

*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:****Bangladesh advances further in logistics competence**

- Bangladesh has demonstrated further progress in the logistics sector, advancing two positions to claim 33rd place among the 50 most promising emerging logistics markets worldwide, according to the 2024 Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-advances-further-logistics-competence-788506>

**Inflation inflates monthly family spending**

- People are forced to spend BDT 109.41 for consuming each of essential products against the price of BDT 100 a year back for inflation uptick over the months, analysts say.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/inflation-inflates-monthly-family-spending>

**Subletting surges as rents go through the roof**

- According to the Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), more than 0.2 Mn households in the two city corporations of Dhaka were sublet in 2022. The number of sublessors in the capital city rose by about 0.15% points to 2.05% of its population at the same time.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/subletting-surges-rents-go-through-the-roof-3537871>

**Sector & Industry:****ENERGY | LNG glut favours BD as spot purchases undercut long-term deals**

- Bangladesh has purchased liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the spot market at a price lower than that of its long-term suppliers, capitalizing despite the ongoing winter in Europe and other energy-hungry Western countries.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/lng-glut-favours-bd-as-spot-purchases-undercut-long-term-deals>

**CONSUMER | Younus Group acquires Perfume Chemical Industries**

- With a plan to revive Perfume Chemical Industries Limited, Younus Group has acquired the once-listed company that has been languishing in the over-the-counter (OTC) market since 2009.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/younus-group-acquires-perfume-chemical-industries-788534>

**INSURANCE | Insurers seek tax, VAT breaks in next budget**

- The Bangladesh Insurance Association (BIA), a platform for insurance companies, has proposed withdrawal of the VAT applicable to policyholders in order to help the health insurance sector expand.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/insurers-seek-tax-vat-breaks-next-budget-3537901>

**INSURANCE | Insurance penetration slows though premiums bloat**

- A key parameter for assessing development of the insurance industry has been on a downturn especially since 2018 when it was 0.55% and came down to 0.40% in 2022.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/insurance-penetration-slows-though-premiums-bloat>

**STEEL | Steel producers seek bond facility**

- Bangladesh Stainless Steel Pipe Manufacturers Association (BSSPMA) has recently requested to different state agencies, including commerce ministry and Economic Relations Divisions, to take necessary step to provide such facility against 100% bank guarantee to the partial export-earning sector.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/steel-producers-seek-bond-facility-1707243638>

**Stocks:****ANWARGALV, RENATA, ORIONPHARM | Anwar Galvanizing, Renata, Orion Pharma now come out of floor restriction**

- Observing strength in the market, the securities regulator has removed the floor price restriction from three more stocks – Anwar Galvanizing, Renata, and Orion Pharmaceuticals.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/floor-price-removed-anwar-galvanizing-renata-and-orion-pharma-788314>

**EXCHANGE | DSE proposes tax exemption on first BDT 50,000 of dividend income**

- The tax exemption will help attract small investors to invest in the capital market that will ultimately ensure sustainable development of the country's economy, said the DSE in a pre-budget discussion for the fiscal year 2024-25 with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) held in Dhaka on Tuesday.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/dse-proposes-tax-exemption-first-tk50000-dividend-income-788530>

**ACI | ACI invests USD 20 Mn in fruit-juice production with Danish firm**

- A joint venture between business conglomerate ACI Limited and Danish juice giant CO-RO has established a fruit drink factory with a USD 20 Mn investment and aims to gradually expand their footprint in the country's beverage industry.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/aci-invests-20m-fruit-juice-production-danish-firm-788542>

**GENEXIL | Genex Infosys to build IT infrastructure for Saudi company at Patenga container terminal**

- Genex Infosys, a leading outsourcing IT provider, will build turnkey IT infrastructure for Red Sea Gateway Terminal Bangladesh Limited (RSGT) at the Patenga container terminal.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/genex-infosys-build-it-infrastructure-saudi-company-patenga-container-terminal-3537566>

**EMERALDOIL | Emerald Oil to invest BDT 4 Bn on new rice bran oil plant**

- Emerald Oil is planning to invest BDT 4 Bn on a new plant in the Jamalpur Economic Zone to increase its production of rice bran oil for export.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/emerald-oil-invest-tk-400cr-new-rice-bran-oil-plant-3537891>

**SPCL | Shahjibazar Power to stop plant operations as deal with govt to expire**

- Shahjibazar Power Co Ltd (SPCL) today notified the closure of its plant as the electricity sales agreement with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is set to expire on February 9.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/shahjibazar-power-stop-plant-operations-deal-govt-expire-3537541>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 73.58	USD 1.93	2.69%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 78.85	USD 1.81	2.35%
Gold Spot*	USD 2,035.42	(USD 27.56)	-1.34%
DSEX	6,346.06	99.57	1.59%
S&P 500	4,954.23	184.40	3.87%
FTSE 100	7,681.01	-52.23	-0.68%
BSE SENSEX	72,186.09	-54.17	-0.07%
KSE-100	63,851.28	1,471.87	2.36%
CSEALL	10,430.79	-223.37	-2.10%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 109.50 BDT****1 GBP = 138.10 BDT****1 Euro = 117.88 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	<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	Senior Research Associate	<a href="mailto:hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com">hztowhidi.khan@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 224
Billal Hossain	Research Associate	<a href="mailto:billal.hossain@bracepl.com">billal.hossain@bracepl.com</a>	01708 805 229
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

#### 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: + (880)-2-9852446-50

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

E-Mail: [research@bracepl.com](mailto:research@bracepl.com)