

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 not desperate for loans, Adviser Salehuddin says after meeting WB delegation**

- "The country's economy is doing well right now. The state of financial accounts and current account balance are good. So, the government is not desperate for loans from donor agencies by accepting all conditions," he said. The adviser made the remarks while briefing journalists after a meeting with Martin Raiser, vice-president for the South Asia Region of the World Bank, one of the top development partners and lenders of Bangladesh, at the secretariat in Dhaka.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/govt-not-desperate-loans-donor-agencies-salehuddin-says-after-meeting-wb-delegation-1064981>

**Bangladesh's macroeconomy now stable: Adviser Salehuddin**

- "The macroeconomic situation is good now. There has been significant progress in the current and financial accounts," Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said during an event organised by the Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum on Sunday (9 February). "Foreign exchange reserves are also strong and are expected to improve further. Inflation is around 10%, and it is anticipated that it will decrease," he added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-macroeconomy-more-or-less-stable-now-adviser-salehuddin-1064821>

**Expats send USD 670.97 Mn in remittances in first 8 days of February**

- Bangladeshi expatriates have sent a total of USD 670.97 Mn in remittances during the first eight days of February, according to the latest data from Bangladesh Bank. Of the total remittance, USD 523 Mn was received through government banks, while USD 35.7 Mn came through Krishi Bank, one of the two specialised banks.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/expats-send-67097-million-in-remittances-in-first-8-days-of-february>

**BB brings flexibility to exchange rate management**

- Bangladesh Bank (BB) has brought flexibility to exchange rate management. "To bring flexibility in exchange rate management, it has been decided that spot exchange rates may vary from transaction to transaction in a business day, subject to movement within the prescribed band of the crawling peg mid-rate, as guided by Bangladesh Bank from time to time," said a BB circular issued today.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bb-brings-flexibility-to-exchange-rate-management>

**Supply chain disruptions thwart inflation fight**

- Bangladesh has adopted measures to curb inflation, including tighter spending controls and higher interest rates. Still, deep-rooted supply chain bottlenecks continue to drive up prices for essential goods, according to a report from the Finance Division.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/supply-chain-disruptions-thwart-inflation-fight-3820411>

**World Bank VP calls for separating tax policy from NBR**

- Martin Raiser, vice president of the World Bank for South Asia, yesterday stressed the need to separate tax policy from the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in order to improve Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/world-bank-vp-calls-separating-tax-policy-nbr-3820361>

### **Tightfisted monetary management likely again**

- Tightfisted monetary management may continue for another six months as the central bank is set to unveil its next monetary policy today (Monday) with focus on taming inflation to tolerable levels, officials said. All policy rates are likely to remain unchanged as the central bank aims to monitor inflation trends over the couple of months before taking its next course of action, they added.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tightfisted-monetary-management-likely-again-1739125444>

### **Korean EPZ finally gets mutation documents**

- The Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ), the single largest private export processing zone in Bangladesh, has finally obtained the much-needed mutation documents from the government on February 6, a move that may facilitate more foreign investment in the country.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/korean-epz-finally-gets-mutation-documents-3820356>

### **NBR seeks proposals on VAT law**

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on Saturday requested businesses to submit their proposals regarding value-added tax (VAT) and supplementary duty as part of its efforts to frame tax proposals for the 2025-26 fiscal year, which will begin in July.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/nbr-seeks-proposals-vat-law-3819906>

### **FY24 GDP growth revised down to 4.22%**

- Bangladesh's GDP for the fiscal 2023-24 grew by 4.22%, 1.6% points lower than its initial estimate of 5.82% made in May last year, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The latest revision by the BBS was formally presented to the chief adviser today (9 February), Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told The Business Standard after a press conference at the chief adviser's official residence, Jamuna.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/fy24-saw-lowest-gdp-growth-four-years-422-cas-press-secretary-1065036>

### **Financial sector weaknesses, labour unrest pose short-term risks: Finance ministry to CA**

- Weaknesses in the financial sector and labour unrest could pose short-term risks for the interim government, the finance ministry has warned in a presentation to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. "In addition to curbing inflation, restoring discipline in the financial sector and addressing labour unrest before it escalates should be top priorities for the interim government," reads the report presented by Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/financial-sector-weaknesses-labour-unrest-pose-short-term-risks-finance-ministry-ca-1065156>

### **Economy on expansion track for 4th straight month in Jan: PMI**

- The country's economy remained on an expansion track for the fourth consecutive month in January this year, according to an unofficial estimate, as growing exports, seasonal consumption trends and a boost in the agro supply chain are considered potential drivers of this growth. In January, the PMI increased by four points from the previous month, reaching a record high of 65.7, according to the Bangladesh Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) released yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economy-expansion-track-4th-straight-month-jan-pmi-3820091>

**Policy rate may remain unchanged**

- The Bangladesh Bank is expected to keep the policy rate unchanged at 10% in its monetary policy stance for the second half (January to June) of the current fiscal year as inflation eased slightly in December.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/policy-rate-may-remain-unchanged-3820386>

**Sector & Industries:****PHARMACEUTICALS | Drug makers secure growth in H1 on low finance costs, higher sales**

- Leading drug manufacturers maintained revenue and profit growth year-on-year in the first half of FY25, supported by higher sales amid stability in the forex market. However, efficient management, strong financial positions, and lower finance expenses helped Square Pharmaceuticals and Beximco Pharmaceuticals, among the drug makers, secure a double-digit growth in an adverse business climate.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/drug-makers-secure-growth-in-h1-on-low-finance-costs-higher-sales>

**BANK | Finance Advisor outlines reforms for financial sector, tackling bad loans**

- Finance Advisor Salehuddin Ahmed has said his primary focus during his tenure will be to overhaul the financial sector, with a particular emphasis on resolving issues within banks. At a discussion on the role of remittances in the country's economy at the Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters' Forum (BSRF) on Sunday, he explained that the country's banking system suffers from issues such as bad loans, with some banks reporting up to 80% non-performing loans.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/finance-advisor-outlines-reforms-for-financial-sector-tackling-bad-loans>

**TANNERY | Tanners fear grimmer days ahead as leather exports drop 11% in H1**

- Leather exporters fear worsening prospects due to declining competitiveness in the international market, blaming the state's failure to implement the necessary environmental measures to secure mandatory Leather Working Group (LWG) certification for local companies.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/tanners-fear-grimmer-days-ahead-leather-exports-drop-11-h1-1065166>

**Stocks:****CITYBANK | City Bank to issue BDT 8 Bn bond**

- City Bank, a private sector lender, has decided to raise BDT 8 Bn through issuing bonds, aiming to enhance its capital base. According to its price-sensitive statement, the floating rate non-convertible subordinate bond aimed at raising regulatory capital (tier-2) is expected to help the bank fulfil its Basel-III requirements.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/city-bank-issue-tk800cr-bond-1065101>

**ORYZAAGRO | Sonali Bank to auction Oryza Agro assets to recoup BDT 400 Mn debt**

- Sonali Bank has announced plans to auction off the assets of Oryza Agro Industries Limited in a bid to recover an outstanding loan of BDT 395.5 Mn. An auction notice was published in daily newspapers recently, inviting interested buyers to submit price quotations by 25 February. The auction will follow provisions of the Money Loan Court Act, 2003, the notice added.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/sonali-bank-auction-oryza-agro-assets-recoup-tk400cr-debt-1065091>

**ADNTEL | ADN Telecom diversifies into healthcare amid growth prospects**

- Eyeing promising prospects in the healthcare sector, ADN Telecom – an IT and telecommunication services provider – is set to diversify its portfolio by acquiring a 37% stake in Senior Citizen Healthcare Limited, which operates specialised hospitals for the elderly in the country.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/adn-telecom-diversifies-healthcare-amid-growth-prospects-1065076>

**EXCHANGE | Dhaka bourse's faulty IPO list confuses market investors**

- Investors are kept in the dark about upcoming IPOs (Initial public offerings) for reasons unknown. The premier bourse, Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) -- is the primary access point for investors to plan future investments in IPOs. According to its website, there are 12 IPO proposals but the securities regulator, which is the ultimate regulatory body to approve IPOs, told The FE that only one IPO remains in the pipeline. The remaining 11 proposals have already been rejected.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock/bangladesh/dhaka-bourses-faulty-ipo-list-confuses-market-investors>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 71.52	USD 0.09	0.13%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.22	USD 0.83	1.12%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,873.83	USD 265.35	10.17%
DSEX	5,165.88	-50.56	-0.97%
S&P 500	6,025.99	119.05	2.02%
FTSE 100	8,700.53	579.52	7.14%
BSE SENSEX	77,860.19	-339.74	-0.43%
KSE-100	110,322.94	-4,936.06	-4.28%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 122.01 BDT****1 GBP = 151.06 BDT****1 Euro = 125.67 BDT****1 INR = 1.39 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)