

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:**'Economy was more dire than people thought'**

- The interim government has an uphill task of fixing the economy it inherited from the Awami League government of 15 years, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed. When the interim government assumed power, it inherited a problem-driven economy -- the situation was more dire than people thought," he told The Daily Star in an interview on Monday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/economy-was-more-dire-people-thought-3810956>

BDT 86.31 Bn proposed for MRT-1 as construction begins in FY26

- The Road Transport and Highways Division has proposed BDT 86.31 Bn for MRT Line-1 in the upcoming budget, more than double the allocation for FY25. In the FY25 Annual Development Programme (ADP), the government initially allocated BDT 35.94 Bn for MRT Line-1, which was later revised down to BDT 21.26 Bn.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/infrastructure/tk8631cr-proposed-mrt-1-construction-begins-fy26-1055381>

Bangladesh faces uneven economic shift as manufacturing declines, services rise

- Bangladesh has experienced a downturn in manufacturing over the last decade, coupled with a surge in the services sector — marking a shift away from the typical pattern seen in developed economies. Unlike advanced nations, which transition to service-led growth after robust industrialization, this shift in Bangladesh points out structural weaknesses and policy inconsistency, including a lack of investment in manufacturing and an increasing reliance on imported goods, according to economists and businesses.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-faces-uneven-economic-shift-manufacturing-declines-services-rise-1055316>

Sector & Industries:**BANK | Weak banks to be rescued by any means: BB governor**

- The government will rescue the weak banks by any means necessary, assured Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur today (28 January). Speaking as the chief guest at a workshop titled "Microfinance in Bangladesh 24" at the Cirdap Auditorium in the capital, he said that decisions regarding weak banks will be made within this year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/weak-banks-be-rescued-any-means-bb-governor-1054696>

AVIATION | Aircraft shortages stifle Biman's revenue potential

- Biman Bangladesh Airlines is unable to operate flights to potentially profitable international destinations due to aircraft shortages, its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Md Shafiqur Rahman has told The Financial Express. We cannot expand our routes due to aircraft shortages. "We are trying to get some aircraft on a long-term lease. The planes will be purchased eventually," said Rahman.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/aircraft-shortages-stifle-bimans-revenue-potential>

Stocks:**EBL, BANKASIA | Bank Asia, EBL avail USD 70 Mn IFC loan**

- Bank Asia PLC and Eastern Bank PLC (EBL) have signed separate agreements with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group focused on the private sector in developing countries, to avail themselves of a total of USD 70 Mn in loans. Each bank will receive USD 35 Mn, the banks said in separate press releases.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/banks/news/bank-asia-eb1-avail-70m-ifc-loan-3810931>

BXPHARMA | Beximco Pharma revenue grows 9% to BDT 24.01 Bn in Jul-Dec

- Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited's revenue grew by 9% to reach 24.01 Bn in the first half of this fiscal year, according to its financial statement revealed on Tuesday (28 January). During the period, its profit jumped by 18% to BDT 3.53 Bn compared to the previous year at the same time.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/beximco-pharma-revenue-grows-9-tk2401cr-jul-dec-1055191>

MARICO | Marico Bangladesh to repatriate record BDT 5.36 Bn profits to India

- Marico Bangladesh, a subsidiary of India-based multinational personal care leader Marico Limited, has announced plans to repatriate a historic 5.36 Bn in profits back to India as dividends. The company declared a record total of 1,890% interim cash dividend, amounting to BDT 5.96 Bn, for the April-December period of FY2024-25. Marico Limited, which holds a 90% stake in the Bangladesh subsidiary, will receive most of this payout.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/marico-bangladesh-repatriate-record-tk536cr-profits-india-1055301>

BEXIMCO | Beximco group lay-offs: Shinepukur, Beximco Pharma shares to be sold off to clear dues

- The government will sell shares of Beximco Group's two running companies to pay the salaries of 13 laid-off companies owned by the conglomerate. The amount needed to pay the salaries could be between BDT 5 Bn and BDT 5.5 Bn, Labour and Employment Adviser M Sakhawat Hossain told a press briefing yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/beximco-group-lay-offs-shinepukur-beximco-pharma-shares-be-sold-clear-dues-3811126>

BEXIMCO | Beximco Limited incurs BDT 3.56 Bn loss in Jul-Dec

- Beximco Limited incurred a loss of BDT 3.56 Bn in the first half of this fiscal year, according to its financial statement revealed on Tuesday (28 January). During the period, its revenue dropped by 71% to BDT 4.15 Bn compared to the previous year at the same time.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/beximco-limited-incurs-tk356cr-loss-jul-dec-1055176>

EXCHANGE | Brokers seek 5-year extension for banks' special capital market fund

- With the February deadline approaching, brokers have urged the Bangladesh Bank to extend the tenure of a special investment fund by commercial banks for capital market liquidity support by five years. To enhance liquidity and stabilize the capital market, the central bank allowed banks and financial institutions. The DSE Brokers Association (DBA) – representing Dhaka Stock Exchange brokerage firms – has also proposed increasing the fund size from BDT 2 Bn to BDT 3 Bn per bank.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/brokers-seek-5-year-extension-banks-special-capital-market-fund-1055256>

EXCHANGE | BSEC fines 4 investors, 2 firms BDT 20 Mn for manipulating Fine Foods share price

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has imposed fines totalling approximately BDT 20 Mn on four investors and two institutions for manipulating the share price of Fine Foods Limited, a publicly listed company.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-fines-4-investors-2-firms-tk2cr-manipulating-fine-foods-share-price-1055246>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 73.75	USD 2.32	3.25%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 77.44	USD 3.05	4.10%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,764.84	USD 156.36	5.99%
DSEX	5,126.42	-90.02	-1.73%
S&P 500	6,067.70	160.76	2.72%
FTSE 100	8,503.71	382.70	4.71%
BSE SENSEX	75,901.41	-2,298.52	-2.94%
KSE-100	112,030.36	-3,228.64	-2.80%
CSEALL	12,003.29	0.00	0.00%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.73 BDT****1 GBP = 151.45 BDT****1 Euro = 126.97 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 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	salim@bracepl.com	01708 805 221
Fahim Hassan	Research Analyst	fahim.hassan@bracepl.com	01709 636 546
Hossain Zaman Towhidi Khan	Research Analyst	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228
Rakibul Hasan	Research Associate	rakibul.hasan@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Md Istiaz Uddin	Research Associate	mistiaz.uddin@bracepl.com	01708 805 202

International Trade and Sales

Ahsanur Rahman Bappi	CEO	bappi@bracepl.com	01730 357 991
----------------------	-----	--	---------------

BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited

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