

*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:****Economic expectations: Did govt fall short?**

- When an interim government was sworn into office following the ouster of the Awami League regime just 100 days ago, there was an air of expectation that the Prof Muhammad Yunus-led administration would take steps to salvage a scam-ridden financial sector and rescue an ailing economy.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/economic-expectations-did-govt-fall-short-3755231>

**Deadline for tax return submission extended to Dec 31**

- The deadline for individual taxpayers to file their tax returns has been extended by a month by the National Board of Revenue (NBR). The previous deadline was November 30.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/deadline-tax-return-submission-extended-dec-31-3754971>

**Upcoming reforms by govt to attract FDI in major sectors like renewables, ICT: Experts**

- The interim government has initiated several reforms which are likely to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) in some of the country's high-potential sectors, according to experts at a town hall conference held today.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/upcoming-reforms-govt-attract-fdi-major-sectors-renewables-ict-experts-995701>

**Japanese envoy urges better business climate for EPA benefits**

- Outgoing Japanese Ambassador Iwama Kiminori on Sunday called for improving the business environment in all aspects as a fundamental requirement for a new chapter of relations between Japan and Bangladesh to reap the benefits of the economic partnership agreement (EPA).

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/japanese-envoy-urges-better-business-climate-for-epa-benefits>

**Graft biggest obstacle to doing business**

- More than 16% of Bangladeshi businesses identified corruption as the biggest obstacle to their operations, according to a survey conducted between April and July of this year.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/graft-biggest-obstacle-doing-business-3755251>

**Inflation, economic downturn, poverty, inequality top risks for next 2 years: Survey**

- Businesses have identified inflation, economic downturn, poverty and inequality as the top risks the country will face in the next two years, according to a new survey by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/inflation-economic-downturn-poverty-inequality-are-top-3-risks-next-2-years-cpd-995251>

**SMEs bear the full brunt of financial hardship**

- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh are struggling due to political uncertainty, high inflation and rising interest rates on bank loans, according to entrepreneurs. Many entrepreneurs report that they had little choice but to lay off employees and delay salary payments. In contrast, others said they cannot pay loan instalments timely due to declining business.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/smes-bear-the-full-brunt-financial-hardship-3755241>

**Sector & Industries:****TANNERY | Leather footwear exports hit 5-year high in Jul-Oct**

- Bangladesh is sending more leather footwear to foreign markets like the United States, Japan and the European Union as the country's footwear exports during the July-October period of the current fiscal year surged to a five-year high.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/leather-footwear-exports-hit-5-year-high-jul-oct-3755236>

**BANK | Agrani Bank leads in remittance growth in September**

- Among the top banks receiving remittances, Agrani Bank stood out with extraordinary growth, while Islami Bank Bangladesh and Trust Bank remained key players. Agrani Bank emerged as the star performer with a remarkable USD 322.12 Mn in September, marking a 232% surge from USD 96.89 Mn in August.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/agrani-bank-leads-remittance-growth-september-3755191>

**AUTOMOBILE | 4 listed automobile companies report losses in Q1**

- Four listed automobile companies incurred losses during the July-September quarter of the current fiscal year 2024-25, primarily due to sluggish demand, high taxes and increased interest burdens on loans.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/4-listed-automobile-companies-report-losses-q1-995696>

**BANK | MFS accounts increase by nearly 20 Mn in one year**

- Mobile financial service (MFS), accounts in Bangladesh have surged by nearly 20 Mn, marking an 8.71% increase over the past year. A recent update from Bangladesh Bank revealed that by September 2024, the total number of MFS accounts reached 233.7 Mn, up from 215 Mn in the same month in 2023.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/mfs-accounts-increase-by-nearly-20m-in-one-year>

**BANK | Default loan reaches record high of BDT 2.85 Tn**

- Non-performing loans (NPLs) in Bangladesh's banking sector soared to a historic BDT 2.85 Tn in September, accounting for around 17% of total outstanding loans.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/default-loan-reaches-record-high-tk-285-lakh-crore-3754896>

**IT | Single-band Wi-Fi routers to be phased out in Bangladesh by 2025**

- The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has recently issued a directive to ban single-band Wi-Fi routers from April 1, 2025. The new regulation mandates that all Wi-Fi routers manufactured locally or imported into Bangladesh must support dual-band frequencies, covering both the 2.4 and 5.8 GHz ranges.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/tech-startup/news/single-band-wi-fi-routers-be-phased-out-bangladesh-2025-3755221>

**Stocks:****SQUARETEXT | Square Textiles post BDT 370 Mn profit in Q1**

- Its profit after tax stood at BDT 374.4 Mn during the first quarter of its financial year 2024-25, reflecting over 5% year-on-year growth. The company attributed the improved performance to increased yarn production from its new Habibganj project, and Balancing, Modernization, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE) of its Gazipur facility as well as operations at Square Texcom Ltd.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/square-textiles-post-tk-37cr-profit-q1-3754786>

**ICB | How ICB recovers big losses in final quarter**

- The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB), a state-owned entity primarily responsible for stock investments, made a significant comeback, ending the year in the green by recovering its previous losses that occurred in the nine months of 2023-24.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/how-icb-recovers-big-losses-final-quarter-995801>

**FORTUNE | Fortune Shoes' BDT 100 Mn dividend disbursement remains overdue**

- Fortune Shoes Limited has failed to disburse dividends totalling around BDT 100 Mn for the fiscals 2021-22 and 2022-23 within the stipulated time, according to the company's auditor.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/fortune-shoes-tk10cr-dividend-disbursement-remains-overdue-995681>

**BEXIMCO | Beximco labour unrest to end if administrator takes control: Labour Secretary**

- Labour and Employment Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman said on Sunday that the ongoing labour unrest at Beximco industrial group will be resolved once an administrator takes full control.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/beximco-labour-unrest-to-end-if-administrator-takes-control-labour-secretary>

**Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 67.07	(USD 4.58)	-6.39%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 71.23	(USD 5.81)	-7.54%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,591.17	USD 528.19	25.60%
DSEX	5,328.33	-918.16	-14.70%
S&P 500	5,870.60	1,100.77	23.08%
FTSE 100	8,063.61	330.37	4.27%
BSE SENSEX	77,580.31	5,340.05	7.39%
KSE-100	94,763.64	32,384.23	51.91%
CSEALL	12,003.29	1,349.13	12.66%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 119.71 BDT****1 GBP = 151.23 BDT****1 Euro = 126.18 BDT****1 INR = 1.42 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)