser

■ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has greenlighted the release of USD 1.1 Bn as the fourth tranche – nearly double the amount initially set – of its USD 4.7 Bn loan programme to help Bangladesh avoid its financial challenges.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/finance-adviser-confirms-11b-imf-loan-release-march-1009136

#### IMF suggests upward policy rate in 2025 to restrain inflation: BB

• With Bangladesh facing higher inflation for a long time, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has advised keeping the policy interest rate rising until inflation decreases. Bangladesh Bank Spokesperson and Executive Director Huseara Shikha hinted at this while talking to reporters at her office today (3 December).

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/imf-suggests-upward-policy-rate-2025-restrain-inflation-bb-1009216

#### Financial account surplus exceeds USD 1 Bn in Jul-Oct

■ The country's financial account surplus exceeded the USD 1 Bn mark in the first four months of the current fiscal year (FY25), driven by the inflow of overdue export proceeds and a reduction in short-term loan repayments. According to a central bank report, the account had recorded a USD 873 Mn deficit during the same period of the previous fiscal year (FY24)

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/financial-account-surplus-exceeds-1b-jul-oct-1009551

#### Need to enhance human resources capacity for LDC graduation: Commerce Adviser

Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashiruddin has stressed the need to enhance the human resources capacity for Bangladesh's graduation to a developing economy. "Bangladesh is committed to ensuring dispute resolution in the framework of security and predictability in the multilateral trading system. We need to increase the capacity of our business organizations and human resources for the LDC transition," he said.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/need-to-enhance-human-resources-capacity-for-ldc-graduation-commerce-adviser

#### USD 6 Bn foreign loan commitments may come by June: finance adviser

■ The government expects to get new loan commitments worth USD 6 Bn for reform activities from the development partners within next June, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said today. They will come from multiple development partners, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), he said.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/6-billion-foreign-loan-commitments-may-come-june-finance-adviser-3767611

#### Unified centrally monitored FDI strategy stressed at AmCham roundtable

• US businesses, along with several local entrepreneurs and executives, have called for a unified and centrally monitored foreign direct investment (FDI) strategy to create an effective FDI ecosystem and boost sustainable economic growth in the country.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/unified-centrally-monitored-fdi-strategy-stressed-amcham-roundtable-1009531



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#### FDI data overstated by USD 5.7 Bn in four years

■ The Bangladesh Bank overstated the net foreign direct investment data by USD 5.7 Bn between fiscal 2019-20 and 2022-23, said BB spokeswoman Husne Ara Shikha. The data anomaly came to the fore after the BB revised the data from fiscal 2019-20 as per the BPM6 guideline of the International Monetary Fund.

https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/fdi-data-overstated-57b-four-years-3767831

#### Sector & Industries:

#### ENERGY | Chevron to invest in new gas exploration in Bangladesh

• Energy giant Chevron has shown interest in investing in new gas exploration activities in Bangladesh to boost the country's energy security, senior officials of the US-based company said today. Chevron officials expressed satisfaction that the interim government had begun clearing hundreds of millions of dollars in arrears, which the previous Hasina administration had not paid over the past two years.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/chevron-invest-new-gas-exploration-bangladesh-3767506

#### BANK | Banking sector decline linked to 2010 single-digit lending rate policy: White Paper

Bangladesh's banking sector began to deteriorate in 2010 when the government introduced a single-digit 9% interest rate for lending, according to a White Paper.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/banking-sector-decline-linked-to-2010-single-digit-lending-rate-policy-white-paper

#### **ENERGY** | Energy companies forewarn gas cutoff for liquidity crunch

• State-owned energy companies forewarn gas cutoff following impending acute liquidity crisis attributable to nearly BDT 27 Bn overdue refunds of excess taxes charged by taxmen.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/energy-companies-forewarn-gas-cutoff-for-liquidity-crunch

#### Stocks:

#### KAY&QUE | How merger brings blessing for Kay & Que's business

• Kay & Que (Bangladesh), a publicly listed company primarily engaged in CNG refuelling and stone sales, has undergone a remarkable transformation since its merger with MultiSourcing Limited, an IT firm.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/how-merger-brings-blessing-kay-ques-business-1008556

#### NTC | Govt orders NTC to sell 2.2 Mn kg of tea to settle workers' wages

■ The Ministry of Labour and Employment has directed the state-owned National Tea Company (NTC) to immediately auction 2.2 Mn kg of tea to cover unpaid wages for its workers and employees.

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/govt-orders-ntc-sell-22-lakh-kg-tea-settle-workers-wages-1009486

#### DAFODILCOM | Daffodil Computers to issue shares at BDT 10, far below market price

• Daffodil Computers plans to issue fresh shares to convert loans from Daffodil Family businesses into equity at BDT 10 per share, significantly lower than today's closing price of BDT 63.9 on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/daffodil-computers-issue-shares-tk10-far-below-market-price-1009461



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#### **ACMELAB** | ACME Lab sponsor to sell shares to ease Sinha Securities deficit

Sinha Securities' Chairman Parveen Akhter Khanam will sell 0.2 Mn shares from her holdings of 6.52 Mn shares in ACME Laboratories to reduce the deficit in the brokerage firm's consolidated customer account (CCA).

https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/acme-lab-sponsor-sell-shares-ease-sinha-securities-deficit-1008561

#### **SUMITPOWER | Summit, Petrobangla disputing USD 22 Mn bill**

Summit has run into a payment dispute with Petrobangla over a USD 22 Mn bill for the four months its floating LNG terminal was out of commission due to damages from cyclone Remal. Summit is demanding USD 22 Mn when the terminal was offline, according to the latest Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) briefing, a global think-tank examining issues related to energy markets, trends, and policies.

https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/summit-petrobangla-disputing-22m-bill-3767861

#### **EMERALDOIL** | Emerald Oil relegated to junk status

■ The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) downgraded Emerald Oil Industries to 'Z' category from 'A' category, effective from today (Tuesday), as its production has remained suspended since January this year.

https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/emerald-oil-relegated-to-junk-status



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#### Stock and Commodities\*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 69.95	(USD 1.70)	-2.37%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 73.62	(USD 3.42)	-4.44%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,644.60	USD 581.62	28.19%
DSEX	5,226.05	-1,020.44	-16.34%
S&P 500	6,049.88	1,280.05	26.84%
FTSE 100	8,359.41	626.17	8.10%
BSE SENSEX	80,835.37	8,595.11	11.90%
KSE-100	104,559.07	42,179.66	67.62%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

## **Exchange Rates**

1 US Dollar = 119.62 BDT

1 GBP = 151.56 BDT

1 Euro = 125.66 BDT

1 INR = 1.41 BDT



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