

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:**Inflation up for food-price rises**

- Inflation edges up in Bangladesh as some pricier key consumer items drive November count to 8.29%, overshooting the central bank's 6.5% annual target for this fiscal year. According to official data released Sunday, the month's reading was 0.12% point higher than October's, driven by rising prices of several key commodities that include the staple--rice.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/inflation-up-for-food-price-rises-1765130728>

Bangladesh's external debt jumps 42% in 5yrs, repayment pressure doubles: World Bank

- According to the World Bank's report, Bangladesh's external debt amounted to 192% of its export earnings in 2024 and total debt-service payments accounted for 16% of exports during the same period.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-external-debt-jumps-42-5yrs-repayment-pressure-doubles-world-bank-1304036>

Bangladesh's economic expansion loses steam in November: PMI

- Bangladesh's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for November settled at 54 points, declining by 7.8 points from the previous month and indicating a clear loss of momentum in the country's economic expansion.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-november-pmi-drops-78-points-economic-expansion-slows-1303876>

Sector & Industries:**FUEL & POWER | ADB's fossil fuel focus raises alarms**

- A new study finds that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has directed about USD 17.34 Bn into Bangladesh's energy sector, with nearly USD 6 Bn funneled into 36 gas-focused projects — a strategy critics say locks the country into fossil-fuel dependence.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/adbs-fossil-fuel-focus-raises-alarms-1765131038>

FUEL & POWER | Auditors raise red flag as BDT 23.4 Bn of state-run oil firms stuck in merged banks

- The financial health of three state-owned oil companies — Jamuna Oil, Padma Oil, and Meghna Petroleum — has come under scrutiny after auditors raised serious concerns regarding the recoverability of a staggering BDT 23.4 Bn currently locked in FDRs with five recently merged banks.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/industry/auditors-raise-red-flag-tk2340cr-state-run-oil-firms-stuck-merged-banks-1304016>

BANK | Bankers given until end of Dec to downsize bloated NPLs

- Banks in Bangladesh have been given until the end of December to sharply reduce the rising tide of non-performing loans, as the Bangladesh Bank urges lenders to use newly allowed measures including loan restructuring and partial write-offs.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/bankers-given-until-end-of-dec-to-downsize-bloated-npls-1765130521>

Stocks:**GHCL | Global Heavy Chemicals posts big loss, declares no dividend amid gas shortage**

- For FY 2024-25, the company posted a loss per share (LPS) of BDT 2.19, down from BDT 7.58 in the previous year, with a net loss of BDT 157.7 Mn compared to BDT 545.8 Mn in FY 2023-24. Its net asset value per share stood at BDT 71.89 at the close of the fiscal year.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/global-heavy-chemicals-posts-big-loss-declares-no-dividend-amid-gas-shortage-1304081>

BRACBANK | S&P again rates BRAC Bank as best in Bangladesh

- "BRAC Bank's financial profile should be stable, in our view. The bank has a record of prudent management that will help it navigate this period of volatility. We expect the bank's non-performing loan ratio to stay at 3.1% -3.5% over the next 12-18 months, significantly lower than the average for Bangladesh's banking sector. The bank's balanced loan book and proactive risk management should keep asset quality healthy," S&P Global Ratings report added.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/sp-again-rates-brac-bank-as-best-in-bangladesh-1765125699>

EXCHANGE | Foreign investors pull money from stocks ahead of polls

- Persistent political and macroeconomic instability in Bangladesh has led overseas investors to continuously sell off equity holdings over the past year. Factors contributing to the withdrawal include a lack of clear election direction, deepening economic challenges, and subdued profitability for many major companies.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/foreign-investors-pull-money-from-stocks-ahead-of-polls-1765125543>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 60.03	(USD 11.40)	-15.96%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 63.69	(USD 10.70)	-14.38%
Gold Spot*	USD 4,201.47	USD 1,592.99	61.07%
DSEX	4,872.64	-343.80	-6.59%
S&P 500	6,870.40	963.46	16.31%
FTSE 100	9,667.01	1,546.00	19.04%
BSE SENSEX	85,712.37	7,512.44	9.61%
KSE-100	167,085.58	51,826.58	44.97%
CSEALL	21,497.08	5,552.47	34.82%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 122.29 BDT****1 GBP = 163.09 BDT****1 Euro = 142.49 BDT****1 INR = 1.36 BDT**

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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
Tasviha Taher Trishila	Research Associate	tasviha.trishila@bracepl.com	01730 701 733

International Trade and Sales

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