

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:**Bets boom as yield hits record-high 11.60%**

- Yield on two-year Treasury bond hit a record-high 11.60% Tuesday as credit-starved commercial banks bid for higher returns to gain maximum out of their squeezing resources, sources said.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bets-boom-as-yield-hits-record-high-1160pc-1704216653>

Export ends year on high note, remittance holds pace

- As 2023 came to a close, Bangladesh experienced a positive turn of events, witnessing the highest export and remittance earnings in months, which offered a much-needed relief for the diminishing foreign exchange reserves.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/export-ends-year-high-note-remittance-holds-pace-768530>

India-Bangladesh trade down in pre-election season

- According to data from the Department of Commerce cited by PTI, Indian exports to Bangladesh between April and October 2023 declined by 13.32%, while imports saw a marginally smaller 2.3% dip.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/india-bangladesh-trade-down-in-pre-election-season>

Small businesses navigated difficult times in 2023

- Small businesses in Bangladesh faced substantial hardships in 2023 as their sales took a steep dive last year due to ongoing inflationary pressure in the country, according to various businesspeople.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/small-businesses-navigated-difficult-times-2023-3509221>

Rising food prices a concern for 71% families in Bangladesh: WB

- The global lender revealed the data in its Food Security Update in December, when prices of all vegetables were spiralling unusually in the country's retail markets in spite of supplies being adequate since winter is the peak harvesting season.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/rising-food-prices-concern-71-families-bangladesh-wb-3509236>

Sector & Industry:**POWER | USD 160 Mn ADB loan to boost Dhaka's energy supply, distribution**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a USD 160 Mn loan agreement with Bangladesh to help upgrade Dhaka's power distribution network, enhance its efficiency and increase energy supply.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/160-million-adb-loan-boost-dhakas-energy-supply-distribution-3509071>

POWER | Clearing Power, Fertiliser Arrears: Govt to issue BDT 260 Bn special bonds

- The arrears arose because of the higher prices of fertiliser and fuel in the international market over the last one and a half years. This pushed up the power and agriculture ministries' subsidy requirements.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/clearing-power-fertiliser-arrears-govt-issue-tk-26000cr-special-bonds-3509261>

TRADE | Business at ICDs dropped in 2023

- KDS Logistics Limited managed to retain its position as the top private inland container depot (ICD) in terms of handling export and import cargoes in 2023, a year when business in ICDs saw a year-on-year decline of nearly 11%.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/business-icds-dropped-2023-3509206>

Stocks:**SONALIANSH | Sonali Aansh allowed to pay 100% stock dividend**

- The securities regulator has allowed Sonali Aansh Industries, a publicly listed exporter of jute products, to pay a 100% stock dividend to its shareholders for the fiscal 2022-23.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/sonali-aansh-allowed-pay-100-stock-dividend-768514>

SAPORTL | Summit Alliance Port approves 12% cash dividend

- The Summit Alliance Port Limited (SAPL) has approved a 12% cash dividend for the year ended on 30 June 2023 at its 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held recently, says a statement.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/summit-alliance-port-approves-12pc-cash-dividend-1704215333>

MITHUNKNIT, BANGAS | BASIC Bank wants Mithun Knitting, Bangas sponsor-director shares as loan recovery

- In a move to recover its loans to two publicly listed Bangas Tallu Group companies, state-owned BASIC Bank Ltd wants to have the sponsor-director shares of the firms transferred to its beneficiary owners' (BO) account.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/basic-bank-wants-mithun-knitting-bangas-sponsor-director-shares-loan-recovery-768526>

World Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 70.42	(USD 1.23)	-1.72%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 75.90	(USD 1.14)	-1.48%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,064.46	USD 1.48	0.07%
DSEX	6,233.42	-13.07	-0.21%
S&P 500	4,742.83	-27.00	-0.57%
FTSE 100	7,721.52	-11.72	-0.15%
BSE SENSEX	71,892.48	-347.78	-0.48%
KSE-100	64,427.26	2,047.85	3.28%
CSEALL	10,684.28	30.12	0.28%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 109.84 BDT****1 GBP = 138.75 BDT****1 Euro = 120.31 BDT****1 INR = 1.32 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	Senior Research Associate	hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com	01708 805 224
Billal Hossain	Research Associate	billal.hossain@bracepl.com	01708 805 229
Syed Tawsifuzzaman	Research Associate	s.tawsifuzzaman@bracepl.com	01708 805 202
Foyisal Ahmed	Research Associate	foysal.ahmed@bracepl.com	01708 805 201
S M Toufique Imran	Research Associate	smtoufique.imran@bracepl.com	01708 805 228

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: + (880)-2-9852446-50

Fax: + (880)-2-9852451-52

E-Mail: research@bracepl.com